



Still Here Still Queer

Creator-Showrunner

Duncan Teater

*The first-ever docuseries created by
the University of Southern California
School of Cinematic Arts*

Total Series Runtime:

74 minutes over three episodes

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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.

Why Now?

Relatable, funny, poignant, and ultimately feel-good, these stories connect with viewers regardless of age and identity. At a time when audiences are struggling with division and uncertainty, *Still Here Still Queer* reminds us that every-day heroes can overcome ignorance and isolation.

Episode Loglines

Episode 101 - *Forever and a Day*

Ken and Mack have been inseparable romantic partners for 26 years, despite discrimination, AIDS, and the closet. How did they do it?

Episode 102 - *Keeping the Scene Alive*

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.

Episode 103 - *When God Speaks*

As a gay pastor, Keith Mozingo lives what so many queer folks had stripped away from them: practicing faith without hiding their sexuality.



Series Summary

Still Here Still Queer, spanning three-episodes with a total series run time of 74 minutes, blends the current-day lives and the coming-of-age backstories of four gay men: Mack and Ken, whose unlikely romance saved Ken from the closet; Larry Tee, a rock star who helped create contemporary queer culture but wants one more act; and Keith, a Christian pastor who found a way to reconcile being gay and loving God. Each episode can stand alone, but the series as a whole tells a broader story about the AIDS crisis, aging, and the victory of humanity over homophobia.

Episode Summaries

Episode 101 - Forever and a Day

Ken and Mack have been inseparable romantic partners for 26 years, despite discrimination, AIDS, and the closet. How did they do it? Ken was born in 1946 England when homosexuality was criminalized and coming out felt impossible. Mack was born into a family that accepted his gay identity from an early age. What started as a spark of interest online blossomed into something eternal despite the challenges. Together, they confront the closet, identity, and HIV, as they build a life rooted in profound, enduring love.

Episode 102 - *Keeping the Scene Alive*

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.

Episode 103 - *When God Speaks*

"Gay" and "Christian" coexist seamlessly in the world of Keith Mozingo, but it wasn't always that way. This episode tells Keith's journey from a closeted church pianist to a sex-positive pastor who leads Founders Metropolitan Community Church - the world's first Queer Christian denomination. Pastor Keith reveals stories he rarely shares around struggling with his sexuality, faith, and suicidal ideation. Pastor Keith now actively celebrates queer relationships within his congregation - an unwavering representation of hope for gay couples who also want to hold onto a belief in God.



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. The ones I asked to participate in this doc series are ambitious, hungry to live, and 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

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."



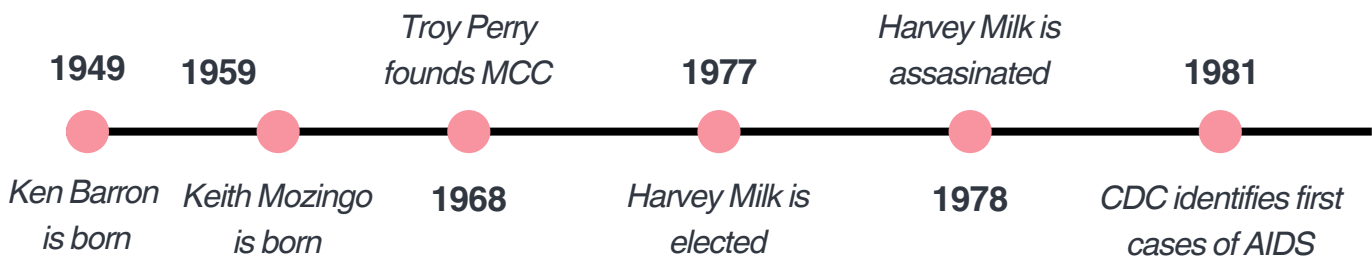
Additional Context

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.

This series highlights men who had experienced the hope of Milk's election and the subsequent nightmare of the AIDS pandemic. The creators behind *Still Here Still Queer* reject the invisibility that

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.



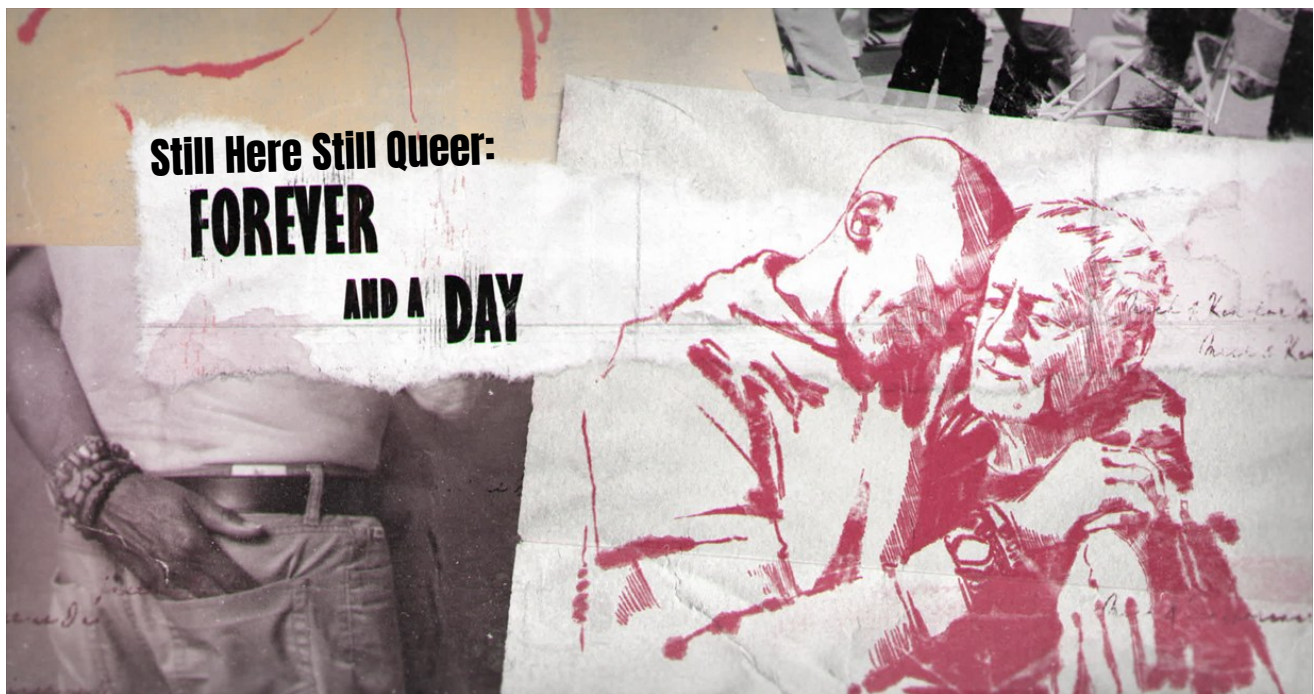
Behind the Production of USC's First Docuseries

The University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts has a long, proud tradition of students producing documentary films. *CTPR 531: Pitching the Documentary* and *CTPR 547: Documentary Production* are key parts of that tradition. In these courses, students have traditionally developed, pitched, and produced short films. Under normal circumstance, after a competitive selection process in the first semester, three projects are carried through pre-production, production, and post production in the second semester.

During the 2025-2026 school year, for the first time these courses were restructured to support the creation of USC's first-ever docuseries. Students pitched shows that spoke to the cultural and social moment, including projects that would showcase immigrant families, unlikely political juxtapositions, and the fight to preserve a beloved Los Angeles flamenco tradition. Ultimately, the USC documentary faculty chose to greenlight *Still Here Still Queer*, a project developed by second-year MFA student Duncan Teater.

Although *Still Here Still Queer* is an anthology series and each episode can be appreciated individually, the team of 25 students worked tirelessly to bring a sense of cohesion to the project. The result is a docuseries that showcases chapters sometimes painful, ultimately joyous story of human beings rejecting hate and embracing love.





Still Here Still Queer
Episode 101: Forever And A Day

Director
Sol Gallardo

Producers
Zander Cooper
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Runtime: 26 minutes, 27 seconds

Extended Summary

Ken and Mack have been in love for twenty-seven years, despite AIDS, discrimination, and the closet. This episode is their love story.

Ken Baron grew up in England at a time when being gay brought upon stigma and state sanction, so he learned early to keep that part of himself hidden. Like many men of his generation, he followed the path expected of him.

He moved to the United States. He earned his PhD. He built a career at General Motors. He even married a woman and started a family. At first glance, his life appeared complete. But privately, he withheld his gay identity from the people in the life he was creating.

This is when Mack came into his life.

Mack Scott came of age in a different environment. With his mother's support, he came out as a teenager, and by fourteen, he had his first boyfriend. These experiences shaped how he moved through the world. He never felt the need to compromise or conceal, forging ahead with a quiet certainty about himself.

Ken and Mack met in 1999, both well into adulthood and pursuing vastly different lives. What began as a spark of interest online flourished into something consistent over time. Their love did not unfold quickly nor did it come without complication.

Over time, Mack has encouraged Ken to live openly and be more honest about his life. Ken eventually came out to his children and ended his marriage. Intimacy is something that the couple holds dearly – everyday moments of touch take on new meaning in the shadow of AIDS-era discrimination and fear.



Director's Statement

Forever and a Day began with a question that felt both deeply personal and quietly universal: What does it mean to grow old with the person you love in a world that once denied you that future, when so many like you never lived long enough to reach it? A world that tells you who you are is wrong; where accepting yourself becomes an act of defiance.

Ken and Mack's story unfolded in the small, intimate gestures of their daily life; brushing teeth side by side, preparing coffee, moving through space with a rhythm only time can build. These rituals became the emotional architecture of the film. I was less interested in grand declarations of love and more drawn to the quiet evidence of it; the kind that accumulates over decades, almost invisibly, until it becomes inseparable from who you are.

Formally, I wanted the film to feel grounded and observational, inviting the audience to inhabit their world without interruption. The camera lingers—patient, curious—moving at the rhythm of a life fully lived rather than rushed. At the same time, I sought moments where past and present could exist together, where memory is porous and time folds in on itself; revealing the weight of what this love has endured, and making its moments of joy feel even more profound. In these subtle ruptures, the film begins to breathe beyond documentation, reaching toward something more poetic: the understanding that love is not linear, but cumulative.

As a filmmaker, I am consistently drawn to stories of those who exist on the margins; people whose lives challenge dominant narratives about identity, belonging, and longevity. Growing up between borders, I became acutely aware of the lives that are often rendered invisible. In queer history, especially, there is a persistent narrative of loss, of lives cut short, of futures denied. While that truth is undeniable, I wanted this film to exist as a counterpoint: a testament to endurance, to care, and to the radical act of imagining a future when none was promised.

Through the quiet ordinariness of their love, Ken and Mack reveal something deeply extraordinary. Forever and a Day is, ultimately, a meditation on time, devotion, and the courage it takes to build a life together and to keep choosing one another in a world like the one we live in— day after day, over a lifetime

-Sol Gallardo



Key Participants



Dr. Ken Scott Baron

Dr. Ken Scott Baron was born in 1946 in the UK where he graduated with a B.Sc. He emigrated to the U.S. where he did graduate work in chemistry specializing in nanotechnology. He then worked for General Motors on automobile emissions, leading to patents on the catalytic converter. In 1999, he met his lifelong partner and husband, Mack Scott Baron and is enjoying his 27 years of love, friendship and marriage. Mack and Ken have three adult children. Ken's hobbies include gardening, podcasting and photography. He is a passionate advocate for civil rights and has won a Life Time Achievement Award with the National Association of Black and White Men Together.

Mack Scott Baron

Mack Scott Baron was born on March 22, 1957 to Mary and Mack Scott Jr. in San Diego. At the age of five, he moved to Los Angeles after his parents separated. After six years, he relocated back to San Diego due to his interest in soccer. After graduating from high school, he moved back to Los Angeles to go to a two-year and then a four-year college. After graduating from California State University, Dominguez Hills, he became an elementary school teacher for Los Angeles Unified School District. Mack taught for LAUSD for over thirty plus years before retiring in June 2021.



Being a teacher enriched his life, as he will forever be connected to his former students, parents, community and colleagues. In 1999, he met his soulmate and best friend, Dr. Kenneth Scott Baron. They have been married for almost 27 years. According to Mack, his marriage to Ken has changed his life for the better. He is truly honored as well as fortunate to have met and married the best person he has ever known.



Key Team

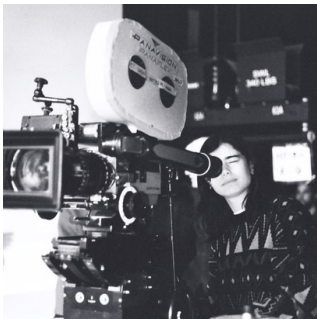
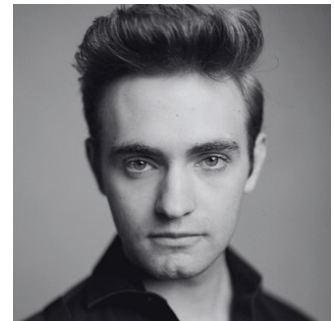


Sol Gallardo *Director*

Marisol “Sol” Gallardo is a Mexican filmmaker from Ciudad Juárez, a U.S.–Mexico border town that shaped her lens on migration, identity, and resilience. After moving to Mainland China to pursue a Business degree at NYU Shanghai, she began documenting the city’s rapid Westernization and the lives of expats seeking reinvention. After a successful career in advertising at Publicis Groupe, Sol shifted to filmmaking and is now pursuing her MFA in Film & TV Production at USC’s School of Cinematic Arts as a George Lucas Family Foundation Scholar and Annenberg Fellow. Her work as a director and editor explores themes of cultural displacement, connection, and transformation.

Zander Cooper *Producer*

Zander Cooper is a filmmaker and producer from Utah, currently a USC Production MFA candidate, and producing Episode 101 of the documentary series. A Weber State University graduate (summa cum laude), he founded the school’s first film organization and launched an international film festival. Zander previously ran an independent production company and worked with the Davis Catalyst Center, an innovative, equity-driven hub for career and technical education, where he mentored students in advanced production. The youngest member of his USC MFA cohort and an Annenberg Fellow, Zander creates award-winning work centered on queer storytelling.



Kira Upin *Director of Photography*

Kira Upin is a graduate student at USC’s School of Cinematic Arts (Class of 2027), in TV and film production, specifically in cinematography. Over the past four years, she has worked on set as a Director of Photography and assistant camera for numerous professional and student productions. With a strong interest in narrative short, feature films, and documentaries, she especially likes to consider the role of women and other underrepresented groups and how they are portrayed. In addition, she particularly enjoys the horror and drama genres. In 2023, Kira graduated from Duke University with a degree in Visual and Media Studies, with a concentration in cinematic arts and a minor in Chinese.



Key Team

Emily Hamilton-Hill *Editor*

Emily Hamilton-Hill is a MFA candidate at The University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts. With a focus on directing and editing, Emily is passionate about collaborating with her fellow filmmakers and telling diverse stories that reflect our ever-changing world.



Susan Allen Jones *Editor*

Susan Allena Jones is a passionate filmmaker dedicated to telling stories of women and marginalized communities with honesty, vigor, and humor. She enjoys crafting inclusive and collaborative community in all stages of project development, but most especially on set as a writer/director and in post-production as an editor. She believes a moment can be cinematic, a lifetime can be expressed in a single line of great dialogue, and only through intentional storytelling can humanity find its way back to itself.

Liam Flanigan *Sound*

Liam Flanigan is a filmmaker from Bexley, Ohio. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 2022 with a degree in history and a minor in cinema and media studies. In addition to his experience in film development, production, and programming, he has worked on several shows and is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild.



Yilong Yang *Sound*

Yilong Yang is originally from Harbin, China. He began playing the suona and piano at the age of four. Snowboarding is one of his greatest passions. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Film and Media Studies and is currently pursuing an MFA in Film & Television Production at the University of Southern California.



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Gallery

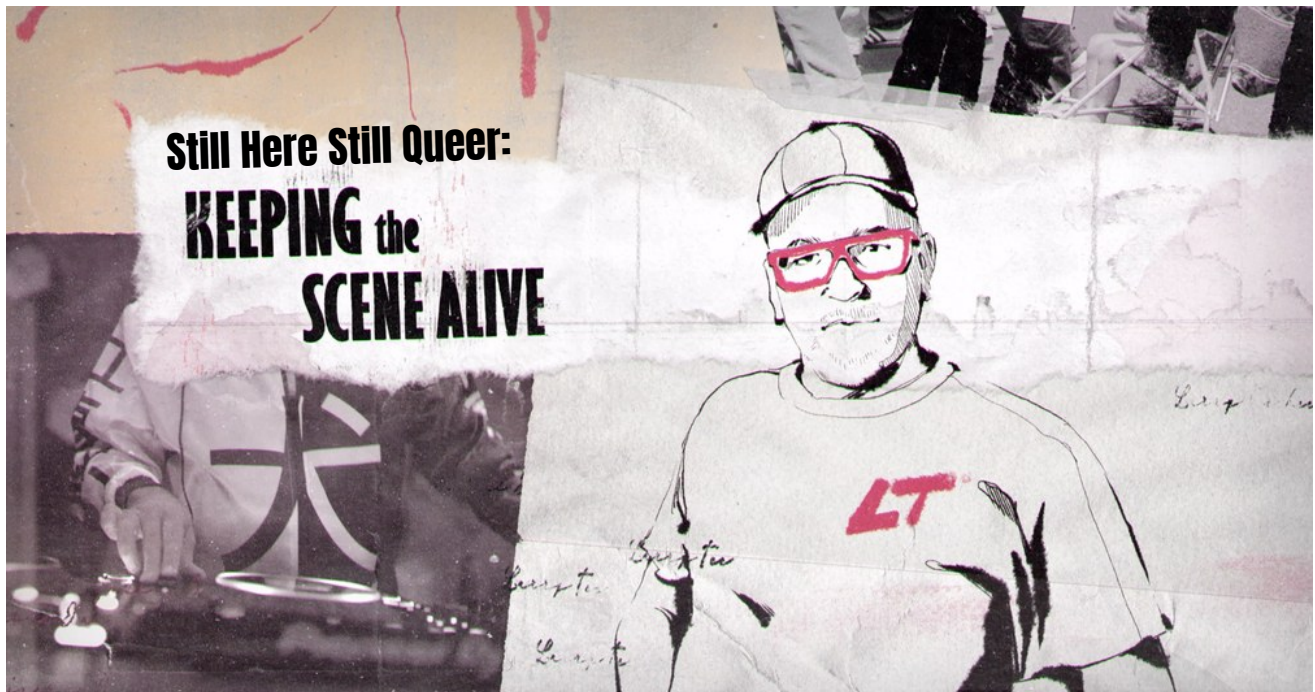


Gallery



Gallery





Still Here Still Queer
Episode 102: Keeping the Scene Alive

Director
Fabrizio Dulanto

Producers
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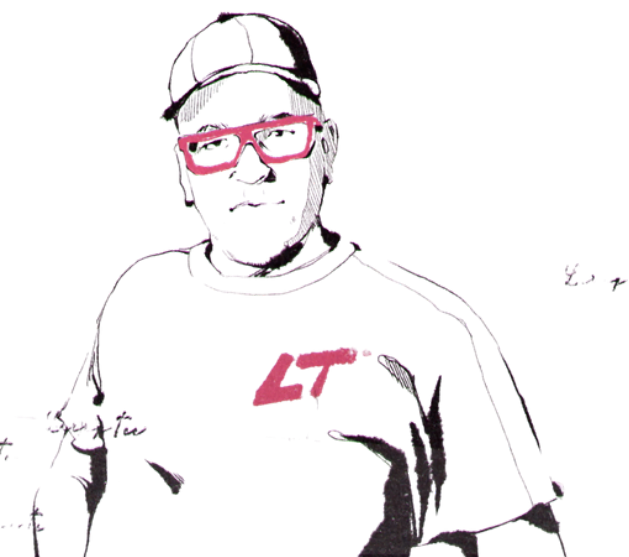
Mateo Simon
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Extended Summary

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.



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.

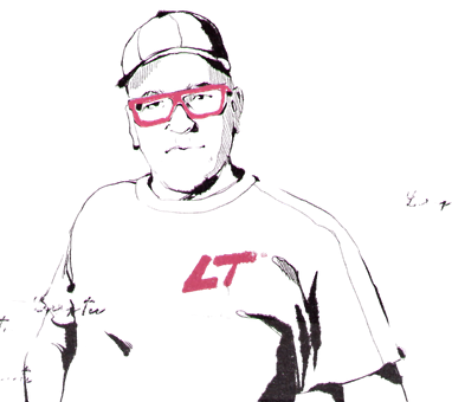
-Fabrizio D'Amato

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.



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.



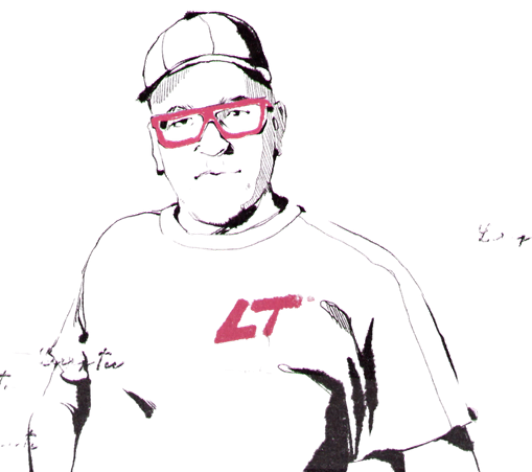
Vladimir Lopez *Sound*

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.

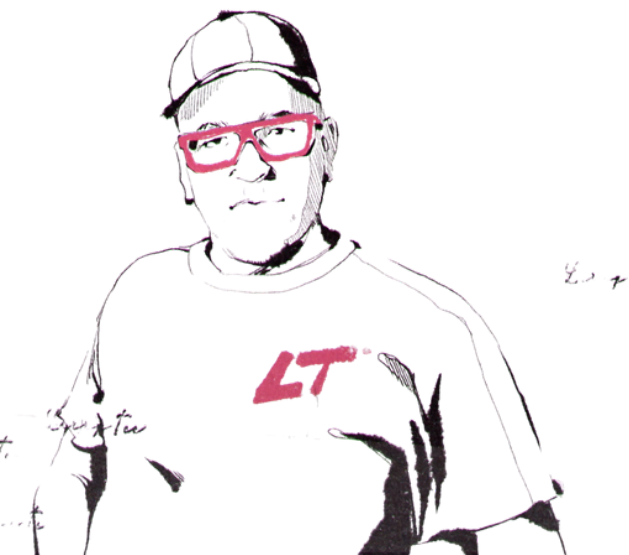


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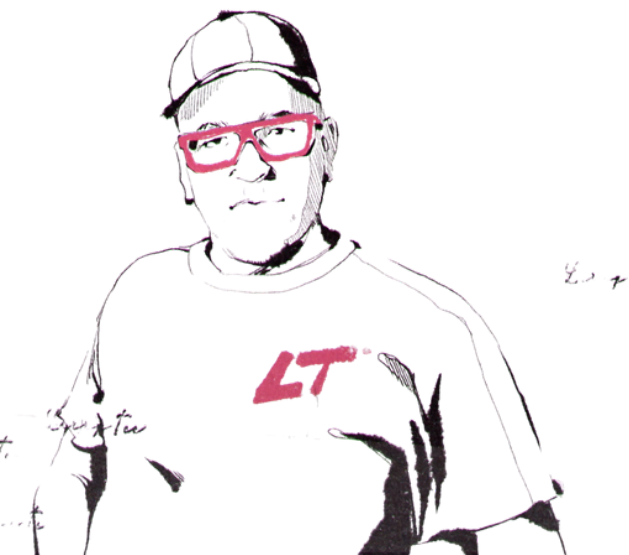
Poster



Gallery



BTS





Still Here Still Queer
Episode 103: When God Speaks

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Producers
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Runtime: 23 minutes, 31 seconds

Extended Summary

*"How we change the world starts with us individually and starts with that one word: Love."
- Keith Mozingo*

Keith Mozingo is a charismatic, quick-witted pastor, who opens this episode of *Still Here Still Queer* by debunking popular "clobber passages" that have long been used to persecute queer people. Donning a blonde beehive wig and a pink dress to embody his Southern church lady drag persona, Penny Costal, it's hard to imagine a time when Keith wasn't fully confident in who he is.

Keith pastors Founders Metropolitan Community Church (MCC), the first congregation of the world's original queer Christian denomination. It was the pioneer of that denomination, Troy Perry, whose book, *The Lord Is My Shepherd and He Knows I'm Gay*, first showed Keith in college that it was possible to be both gay and Christian. In an intimate scene, Keith shares the personal story of his suicide attempt, something he rarely speaks about publicly. Sitting on a park bench at sunset overlooking the ocean, Keith discloses how, after years of struggling with suicidal ideation born from the tension between his sexuality and his faith, he found the courage to come out to his father, reaching a point of acceptance he never got to experience with his late mother.

Alongside discovering Perry's book in his university library, Keith describes a vision in which God spoke to him audibly, telling him he was loved "just as he is," the words of a cherished hymn, and affirming that his faith and his sexuality were not in conflict. He plays Just As I Am in dreamy golden-hour light, and he reveals how that moment set him on a path of ministry and advocacy that has defined his life ever since.

Now approaching 67, Keith has lived proudly as a gay Christian and serves as a role model to new generations of queer people, much as Troy once was for him. Keith and Troy meet for lunch regularly, and during a lively lunch conversation, Troy describes through teary eyes what it was like to be a gay man in the 1980s and how he advocated for men who were hospitalized and discriminated against because of an AIDS diagnosis.



Extended Summary

That history cast a long shadow over Keith's newfound self-acceptance. It was the community of MCC, however, that gave him hope, and continues to do so: a community that accepts him fully. He credits the church with his continued vitality into his later years.

"Being the pastor of Founders, it just makes you feel alive. There's some days, you would think I was 25 again." - Keith Mozingo

Every year at Founders MCC, the congregation holds a radical Valentine's Day tradition: a blessing ceremony in which queer couples come to the altar to have their relationships honored before God. The service opens with a moment of silence for those lost to the AIDS epidemic, a grief that lives in the memory of nearly every person in the room. Reverend Keith then speaks about love, for one another and from God, before the couples are called forward.

Standing beneath the crucifix, Keith prays over them and invites them to whisper something to their partners. In that moment, husbands kiss their husbands, and non-binary folks hold the hands of their wives. The service embodies something present at MCC every day: safety and celebration for queer lives.

The film culminates in a montage of poetic visuals and moments of joy between Keith, church members, and his dog Fairfax, as Keith reflects on how far he has come in his outlook on life.

"Back in the day, I wanted to make something left after. But, now that I'm older, I feel like where we leave our glory is every day. It's every time I touch someone's life, or someone touches my life." - Keith Mozingo



Director's Statement

The truth is that Keith's story, and the extraordinary story of Founders Metropolitan Community Church fell into my lap by chance. When Duncan approached me to join *Still Here Still Queer*, I panicked. As a 24 year-old, somewhat straight girl, who grew up halfway across the world in Singapore, with a strictly secular upbringing, how is this my story to tell? Yet at the same time, the very premise of Keith's story and its inherent conflict between faith and queerness captivated me with an intensity that I couldn't quite explain.

I scoured my past in search of a common ground, an opening through which the truth that Keith lives could resonate universally, even with someone drastically different like myself. And at some point in the iterative process of editing, it dawned on me that, beneath Keith's radical reclamation of faith as a gay man lies a more simple, universal story: the journey of finding your way back home – and back to yourself.

As a child of immigrant parents who grew up constantly moving around, code switching and learning new languages, I often wonder where home is, and who I am beneath the layers of camouflage I've worn to survive each new place. Keith's story showed me that home can be simultaneously a community that I choose for myself wherever I am in the world but also an inner sanctuary where I finally learn to accept myself, just as I am.

As a director, I believe that the personal is the most universal. Keith's story isn't one that's only for queer people. This is a story for anyone who has needed the courage to be themselves and for anyone who has wondered if they can find home in a hostile world. It's an incredible privilege to bear witness to this story and I hope it travels to the people who need to hear it the most.

-Ziru Zhang



Producer's Statement

As two women who both hail from the Bible Belt South, we are no strangers to the homophobia embedded in many Christian communities. We were both raised in environments that taught that homosexuality was sinful, something worthy of eternal condemnation.

Emma

For me, that messaging ran deep. I became a devout Christian and spent a year traveling on the mission field. I always had LGBTQ+ friends and loved them genuinely, but secretly hoped they might have a moment of spiritual transformation that would change their sexuality. As I got older, I began to reckon with the harm in that thinking. As I deconstructed my faith, my beliefs about sexuality shifted alongside everything else. I no longer believe being gay is a sin, but rather something to be celebrated. That outward acceptance has also opened space for me to explore my own attractions across the gender spectrum, and is a significant reason I felt so drawn to this story.

Auriyana

In the Black community, your village is everything. What often goes unsaid is what happens when your “village” turns its back on you upon the embrace of your queer identity. For me, growing up in the Baptist South meant having a front row seat to harmful rhetoric, cruel punishments, and ultimately complete abandonment by those I considered family due to their outward expression of sexuality. Forcibly, this led to an adolescence of silence and conformity until I found community during college at HBCUs of the Atlanta University Center. Feeling seen through the works of Audre Lorde eventually melded into exploring underground ballroom communities, facilitating both a safe space and resources for those who felt alone on their journey of becoming. Through this, I learned that being queer is not a mere “choice” to take on additional marginalization, but a reclamation of being rooted in love, and that’s what this film truly embodies.

Keith and the community of Founders MCC represent something powerful for both of us: a living example of faith and sexuality in full reconciliation. Spending months in that church, watching queer couples worship and love without fear of condemnation, has been a healing experience for us both. Our hope is that this episode of *Still Here Still Queer* resonates with others in the same way.

-Auriyana Armour + Emma Davis Williams



Key Participants

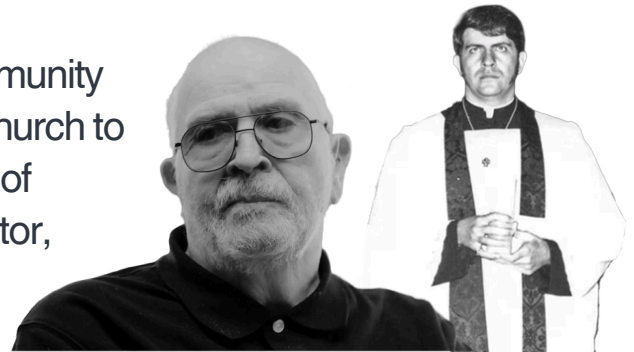


Rev. Keith Mozingo

Rev. Keith Mozingo is a former educator of 19 years and published author, and has been deeply involved in social justice causes across the South, from advocating for gay rights in North Carolina to fighting for same-sex marriage and LGBTQ+ protections in Louisiana. He currently pastors the founding location of the Metropolitan Community Church denomination; the same denomination that let him know it was okay to be gay and Christian back when he was in college. When he isn't doing pastoral work, you can find him traveling, solving crossword puzzles, or spending time with his fur-baby, Fairfax.

Rev. Troy Perry

Rev. Troy Perry founded Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles in 1968 as the first church to recognize the need to minister to the needs of LGBTQ+ folks. He's Rev. Keith's hero, mentor, and dear friend.



The People of Founders MCC

Founders MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) Los Angeles is a prophetic, liberating and progressive Christian community of faith that honors, values and welcomes all people. They are rooted in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, and Intersex communities and they activate their members politically and compassionately to aid the people of Los Angeles.



Key Team



Ziru Zhang *Director*

Ziru is a Singaporean writer-director and editor currently pursuing her MFA in Film & Television Production at USC. Growing up between Singapore and Shanghai, she has long grappled with the diasporic uncertainty of not quite knowing where home is - an emotional thread that runs through all of her work. Through her filmmaking, she seeks to illuminate immigrant and underrepresented narratives of those who live at the margins and are unafraid to boldly carve out space for themselves in a world not made for them.

Auriyana Chanelle Armour *Producer*

Auriyana is an award-winning filmmaker and producer working across narrative, documentary, and experimental film, with a focus on character-driven, socially engaged storytelling. She is an MFA candidate in Film & Television Production at USC's School of Cinematic Arts and holds a bachelor's in Documentary Filmmaking from Spelman College. Inspired by both the intersectionality of identity and the reclamation of marginalized communities, joining this project was a no-brainer.



Emma Davis Williams *Producer*

Emma is a producer, director, and editor currently pursuing an MFA in Film and Television Production at USC. Her work spans short film, podcast, and documentary series, and her projects have earned recognition from the USC Asian Pacific Film Festival, the Signal Awards, and the Berlin Women Cinema Festival. She is currently on staff at USC's Media Institute for Social Change, where she organized the institute's inaugural film festival.

Angie Hanqing Guo *Director of Photography*

Angie is a cinematographer originally from Shanghai, China. She is currently pursuing an MFA in Film & TV Production at USC. She is passionate about visual storytelling and crafting images that convey emotional depth and nuance. Her work often focuses on naturalistic lighting, intimate framing, and a strong sensitivity to performance.



Key Team

Christine Xi Gong *Editor*

Christine is a filmmaker and MFA candidate at USC School of Cinematic Arts. The films she writes, directs, and edits have been featured at nearly 20 international festivals. Her work is drawn to the quiet fractures inside intimate relationships, where love sits alongside fear, shame, and silence.

She works at the edge of reality and fiction, using mixed media to bring memory, emotion, and dreams onto the screen.



Runhe Zhang *Editor*

Runhe is a filmmaker from China, currently pursuing an MFA at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. She focuses on editing, where she uncovers story and shapes emotional journeys. Trained in Thai during her undergraduate studies, she brings a cross-cultural sensitivity to her storytelling.

Val Cordecia *Sound*

Raised in Miami, Val is a filmmaker and MFA candidate at USC studying Film and Television Production. A writer at heart, their script *Revolve* was adapted into an award-winning short film, earning three honors at the Asian American International Film Festival. They are driven to tell stories that center voices often left out, bringing honesty and depth to underrepresented experiences.



Xiaoning Zhang *Sound*

Xiaoning is a student filmmaker currently based in Los Angeles. Before moving to the West Coast to pursue an MFA in Film & TV Production at USC, he studied at NYU, where he made multiple short films and worked in New York's independent theater production scene. Xiaoning focuses on directing, editing, and sound.

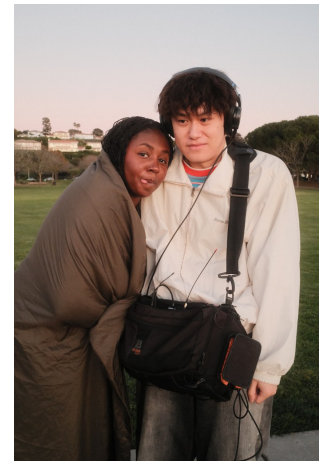


Behind the Production



This is not the film this team signed up to make. A week before production began, the original participant for this episode dropped from the project. They were out - no further contact, and no hope to move forward in any way. Duncan, Ziru, Auriyana, and Emma took a collective deep breath and worked hard to find an alternative participant, and Keith came into their lives as if sent by God themselves. After an approval

meeting with the MCC board and getting the rest of the team up to speed, they went full-steam ahead on building a relationship with Keith and documenting his life. Rather than ample time to get to know their participant, the team had to start filming with Keith almost immediately. Ziru had to work hard to make up for lost time with Keith, and it was during one of their many dinners together that Keith shared a story he rarely tells: the time he nearly took his own life. It was a moment of profound trust, and one that ultimately shaped the heart of the episode. Production took place over 13 days



and spanned from Keith's apartment in Hollywood to Founder's MCC in Los Feliz to Fred Hesse Community Park in Rancho Palos Verdes. Over the course of the production, the team consumed an entire bulk box of fruit snacks and soaked up endless doggie-cuddles with Keith's pup, Fairfax.

