



Still Here Still Queer
Episode 102: Keeping the Scene Alive

Director
Fabrizio Dulanto

Producers
Win Scott
Mateo Simon

Runtime: 23 minutes, 59 seconds

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Series Logline

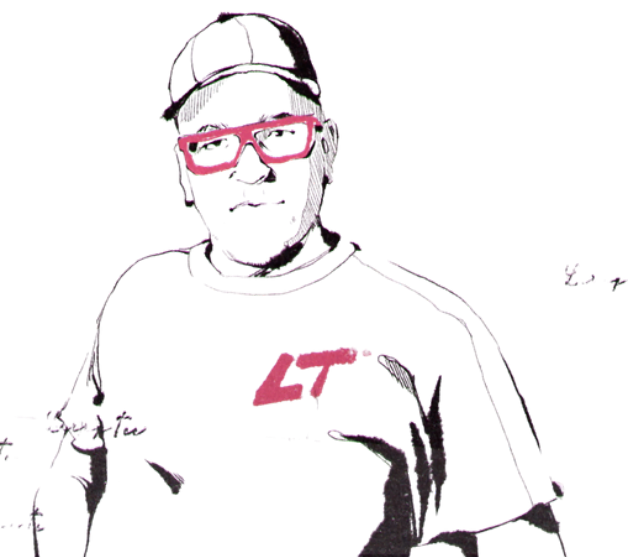
Gay men who lived through the AIDS crisis are part of a generation that's smaller than it should be. *Still Here Still Queer* explores how the lives they live now are shaped by the love, hustle, and faith that helped them survive the closet and a plague.

Episode Logline

Legendary DJ Larry Tee, once titled “King of NYC nightlife,” longs for recognition for his contributions to queer history and culture, whilst reconciling with his past of addiction.

Brief Summary

Keeping the Scene Alive chronicles the electric ascent of world renown DJ and songwriter Larry Tee. After rising to the peak of underground nightlife, Larry takes us back to 1980's New York City, a time where the misery of the AIDS crisis was met with sex, drugs, and a “live for today” mentality. Now sixty-six years old and fiercer than ever, Larry Tee emerges from the wreckage to stage a defiant final act to prove the commercial power of queer history and reclaim a spotlight that nearly went dark.

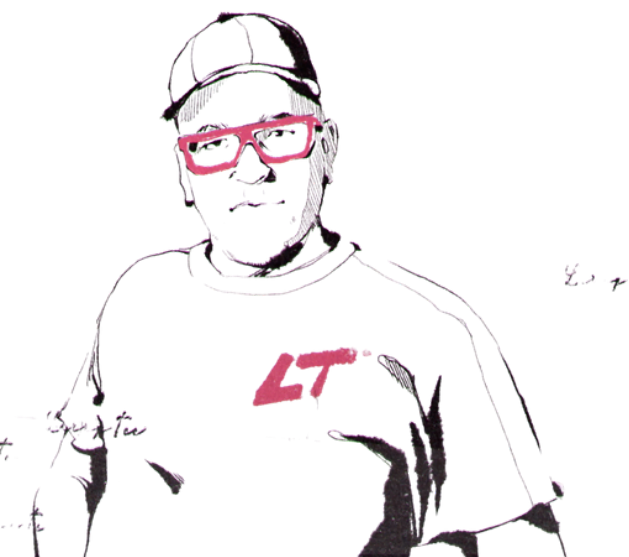


Extended Summary

Growing up in Atlanta, Larry found a rare sanctuary of acceptance within his family. With a mother who embraced his identity, Larry lived out loud from the start, diving headfirst into the local nightlife and forging a chosen family that would eventually change the face of culture. Alongside a legendary circle including RuPaul and Lady Bunny, Larry experimented with the sounds and aesthetics that would soon define an era. Fueled by a collective hunger for a bigger stage, the group made a radical decision to pack their lives into a van and head for the neon lights of New York City.

However, they arrived in New York City at the height of the AIDS crisis, a time when the queer community was shrouded in grief and the looming shadow of the epidemic. Their response was a defiant "party-til-you-drop" mentality. Through rarely seen archival footage from their roommate Nelson Sullivan, Larry ascended to become the "King of NYC Nightlife," eventually pioneering the Electroclash movement and reaching the zenith of his career. But beneath the pulsating club lights, a turbulent battle with addiction was beginning to consume him. As Larry's career exploded, his personal life imploded, and the once-inseparable group of friends fractured. As RuPaul ascended to global superstardom, Larry felt the sting of being left behind. He was a pioneer, watching the world move on without him.

Now, at 66 years old, Larry Tee is refusing to fade into a footnote of history. Now living in Los Angeles, he is claiming his second chance at stardom with the same ferocity he had in the '80s. Alongside his husband, the drag queen Sam (Morgan) Wood, Larry is channeling a lifetime of experience into a new creative frontier: ICONS. A wacky, high-energy talent show designed for "she's, gays, and they's," the series is more than just a production; it is Larry's stake in the ground. Keeping the Scene Alive is a glimpse into a man fighting for his legacy and recognition, proving that queer history isn't just about the past, as we embark on his ambitious final act that is still being written.

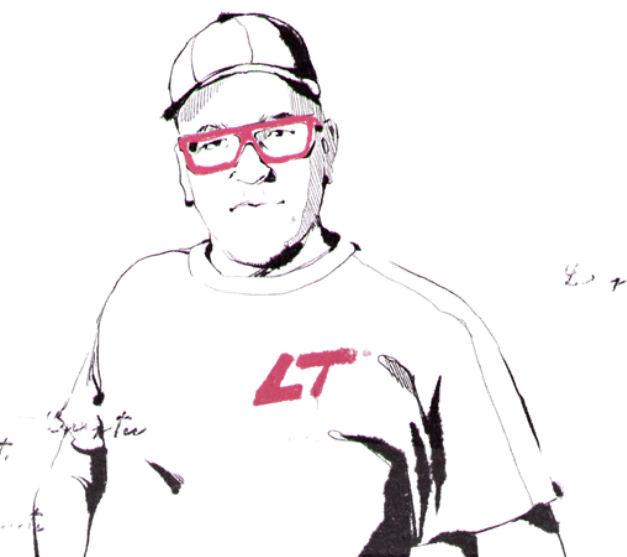


Showrunner's Statement

When I started looking for men who had experienced the reversal of fortune that hit gay men in the early 1980's, I assumed that I was going to make a doc series about ageism and loneliness. Perhaps I was projecting my own internalized hopelessness onto a group of men who had been stolen from me. When I was growing up, I knew two things would happen to me if I came out. First, I would get AIDS and then I would go to Hell. After I had my first gay kiss, I spent a year wondering if it would be the death of me. I called an HIV hotline and a nurse explained the difference between blood and saliva. I spent a lot of time imagining what Hell would be like. Perhaps if I had had access to a few gay men who were older and wiser, they could have held my hand and tried to convince me what in the world might be possible: love, fun, and even faith in a God who had made me just as I am.

Now I do have access to older and wiser gay men, and the ones I asked to participate in this doc series are ambitious, hungry to live, eager to do something with the years that had been denied to many of their contemporaries. In them, I see what straight people see when they look at their parents and grandparents: a future for myself. I also see the past more clearly. Queer existence before my time was varied, interesting, and more complicated than the media typically suggests. Film and television tend to pop out just a few varieties of gay men, and even fewer over forty. I needed more options. I developed *Still Here Still Queer* so that I could find them.

Duncan Teater



Director's Statement

I read Jeremy Atherton Lin's book *Gay Bar: Why We Went Out* last year, before I met Larry Tee. It instilled in me the kind of deep longing and rejoicing that queer spaces have held historically. Lips embraced in the dark. The neon pulse of the night. I placed myself in 1980s Larry's shoes, going through all this against the Reagan current and AIDS Crisis. When I finally met him, I could sense that behind his wonderful eccentricity and playful manner, there was this sense of resilience that was built from fighting for the right to long and rejoice. Larry embodies the queer right to be alive, to live for today and for tomorrow.

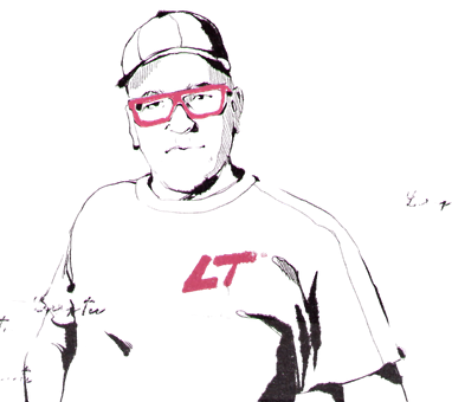
-Fabrizio D'Amato

Producer's Statement

When we began this project, we were both excited and humbled by the opportunity to produce USC's first three-part documentary series. As the story evolved, one figure continually emerged at its center: Larry Tee. From his early days in Atlanta to his move to New York, Larry's unwavering determination to build a life on his own terms became the driving force behind our work. His relentless creativity, resilience, and commitment to authenticity inspired us not only as filmmakers, but as emerging artists navigating our own careers.

Collaborating with our incredible team, being welcomed into Larry's extraordinary world, and working alongside our director, Fabrizio, has been an experience we will carry with us long after this project. More than documenting a remarkable life, this series reminded us that the most meaningful creative work comes from embracing who you are without compromise. If there is one lesson we hope to take forward it's that authenticity has the power to build community, inspire others, and open doors to opportunities that only become possible when you remain true to yourself.

-Win Scott & Mateo Simon



Key Participants



Larry Tee

Larry Tee (born Lawrence Thom) is an influential DJ, producer, and cultural tastemaker whose career spans more than three decades at the forefront of global nightlife and electronic music. Emerging from the underground scenes of Atlanta and New York in the 1980s, he became a defining presence in legendary clubs. He is best known for co-writing Supermodel (You Better Work), the breakout hit that launched RuPaul into international stardom, and for

coining and popularizing the electroclash movement. He remains a pioneering force in queer nightlife and underground culture, continually pushing boundaries and influencing generations of artists across music, fashion, and performance.

Sam Wood aka Morgan

Sam Woods is a Berlin-born performer, producer, and creative. Performing internationally as the drag queen Morgan Wood, Sam is known for blending sharp comedy, bold visuals, and fearless performance. Now based in Los Angeles with his husband, Larry Tee, Sam continues to develop projects in television while bringing his signature style to stages around the world. His latest live show, *CringeFest*, showcases his distinctive blend of humor, spectacle, and unapologetic camp



Jon Witherspoon aka Lahoma

Jon Witherspoon, aka Lahoma Van Zandt, is a performer, musician, and drag artist whose career has helped shape queer nightlife and performance culture for decades. As a prominent figure in Atlanta's LGBTQIA+ community during the 1980s, Lahoma performed alongside friends including Larry Tee, RuPaul, and Lady Bunny before relocating to New York to pursue a music career. Known for a fearless stage presence and enduring creative spirit, Lahoma remains a celebrated voice in drag and underground performance history.



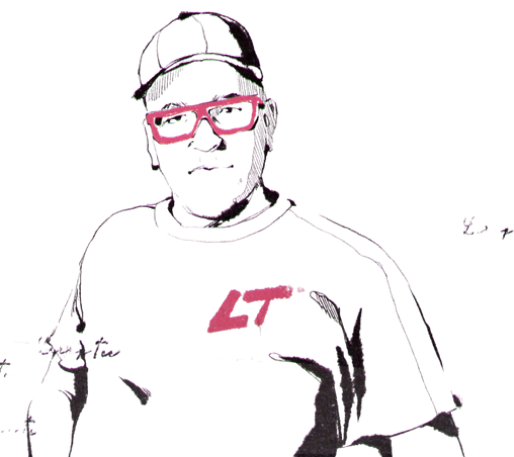
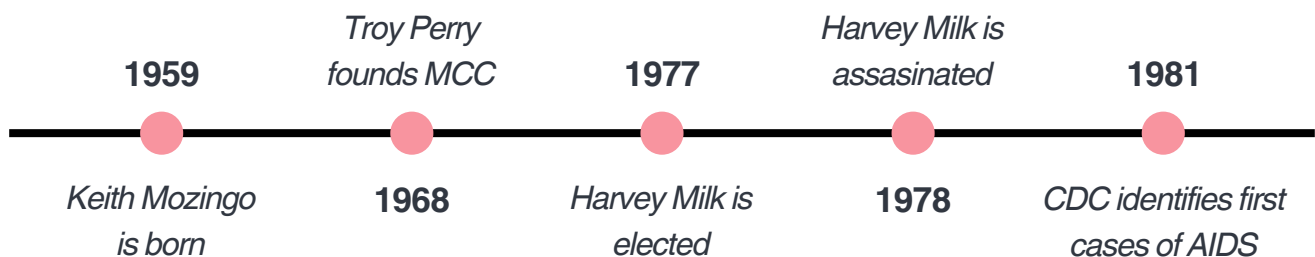
Additional Context

In 1977, Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. In 1978, he was assassinated. In 1981, the CDC identified a cluster of five homosexual men in Los Angeles who were all infected with a rare kind of pneumonia. AIDS was the ultimate reversal of fortune for gay men. The modest freedoms and hints of acceptance that had emerged throughout the 20th century were overwhelmed by a merciless plague and a new tide of homophobia.

For men like Keith, the messaging was clear: choose eternal bliss with God or eternal torment in hell alongside other sinners. With pervasive and hateful rhetoric coming from the likes of religious figures like Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, his only option seemed to be living a double life or stifling his identity entirely.

This series highlights men who had experienced the hope of Milk's election and the subsequent nightmare of the AIDS pandemic. The anti-queer movement seeks to send all but the most well-behaved members of the LGBTQ+ coalition back into the closet. Progress more generally seems to have stalled out, and all kinds of people feel like the world is stuck or going in reverse.

But the men in our series have seen much worse. In spite of AIDS and the power of the closet, they are still here, and they are still queer. Our series is powered by the laughter, love, grit, ambition, courage, and hope of their stories.



Key Team



Fabrizio Dulanto *Director*

Fabrizio Dulanto is a Peruvian-American filmmaker from the Baltimore area. He now resides in Los Angeles and is currently enrolled at the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. His first year horror short "The Miracle" has been met with high praise, featuring in the official selection of the 2026 LatiFAM Film Festival. He is also a recipient of the USC Gary Cooper Endowed Fund.

Win Scott *Producer*

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Win Scott is an independent documentary filmmaker and a student at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. His debut feature documentary "Brother Austin," which focuses on traumatic brain injury recovery, is a sensitive portrayal of healing and perseverance made in conjunction with Shepherd Center of Atlanta. He strives to continue his work to illuminate the extraordinary within the everyday, using documentary film as a beacon for lasting impact.



Mateo Simon *Producer*

Originally from Bryan, Ohio, Mateo Simon is a producer and filmmaker, currently pursuing his MFA at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. At USC he continues to expand his work as a producer, developing narrative and documentary projects that explore identity and the complexities of human connection. Mateo's career started with over a decade of SAG acting experience before he pursued film at Cal State Northridge, where he produced "Ikigai" and "Glodok 98", both of which won multiple awards and became Oscar-qualifying shorts.

Shengze (Mark) Ma *Director of Photography*

Shengze (Mark) Ma, Cinematographer, Steadicam Operator and 1st AC.

His work includes Films, Shorts, Documentaries, Commercials, Music Videos, and Branded Content for international clients such as Hennessy and ANTA. His films have been recognized at international film festivals, reflecting his experience across both commercial and narrative filmmaking. Skilled in Steadicam, Gimbal, Drone Operation and Camera Department Workflow.



Key Team

Jess Forcey *Editor*

Jess Forcey is an editor with White Horse Pictures whose background spans narrative filmmaking and post-production. They are currently attending the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, pursuing a MFA in Film and Television Production. .



Cody D. Smith *Editor*

Cody Smith is an editor and currently attending the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, pursuing a MFA in Film and Television Production.

Vladimir Lopez *Sound*

Vladimir Lopez is currently attending the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, pursuing an MFA in Film and Television Production. A lifelong horror fan, Vladimir is honing his skills in video editing and post-production sound while also pursuing creative producing and writing.



Zhen Li *Sound*

Zhen Li is a filmmaker born in Shanghai, China. She has been working on documentaries, sci-fi short films, and feature films for a long time. Throughout her career, Zhen has directed and executive produced several critically acclaimed films and documentaries, covering a wide range of genres, including drama, documentary, and experimental films.

Duncan Teater *Creator + Showrunner*

Duncan is an award-winning filmmaker currently pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. He is a recipient of both USC's Annenberg Fellowship and the School of Cinematic Arts Student Impact Award, recognizing his "body of work dedicated to social impact, building community, and



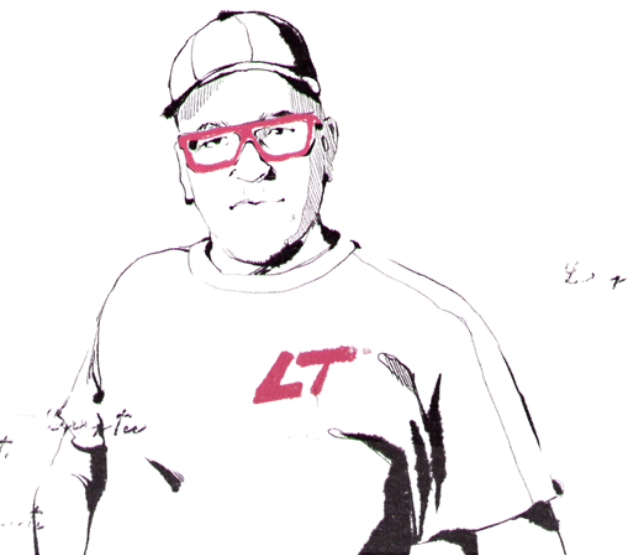
groundbreaking efforts to empower a wide range of voices and perspectives."



Poster



Gallery



BTS

