

Story Center Films
Singer & Deschamps Productions, Inc.
and the Independent Television Service (ITVS)

present



A film by Patrick Sammon & Bennett Singer

52 minutes | USA | 2020

National PBS Broadcast Premiere:
Monday, October 11, 2021 at 10/9c (check local listings)
on *Independent Lens*



PBS website: [PBS.org/cured](https://www.pbs.org/cured)

Project website: [CuredDocumentary.com](https://www.curedocumentary.com)

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LOGLINE

CURED tells the story of the activists who brought about a pivotal but little-known victory in the movement for LGBTQ equality: the American Psychiatric Association's 1973 decision to remove homosexuality from its manual of mental illnesses.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

CURED takes viewers inside the campaign that led to a pivotal yet largely unknown moment in the struggle for LGBTQ equality: the American Psychiatric Association's 1973 decision to remove homosexuality from its manual of mental illnesses. Combining eyewitness testimony with newly unearthed archival footage, the film reveals how a small group of impassioned activists achieved this unexpected victory.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Mentally ill. Deviant. Diseased. And in need of a cure.

These were among the terms psychiatrists used to describe lesbians and gay men in the 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s. According to the medical establishment, every gay person—no matter how well-adjusted—suffered from a mental disorder. And as long as lesbians and gay men were “sick,” progress toward equality was impossible.

CURED chronicles the battle waged by a small group of activists who declared war against a formidable institution—and won. This award-winning documentary takes viewers inside the David-versus-Goliath struggle that led the American Psychiatric Association (APA) to remove homosexuality from its manual of mental illnesses. Viewers meet the key players who achieved this victory, along with allies and opponents within the APA. The film illuminates the strategy and tactics that led to this pivotal yet largely unknown moment in the movement for LGBTQ equality. Indeed, following the Stonewall uprising of 1969, the campaign that culminated in the APA's 1973 decision marks the first major step on the path to first-class citizenship for LGBTQ Americans.

The film opens with archival images and personal testimony that portray what life was like for gay Americans in the 1950s and 1960s. During this era, most lesbian and gay people lived in the shadows because they faced discrimination, isolation, and criminal prosecution. Many got married to hide their identities. Nearly all lived in fear.

Underlying this bleak outlook was a fundamental reality: Even progressive psychiatrists considered homosexuals abnormal, because the “bible” of psychiatry—*The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, or DSM, first published in 1952—classified homosexuality as a “sociopathic personality disturbance.” The consequences of this diagnosis were dire. Gay people were subjected to castration, hysterectomies, electroshock, and lobotomies. Those who managed to avoid such severe treatment often spent countless hours trying to get “cured”: Charles Silverstein, one of our storytellers,

saw a psychiatrist three times a week for seven years, hoping to become heterosexual and safeguard his job as a 5th-grade teacher. Rev. Magora Kennedy, another storyteller, recounts the choice her mother gave her upon discovering Magora's attraction to girls: Marry a man or be sent to a mental institution. Kennedy chose to get married—at age 14.

Before almost anyone else, Dr. Frank Kameny understood that the gay rights movement had to get the DSM classification changed to achieve progress. Kameny had been fired by the federal government in 1957 because he was homosexual; his superiors were enforcing President Eisenhower's 1953 Executive Order that banned homosexuals from federal employment. That injustice motivated Kameny to become an activist. A Harvard-trained astronomer, Kameny argued that there was no empirical basis for the illness theory of homosexuality: "If they felt it was a disorder or a pathology, fine, let them present their good, sound, solid, scientific evidence to show it. They never did!"

By the late 1960s, a new generation of lesbians and gay men was fighting back, inspired by the civil rights, anti-war, and women's movements. Among them was Don Kilhefner, a UCLA graduate student who led a "zap," or protest, at a 1970 aversion-therapy conference in Los Angeles. As Kilhefner recounts in an interview for CURED, the activists not only took over the meeting—with the SWAT team stationed outside—but then invited therapists to engage in dialogue, marking the first time that many of these doctors had ever spoken to gay people who did not consider themselves sick.

The activists' message reached a national audience in 1971, when seven out lesbians appeared on PBS' *The David Susskind Show*. When Susskind referred to "the body of medical evidence that suggests [homosexuality] is a mental aberration," Rev. Magora Kennedy pushed back forcefully, asking Susskind if viewing homosexuals as mentally ill "makes you feel good." Barbara Gittings, a tenacious organizer who worked closely with Frank Kameny, joined Kennedy on the panel, insisting to Susskind that "the body of knowledge which claims sickness for homosexuality has to be challenged."

Amid mounting protests, the APA decided to have a more comprehensive discussion of homosexuality. That's how Gittings ended up organizing an unprecedented panel at the APA's 1972 convention in Dallas. She tracked down a member of a secret group of gay APA members known as the "GayPA" who agreed to participate—but only on the condition that he remain anonymous, since being identified could have cost him his medical license. Wearing an oversized Nixon mask, Philadelphia psychiatrist Dr. John Fryer—disguised as "Dr. H. Anonymous"—stunned his colleagues by describing his tormented experiences as a closeted gay therapist. Kay Lahusen, Gittings' partner of 46 years and one of our storytellers, characterizes this moment as "a game-changer" because, for the first time, APA members heard a personal story from a colleague who was both gay and a practicing psychiatrist.

As reform-minded APA insiders shifted their thinking, supporters of the mental-illness diagnosis stood their ground. Dr. Charles Socarides was the main force working to oppose the DSM change; he spent five decades trying to "cure" gay men and lesbians. The film chronicles his opposition through extensive archival material. We also hear from Socarides' son Richard, a gay man who served as President Bill Clinton's advisor on LGBTQ issues.

In May 1973, the DSM fight shifted to Honolulu, site of the APA's annual convention. Ronald Gold, another key storyteller, participated in a debate on the pros and cons of changing the DSM. Gold's presence on this panel symbolized the activists' progress: Instead of disrupting APA sessions, they were now part of the conversation. Gold didn't hold back, however, even entitling his speech, "Stop it, you're making me sick!"

After continued lobbying and additional deliberations, the APA Board of Trustees voted unanimously in December 1973 to "cure" gay and lesbian people by removing homosexuality from the DSM. Socarides and his supporters pushed back, engineering a referendum in the spring of 1974 for the entire APA membership to weigh in on the issue. When the ballots were counted, 57 percent of APA members had voted to affirm the board's decision.

Even after the APA's 1974 vote, LGBTQ Americans continued to fight against stigma in psychiatry. The 1980 addition of Gender Identity Disorder (GID) to the DSM sparked fierce resistance among transgender activists, who objected to being classified as mentally ill. The DSM replaced GID with Gender Dysphoria in 2013 to avoid labeling trans people as disordered, while still facilitating access to transition-related medical care.

An epilogue chronicles the ways in which the DSM declassification of homosexuality—described by one reporter as "the greatest gay victory"—opened the door to dramatic changes, including the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the legalization of same-sex marriage in all 50 states. "We didn't want kids growing up feeling bad about themselves," reflects Charles Silverstein. "We were doing this for younger generations, not just for ourselves."

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

We are both passionate about LGBTQ equality, visibility, inclusion, and dignity. Our previous films about Alan Turing and Bayard Rustin—CODEBREAKER and BROTHER OUTSIDER—have illuminated the consequences of anti-gay bigotry, as well as the price that Turing and Rustin each paid for daring to be unapologetic about their homosexuality during a fiercely homophobic era. CURED builds on our previous work by illuminating a little-known story from the past that has strong and powerful resonance for the present.

While CURED is indisputably about science, medicine, and politics, at its core this is a film about activism and the process of social change. It features a diverse group of crusaders with stubborn dedication and big personalities who came together at a crossroads in LGBTQ history. These unlikely heroes' passion for justice—coupled with their refusal to accept psychiatry's declaration that they were sick—propels the story. We were honored to meet and interview many of the key participants who put their bodies and reputations on the line in pursuit of this cause.

We embarked on this project in the spring of 2015. With so many key storytellers at an advanced age, it quickly became clear to us that time was of the essence. The first person we interviewed was Ronald Gold. A fierce and outspoken gay rights activist, Gold played a

key role in the APA battle. Within months of our interview, he died at the age of 86. His passing highlighted the urgency of securing interviews with surviving participants before time silenced their voices. Aside from Gold, four other interviewees have passed away since our interviews: Dr. Robert J. Campbell, Dr. Richard Green, Harry Adamson, and Kay Lahusen. CURED stands as a lasting legacy to the people who brought about this momentous change.

Archival material forms the visual backbone of the film. We worked closely with Archival Producers Mridu Chandra and Lewanne Jones to uncover thousands of photos, documents, and film clips. We visited ten archives in person and coordinated archival research at dozens of other repositories across the United States. The final production includes visual elements from more than 150 archives, libraries, newspapers, television programs, films, and individuals. Of particular note, two of our discoveries have historical significance. In the spring of 2019, we made a startling discovery at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. On an unmarked audio tape in the John Fryer Papers—consisting of 217 boxes—we found an audio recording of the panel discussion in which Dr. Fryer, disguised as “Dr. Anonymous,” offered electrifying testimony about his experiences as a closeted gay psychiatrist. The panel discussion at the 1972 APA Annual Meeting in Dallas marked a critical turning point in the quest to have the APA change the DSM classification of homosexuality.

We also discovered an audio recording from a pivotal panel at the 1973 APA Annual Meeting in Honolulu. This discussion was the only time proponents of removing homosexuality from the DSM squared off against opponents of the move. The audio of this dramatic showdown was thought to have been lost to history, and we are excited to have found it and to be sharing it with viewers.

By emphasizing that the sickness theory of homosexuality was based on prejudice and flawed data rather than solid science, the film offers an implicit argument against so-called “conversion therapy,” which claims to be able to change sexual orientation and gender identity. Although this practice has been discredited by the APA and every other mainstream medical organization, it remains legal for adults in all 50 states and for minors in a majority of states. Conversion therapy is a cornerstone of the project’s outreach and education campaign.

We want people who see CURED to feel how entrenched the “sickness theory” was before 1973 by giving voice to those who opposed changing the DSM. To underscore the shifts that occurred in the early 1970s, we incorporate pop culture references to homosexuality and mental health at various points in the film. These include a clip *That Certain Summer*, a 1972 movie of the week that marked the first time homosexuality was addressed in a sympathetic manner on American television.

We are deeply gratified that the film has garnered a number of awards following its world premiere in August 2020 at the Outfest Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival. These include the Audience Awards for Best Documentary Feature at Frameline 44, the prestigious LGBTQ film festival in San Francisco and the world’s oldest and largest LGBTQ film event; at NewFest, the LGBTQ film festival in New York City; and at

ImageOut: The Rochester LGBT Film & Video Festival. CURED also won the Jury Award for Best Documentary at Out at the Movies in Winston-Salem, North Carolina and the 2021 Audiovisual & Film Award from the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists. In 2020, CURED was awarded the second prize (among 150 entrants) in the annual [Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film](#), which recognizes excellence in historical documentary filmmaking. The \$50,000 award was used to help cover final post-production expenses. And in 2021, CURED won the American Historical Association's John E. O'Connor Film Award, which recognizes "outstanding interpretations of history through the medium of film or video."

We are excited that CURED is reaching viewers through an international festival run, to be followed by a national broadcast on PBS' acclaimed [Independent Lens](#) series on October 11, 2021 — National Coming Out Day. We see this as a wonderful opportunity to remind Americans that for LGBTQ people, coming out remains a potent and necessary form of activism. We're also mindful that October 10 marks World Mental Health Day, and we see the broadcast as a chance to underscore the fact that attempts to "cure" normal human behavior are, in fact, detrimental to mental health. Aside from the PBS broadcast, the film has been presented to television audiences in the United Kingdom, Italy, Israel, Austria, and Sweden, with more countries to come during the months ahead. And we're thrilled that CURED has been optioned by 20th Television as the basis for a [limited series](#) to be written and executive produced by Steven Canals, the co-creator of *Pose*.

Victory in the battle to overturn the mental illness classification for homosexuality was not inevitable, but the tenacity, resourcefulness, and ingenuity of the key players who took on the APA brought about a change that transformed not only LGBTQ people's perceptions of themselves, but also the social fabric of America.

QUOTES OF NOTE

"Far from being an arcane or minor matter, the authority of medical science and expertise, as expressed in the APA's 'bible,' *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, buttressed legal discrimination and popular prejudice alike and blighted hundreds of thousands of lives for decades. The success in getting the APA to reverse its decision—achieved in 1973 and affirmed in 1974—was (as an activist in the film notes) 'the greatest gay victory,' marking as it did the single most important turning point in the long struggle to secure civil rights for LGBT Americans and leading, in due course, to a multiplicity of further triumphs, from the repeal of the U.S. military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy in 2010 to the achievement of marriage equality in 2015. Among the several powerful messages conveyed by the film is the remarkable revelation that a tiny handful of determined individuals can change an entire society.

"Among the film's numerous distinctive strengths is its reliance entirely on the voices of its protagonists. There are no academic talking heads describing events from afar, nor is there a generic authorial voice-over. At every point, the story is carried along by a blend of – quite brilliantly juxtaposed – clips and footage from the 1950s-1970s (from cassette tapes to television shows) and retrospective interviews conducted with the main actors, some from

the more immediate aftermath and culled from archival sources (1980s-1990s) and some conducted by filmmakers Sammon and Singer themselves in the 2000s. These more recent interviews – particularly noteworthy are the ones with African American lesbian activist Rev. Magora Kennedy (eyewitness and participant in the Stonewall rebellion, as well as marvelously shrewd challenger of TV talk show host David Susskind), photographer and Daughters of Bilitis organizer Kay Lahusen (the longterm partner of the late Barbara Gittings, who together with the Mattachine Society founder Frank Kameny spearheaded the movement to take on the American psychiatric profession), gay rights activist Ron Gold, psychologist Charles Silverstein, and psychiatrist Lawrence Hartmann – are singularly impressive in their ability to elicit deeply affecting memories and keen critical analyses alike.

“The thoroughness of the archival research conducted by Sammon and Singer is staggering. The service to historians of American society and culture is immense. Through their persistence and ingenuity, Sammon and Singer have unearthed a mountain of material – much of it long believed lost, or sitting in dusty boxes no one had opened for decades, including audio and video recordings, revelatory photographs, handwritten notes, old typescript texts, diary entries, newspaper and magazine clippings, and much else. The feel of the spaces, the fashions of the eras as times changed, the tone people took in their discussions of homosexuality as expert opinion began to be contested, the energy of ‘zaps’ and demonstration, the doggedness of careful planning, the noxious authoritative certitude of the opponents that needed convincing or outmaneuvering: all of this is captured beautifully. And in order to be sure they were contextualizing the material effectively, Sammon and Singer also consulted with the preeminent US scholars on LGBT history and the relationship between psychiatry and homosexuality, including – among others – Lillian Faderman (Fresno State), Vernon Rosario (UCLA), Ronald Bayer (Columbia), Susan Stryker (Yale), and Regina Kunzel (Princeton).

“CURED manages to communicate, more compellingly and clearly than I have ever seen before, just how horrendous, how stunningly sadistic, the cultural climate of the pre-sexual revolution, pre-civil rights era was for Americans with same-sex desires. The film begins by conveying potently the emotional damage done in the name of psychotherapy, as well as the terrors of physical torments, including whole-body electroshock, genital shocking, hysterectomies, and castrations. These are all facts that are hard – but essential –to imagine and remember now.

“The challenge for LGBT activists was not just to make moral or legal arguments (though they made those, too) but above all to expose the shoddiness and utter lack of scientific rigor in the theoretical pronouncements of those psychiatrists who kept insisting that homosexuality was a pathology; bad science, in short, had to be beaten by good science, and this is a dramatic running subplot that CURED tells especially well. Yet another significant thematic strand concerns the nature of activism and indeed the nature of historical change itself. The film documents the power of this one social justice movement battling against incredible odds to figure out what arguments, what tactics, and what self-risking it takes to change the hearts and minds of a privileged and often smug and cruel majority.”

—Dagmar Herzog, author of *Cold War Freud* and Distinguished Professor of History and Daniel Rose Faculty Scholar at The Graduate Center, City University of New York

“The topic of conversion therapy is in the news daily, particularly as states ban these antiquated therapeutic practices on minors. Feature films, such as *Boy Erased* (2018) and *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* (2018), have further thrust conversion therapy into the national consciousness. What is missing, however, is the powerful historical examination provided in CURED. As a historian who has devoted the past six years to research on the topic of conversion therapy, I am in a unique position to attest to the scholarly and educational significance of what Patrick Sammon and Bennett Singer have accomplished. The film is a fascinating analysis of one of the most important civil rights struggles of the post-World War II era. Patrick and Bennett offer a penetrating account of the homophobia that led the American Psychiatric Association to pathologize same-sex desires in the early 1950s. Additionally, they spotlight the years of activism that lesbian and gay rights activists like Barbara Gittings and Frank Kameny led as they fought psychiatrists and psychologists who thought that homosexuals needed to be ‘cured.’”

—Chris Babits, Ph.D., Andrew W. Mellon Engaged Scholar Initiative Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Texas at Austin and author of *To Cure a Sinful Nation: A History of Conversion Therapy in the United States* (forthcoming from University of Chicago Press)

“As a survivor of conversion therapy, I was riveted by this untold story of our LGBTQ history, which is one that everyone should know. This incredible film highlights the hidden heroes and activists who had the courage to lead at a time when it was not clear whether anyone would follow, and who fought so hard to eradicate the lie that LGBTQ people are mentally unstable and must be ‘cured.’ This is not just a brilliantly told story, it is a call to honor our legacy of activism and empowerment by continuing the fight to end conversion therapy once and for all.”

—Mathew Shurka, Co-Founder & Chief Strategist, [Born Perfect](#)

“Too often, LGBTQ film projects erase seniors who lack celebrity, much less octogenarians wearing old-school jackets, pocket hankies, chains and adornments—from reformer/psychiatrist Dr. Lawrence Hartmann to the African-American activist Rev. Magora Kennedy. ‘Discovering’ and interviewing these invisible heroes, people who helped free millions from the diagnosis of ‘mental illness,’ will be an enduring legacy of this film.”

—Charles Francis, President, [Mattachine Society of Washington, DC](#)

“CURED sweeps us back in time to reveal how homosexuals cured psychiatry of its anti-gay dogma. It’s an epic human drama made all the more powerful by capturing the voices of the people who were there a half-century ago and changed the course of history.”

—Eric Marcus, founder and host of [Making Gay History podcast](#)

“CURED is a wonderful film. It’s moving and compelling and it tells the story beautifully. It includes some truly remarkable footage and interviews. I especially love those shots of the beautiful, innocent-looking young gay people juxtaposed to the terrible things said about them. In short, I find this a remarkable film.”

—Lillian Faderman, author of *The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle*

“CURED is a master class in consciousness-raising, coalition-building, grassroots activism, and self-determination. This is thrilling nonfiction filmmaking and must-see viewing for activists of every generation.”

—Jessica Green, Artistic Director, Houston Cinema Arts Society

“Astonishingly rich ... one of the best documentaries of this or any year.”

—British Film Institute

FILM TEAM

Bennett Singer – Producer, Director, Writer

Bennett Singer is an award-winning filmmaker who has been making social-issue documentaries for more than 25 years. He co-directed [BROTHER OUTSIDER](#), a “potent and persuasive” (*Los Angeles Times*) and “beautifully crafted” (*Boston Globe*) portrait of the gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin. The film premiered at Sundance, aired on PBS’ POV series and Logo, and won 22 international awards, including the GLAAD Media Award, eight Best Documentary prizes, and seven audience awards (including Outfest, Frameline, and NewFest). Singer received a duPont-Columbia Award for his work on EYES ON THE PRIZE II, the Emmy- and Peabody-winning PBS series on civil rights history. He later co-directed [ELECTORAL DYSFUNCTION](#), a feature-length documentary about voting in America; hosted by the Emmy-winning political humorist Mo Rocca, the film aired nationally on PBS, was featured in a four-part *New York Times* Op-Docs series, and won the American Bar Association’s Silver Gavel Award. The former Executive Editor of TIME Magazine’s education program, Singer is the editor or author of five books, including *42 UP* (companion volume to Michael Apter’s acclaimed documentary series); [LGBTQ Stats](#), an “indispensable” (*Booklist*, starred review) compendium co-authored by Singer and his husband, David Deschamps, that won the ALA’s Stonewall Honor Book Award in 2018; and *The Student Body*, a “wry, insider thriller” (*Village Voice*) that Singer wrote with three Harvard classmates. He currently resides in Los Angeles.

Patrick Sammon – Producer, Director, Writer

Patrick Sammon has a mix of experience in filmmaking, broadcast journalism, and LGBTQ political advocacy. The president of Story Center Films in Washington, DC, he is Creator and Executive Producer of [CODEBREAKER](#), a “superb” (*The Telegraph*) drama-documentary that “artfully explored” (*The Mail*) the life and legacy of gay British codebreaker Alan Turing. Sammon turned his concept for CODEBREAKER into an acclaimed film that has attracted more than three million viewers worldwide. Before founding Story Center Films in 2010, Sammon served three years as President of Log Cabin Republicans, which advocates for LGBTQ rights in the Republican Party on behalf of its 20,000 members. Sammon started his career as an award-winning television news reporter at CBS affiliates in Northern New York and Northeast Tennessee.

Mridu Chandra – Archival Producer and Co-Producer

Mridu Chandra is a New York-based filmmaker and archival producer of award-winning documentaries and fiction films. Credits include STEVE JOBS, BROTHER OUTSIDER, OUT IN THE NIGHT, ELECTORAL DYSFUNCTION, WHOSE STREETS?, and the five-

part PBS series WOMEN, WAR AND PEACE. Most recently, she served as the founding director of IF/Then Shorts at Tribeca Film Institute, where she created, launched, and managed a program awarding monetary grants and deep mentorship to filmmakers working regionally across the US and around the world.

Lewanne Jones – Archival Producer

Lewanne Jones was nominated for an Emmy Award for her work on WITH GOD ON OUR SIDE: THE RISE OF THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT, a six-part PBS series on the history of religion and politics. Among the many award-winning projects to which she has contributed are EYES ON THE PRIZE, ABC's THE CENTURY, BLACK PANTHERS: VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION, NEW YORK: A DOCUMENTARY FILM, and Ken Burns' JACKIE ROBINSON.

Sam Henriques – Director of Photography

Sam Henriques won a Primetime Emmy for his work on Academy Award nominee THE FARM: ANGOLA, USA. Additional credits include THE GOOD SOLDIER, A CANTOR'S TALE, MY ARCHITECT, GOOD PEOPLE GO TO HELL, and RIDING THE RAILS, which garnered a Peabody Award.

Steve Heffner – Editor (1967 – 2021)

Steve Heffner was a picture and sound editor whose credits include the award-winning INDIAN POINT for director Ivy Meeropol, the Emmy-nominated BROTHERS IN WAR for National Geographic, the highly successful independent release THE AMERICAN NURSE, and the Emmy-nominated WWII IN HD and VIETNAM IN HD, and THE DOG DOC for director Cindy Meehl (Tribeca Film Festival premiere 2019). The PBS broadcast of CURED is dedicated to Steve, who died of cancer in May of 2021.

Ian Honeyman – Original Music

Ian Honeyman is a prolific film composer, music producer, and multi-instrumentalist who has written music for more than 50 films. Formally trained in composition at Peabody Conservatory, he combines classical skills, cutting-edge production, and a focus on using live musicians to create unforgettable film scores. Credits include GORE VIDAL: THE UNITED STATES OF AMNESIA, directed by Nicholas Wrathall, and HANK: 5 YEARS TO THE BRINK, directed by Academy Award nominee Joe Berlinger.

TUCKER – Closing Song

Singer songwriter TUCKER sings "The Other Side of the Rainbow" — co-written with Ian Honeyman — as the closing song of CURED. A loud and proud gay artist and activist, he began releasing singles as a pop recording artist in 2021 and has appeared on *SNL*, *The Today Show with Carole King*, and at the LGBTQ+ concerts Stonewall Gives Back with Troye Sivan and The Music of PWA Founder Michael Callen at Joe's Pub.

ON-CAMERA INTERVIEWS

Harry Adamson – Adamson was a longtime friend of Dr. John Fryer, a Philadelphia psychiatrist who stunned colleagues at the 1972 APA convention by giving a dramatic speech in which he recounted his tormented experiences as a closeted gay psychiatrist. Adamson was instrumental in preserving Fryer’s papers and in finding a home for them at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. He died in April, 2021.

Gary Alinder – As a young activist and Gay Liberation Front member living in the Bay Area, Alinder was part of a group of protesters who invaded the APA’s 1970 convention at the San Francisco Civic Center. He still resides in the Bay Area, where he works as a professional chef.

Dr. Robert Campbell – In the early 1970s, Campbell was a member of the APA’s Nomenclature Committee, the body responsible for determining what is included in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)*; he shared his insider’s perspective on key moments in the DSM fight. Campbell died in the spring of 2020.

Ronald Gold – A former journalist, Gold got involved in the Gay Liberation movement in the early 1970s and, at the 1973 APA convention in Honolulu, participated in a debate on the pros and cons of changing the DSM. Gold didn’t hold back from criticizing psychiatry, even titling his speech, “Stop it, you’re making me sick!” Gold died in 2017 at the age of 87, shortly after being interviewed for CURED.

Dr. Richard Green – One of the first straight psychiatrists to speak out publicly in favor of removing homosexuality from the DSM, Green published a groundbreaking paper in 1972 in which he argued that the mental-illness designation for homosexuality was not grounded in science. The following year, he appeared on a pivotal panel at the APA annual meeting along with Ronald Gold, Dr. Judd Marmor, Dr. Charles Socarides, and Dr. Irving Bieber. Green died in 2019 at the age of 82.

Dr. Lawrence Hartmann – As a young gay psychiatrist, Hartmann was instrumental in working for reform within the APA: he chaired the Social Issues Committee of the APA’s Northern New England District, which passed a resolution supporting a change to the DSM’s classification of homosexuality. He went on to be elected president of the APA in 1991-92, making him the organization’s first openly gay president. He also served for many years on the faculty of Harvard Medical School.

Rev. Magora Kennedy – In the early 1950s, Magora Kennedy faced a stark choice after her mother discovered that Magora was interested in girls: get married or be institutionalized. Kennedy chose to get married—at 14. She later got involved in the women’s movement, the civil rights movement, and the Gay Liberation movement. Kennedy participated in the Stonewall uprising and was one of seven open lesbians who appeared on *The David Susskind Show* in 1971, arguing that the medical establishment had “made a mistake” with its mental-illness label for homosexuality.

Don Kilhefner – Kilhefner played a leading role in the protest that took place at a conference on aversion therapy at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles in October 1970. This event was filmed and is an essential scene in CURED. The co-founder of the Los

Angeles Community Services Center, Kilhefner continues his work as a community organizer and Jungian psychotherapist in Los Angeles.

Kay Lahusen – For 46 years, Lahusen was the life partner of Barbara Gittings (1932–2007), one of the leading activists who propelled the DSM fight. Lahusen was an avid photographer and took photos of many events in our story, including the 1972 APA panel at which “Dr. Anonymous” put on a mask and gave an electrifying speech about his experiences as a closeted gay psychiatrist. She died in May of 2021 at age 91.

Dr. Saul Levin – Levin is the CEO and Chief Medical Officer of the American Psychiatric Association. In a present-day interview in CURED, he explains that he is also an openly gay man and reflects on the dramatic evolution of the APA’s views on homosexuality.

Dr. Richard Pillard – Pillard — the first openly gay psychiatrist in the United States — advised Dr. Lawrence Hartmann as he worked to persuade the New England branch of the APA to pass a resolution asking the APA to change the DSM classification of homosexuality. Pillard is a former professor of psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine and has done groundbreaking research on the genetic components of homosexuality.

Dr. Charles Silverstein – Charles Silverstein spent seven years in therapy, hoping to “cure” his attraction to men and safeguard his job as a public school teacher. He eventually became a Gay Liberation activist and psychologist. In 1973, he was invited to make a scientific case for changing the DSM to the APA’s Nomenclature Committee and was featured on an episode of *60 Minutes* that examined the DSM debate. Co-author of *The Joy of Gay Sex*, Silverstein continues his work as an author and psychotherapist in New York City.

Richard Socarides — Richard Socarides is the gay son of Dr. Charles Socarides, one of the leaders of the movement in psychiatry that viewed homosexuality as a treatable and curable mental illness. During the Clinton Administration, Socarides served as the principal adviser on gay and lesbian civil rights issues. He currently works as a communications strategist, writer, and commentator.

ARCHIVAL INTERVIEWS

Dr. Irving Bieber — Bieber, the author of *Homosexuality: A Psychoanalytic Study of Male Homosexuals* (1962), was a prominent proponent of the theory that homosexuality is a pathological condition.

Sally Duplaix — Duplaix was subjected to electroshock treatments as a young woman in Connecticut. Her testimony was featured in the documentary *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon*, directed by Joan E. Biren.

Dr. John Fryer — Fryer, a Philadelphia psychiatrist, played a central role in the DSM fight by giving a dramatic speech at the 1972 APA convention in Dallas. Wearing a distorted Richard Nixon mask and using a voice-altering microphone, “Dr. H. Anonymous” stunned his colleagues by describing his tormented experiences as a

closeted gay psychiatrist. Fryer died in 2003; the archival audio interview used in the film is the only known recording of his reflections on the DSM battle.

Barbara Gittings — A tenacious organizer, Gittings joined the homophile movement, as it was then known, in 1958 and worked closely with Frank Kameny to confront the APA. In 1971, Gittings joined a group of seven out lesbians to discuss homosexuality on PBS' *The David Susskind Show*; she was instrumental in persuading Dr. John Fryer to share his story at the 1972 APA convention. She died in 2007 at 74.

Dr. Evelyn Hooker — By the early 1970s, a growing number of psychiatrists were standing up in support of changing the DSM. They pointed to research conducted by Dr. Evelyn Hooker, a UCLA psychologist who studied the mental health of gay men. Hooker's landmark study — the first of its kind to demonstrate that there was no difference between the mental health of homosexuals and heterosexuals — was presented at the American Psychological Association's annual conference in 1956 and published in 1957; it was a crucial tool for those working to revise the DSM.

Dr. Frank Kameny — A Harvard-trained astronomer, Kameny had been fired by the federal government in 1957 because he was homosexual; that injustice motivated him to advocate for the rights of gay men and lesbians and to file the first gay rights appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. As head of the Mattachine Society of Washington, DC, he organized early gay rights marches and formulated strategy for challenging the APA, consistently pointing out that the mental-illness theory of homosexuality was based not on solid science but rather on prejudice. In 2009, the U.S. government issued a formal apology to Kameny for his 1957 firing. He died on October 11, 2011 — National Coming Out Day — at age 81.

Dr. Judd Marmor — Marmor was a Los Angeles-based psychiatrist whose views on homosexuality evolved significantly. In an early archival interview, he stated that homosexuality resulted from weak fathers and overbearing mothers; later, he became a strong proponent of the view that homosexuality was not a mental illness and should therefore be removed from the DSM. He served as the APA's president in 1975–76.

Rick — Rick was a young man who underwent a lobotomy in 1950. The archival interview featured in CURED includes a psychiatrist asking Rick if his sexual orientation "was seriously in error."

Dr. Charles Socarides — Along with Dr. Irving Bieber, Socarides was a leading proponent of the theory that homosexuality was a curable mental illness that had reached "epidemiological proportions." He was the author of numerous books on the topic, including *The Overt Homosexual*, and appeared frequently on television and radio programs. His view on homosexuality never changed before his death in 2005.

Rick Stokes — As a young married man in Oklahoma, Stokes was threatened with castration and then subjected to electroshock therapy after the discovery of his attraction to men. Stokes recounts in vivid detail the experience of undergoing ECT.

Whitey — As a young woman, Whitey spent four years at a mental institution, where she received various treatments aimed at curing her lesbianism. She describes her experience as "like a horror movie."

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Susan Stryker — Author of *Transgender History: The Roots of Today's Revolution*; Emmy-winning director of *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria*; and scholar whose work has helped shape the cultural conversation on transgender topics since the early 1990s.

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