RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO!
A Documentary Film by Ryan A. White & Alex Clausen
79 minutes, 2021, USA

Watch Our Trailer:
http://www.rawuncutvideo.com

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SYNOPSIS

A love story about fetish porn...

**RAW! UNcut! VIDEO!** chronicles the rise and fall of homegrown gay porn studio Palm Drive Video, and explores how a devoted couple helped battle a devastating health crisis by promoting kinky sex.

Legendary leatherman Jack Fritscher met Mark Hemry in 1979 at Harvey Milk’s birthday party – and the two fell head over heels in love. When the AIDS epidemic swept through San Francisco, the couple left the city to begin a new venture: turning a rural ranch in Sonoma County into a safe-sex porn studio that offered viewers new sexual possibilities in an age of plague. Casting rugged non-professional models to explore their unique erotic fantasies onscreen, the studio explored a wild array of queer kinks – and helped champion sex-positivity in the porn industry.

Clockwise from above: Mark Hemry and Jack Fritscher in the Palm Drive archive, Jack Fritscher recording Mr. America Chris Duffy, and video stills from *Sodbuster, Let’s Play Doctor, Bellybucker: Tattooed Hairy Biker Bear*, and untitled footage from 1988.
**OUR CHARACTERS**

**Jack Fritscher** is director and co-founder of Palm Drive Video. Former Editor-in-Chief of the influential Drummer Magazine and one-time lover of Robert Mapplethorpe, he is a prolific writer and a living legend in the gay leather scene.

**Mark Hemry** is editor and co-founder of Palm Drive Video. Partnered with Jack Fritscher for 40 years, he was the technical backbone of the porn studio while also maintaining a career as a scientist for a federal government agency.

**Steve Parker** is a Muscle-Bear porn actor with a passion for sounding. After his 1992 debut with Palm Drive, he went on to make popular films with studios such as Titan Media, Raging Stallion, and Treasure Island Media.

**Mickey Squires** is a Colt model and a renowned performer in adult films. He collaborated with Palm Drive Video in the 1990s, when he was re-establishing his porn persona.

**“Thrasher” (Steve Thrasher)** is a Palm Drive superstar – and a heterosexual man. As a young handyman on the Fritscher-Hemry ranch, he perfectly fit the blue-collar aesthetic that Jack and Mark were looking for and was cast in some of their most iconic films.

**Donnie Russo** is a gay porn legend. Early in his career he starred in five Palm Drive films and posed in numerous still photos by Jack Fritscher. He now lives above a mortuary in Brooklyn, NY with his blind dog, Binx.

**The Men of Palm Drive** include Mr. America Chris Duffy, Colt Studios star Tom Howard, Raging Stallion co-founder JD Slater, plus countless “real men” hand-selected by Fritscher and Hemry. They are all intimately immortalized in hundreds of hours of videos and behind-the-scenes footage from the massive Palm Drive archive.

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

**Susie Bright** - Writer
**Darryl Carlton (Divinity Fudge)** - Artist/Performer
**Rick Castro** - Photographer
**Durk Dehner** - Tom of Finland Foundation

**Roger Earl** - Filmmaker, “Born to Raise Hell”
**Peter Fiske** - Leatherman
**Jeffrey Escoffier** - Porn Scholar
**Lucas Hilderbrand** - Media Historian

**Mr. Pam** - Porn director
**Susan Shaw** - Thrasher’s mother
**Ron Suresha** - Writer
DIRECTORS STATEMENT

AIDS continues to pose a massive health threat around the globe and understanding the diversity of tactics that communities in the Global North used to battle the epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s remains critical in sustaining efforts to control the disease. Media outlets have reported extensively on the role of governments and activists in promoting safe-sex practices to help combat the transmission of AIDS. But, there has been scant mainstream coverage of efforts to mitigate infection by underground fetish and porn communities through the promotion of sex-positivity and alternative safe-sex practices. Now, in light of the current Covid-19 pandemic, an exploration of how to safely experiment sexually during a global health crisis is more relevant than ever.

We are inspired to create RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO! to examine the historic significance of gay fetish porn during the height of the AIDS crisis in the U.S., to trace the dedicated efforts of two leathermen (Fritscher and Hemry) to produce erotica that allowed queer folks to safely explore their sexual boundaries in an age of plague, and to recognize an assortment of sexual pioneers who demonstrated alternative practices by sharing their own kinks onscreen. At the same time, we hope to cast light on the importance of embracing non-normative sexualities and overcoming moralistic frameworks that only accept human relationships in extremely limited terms – and in turn, demonstrate that true love comes in many colors.

AWARDS:
Audience Award - Wicked Queer Boston LGBTQI+ Film Festival

SCREENINGS:
Wicked Queer Boston LGBTQI+ Film Festival (April 2021) - Sneak Preview
OUTshine Miami LGBTQ+ Film Festival (April/May 2021) - World Premiere
Kyiv International Film Festival "Molodist" (June 2021) - International Premiere
Frameline San Francisco International LGBTQ Film Festival (June 2021)

Other festivals confirmed but not yet announced
KEY PERSONNEL

**Ryan A White - Director/Producer**
Born in Big Sur, California, Ryan White is a documentary filmmaker whose award-winning films have screened around the world. He spent four years in Hanoi, Vietnam working as Film Advisor for the World Wildlife Fund’s Greater Mekong Program, then relocated to Bangkok, Thailand, where he produced and directed two documentary features, Camp Unity (2010) and Mondo Banana (2013). His short film Cruising Elsewhere (2016) was awarded Best Short Film at the Tampa Bay Gay & Lesbian Film Festival and Best Documentary Short at CineKink NYC. Other documentary credits include co-directing Dirt McComber: Last of the Mohicans (2018), producing The Organic Life (2013) and associate producing Pray Away (2020) and Out Run (2016). Ryan also lectures in the Department of Communication at California State University, East Bay and the Cinematic Arts & Technology Department at California State University, Monterey Bay. [IMDb](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0920512/)

**Alex Clausen - Director/Producer**
Alex Clausen is an artist that lives and works in Forestville, California. Clausen earned a bachelors’ degree in Art and Physics from University of California, Davis, and a graduate degree from the California College of the Arts. He was awarded a Graduate Fellowship at the Headlands Center for the Arts for the 2006-2007 year. Clausen has exhibited work at Rena Bransten Gallery, the San Jose Institute for Contemporary Art, the Contemporary Art Museum in Houston, Kala Art Institute, the Exploratorium and is part of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco collection. He is currently an active collaborator and board member of Earthbound Moon, an arts non-profit based in Eugene, Oregon. [IMDb](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0926239/)

**Todd Verow - Producer**
Todd Verow attended the Rhode Island School of Design and the AFI Conservatory. He made short experimental films and worked as a cinematographer before making his feature film debut with Frisk in 1996 (Sundance, Berlin & Toronto). Starting his own production company Bangor Films, Todd has directed over twenty-five features and numerous shorts, establishing himself as the most prolific auteur emeritus of the New Queer Cinema. [IMDb](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001997/)

**Charles Lum - Producer**
Charles Lum, aka clublum, received his MFA in Photography from the School of The Art Institute of Chicago in 2004, after 25 years scouting and managing locations for TV commercials and classic feature films like Wall Street, Fatal Attraction and Sid & Nancy. His short videos have screened internationally in museum, art and film venues. [IMDb](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001997/)

**Paul Lee - Producer**
Based in Toronto, Paul Lee has produced, co-produced, and associate-produced over 50 films - more than half of which have been award-winning LGBTQ films. LGBTQ productions include San Francisco filmmaker Jenni Olson’s Berlin-premiered Blue Diary and Sundance-premiered The Joy of Life, and the Berlin-premiered Below the Belt by Toronto filmmakers Dominique Cardona and Laurie Colbert. Since 1991, Paul has organized, programmed, and curated film festivals in 25 countries around the world. His own films, Thick Lips Thin Lips (1994), These Shoes Weren’t Made for Walking (1995), and The Offering (1999) have screened at hundreds of film festivals and won numerous international awards. [IMDb](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001997/)
“Raw! Uncut! Video!’ Chronicles the History of a Pioneering Gay Porn Studio
GNC (May 21, 2021)

The documentary explores the rise and fall of Palm Drive Video and how a devoted couple confronted the AIDS epidemic by promoting kinky sex.

A new documentary Raw! Uncut! Video! follows renowned leatherman, Jack Fritscher, and his husband, Mark Henry, who founded the porn studio, Palm Drive Video, at the start of the AIDS epidemic.

An Interview with the Directors of ‘Raw! Uncut! Video!’
WOW Report (April 8, 2021)

EXCLUSIVE: An Interview with the Directors of ‘Raw! Uncut! Video!’
BY JARED ABBOTT ON APRIL 8, 2021 9:42 AM

Back in the mid-80s as the AIDS epidemic was sweeping through the gay community, legendary leatherman/former Drummer magazine editor Jack Fritscher and partner Mark Henry started Palm Drive Video, a safe-sex production company that offered viewers a wide variety of fetish porn and catered to some very specific kinks. Ryan A. White and Alex Clausen’s new documentary Raw! Uncut! Video! chronicles the rise and fall of this homegrown studio while exploring its lasting impact. We sat down with the filmmakers for a chat about this five-years-in-the-making project.
"Raw! Uncut! Video!" Tells the Story of Early Kink and Fetish
Advocate (March 11, 2021)

Read About the Romance and the Kink

RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO! (watch the video) chronicles the rise and fall of homegrown gay porn studio Palm Drive Video, and explores how a devoted couple helped battle a devastating health crisis by promoting kinky sex. (Facebook.com/rawuncutvideo and Twitter.com/rawuncutvideo)

Director Ryan White connected with us recently with this note: "After working on the film for 5 years, we're about to (finally) release it this Spring – which is REALLY exciting!! But, we've also been having issues with Instagram repeatedly removing our account for no apparent reason. We've lost thousands of followers and supporters right before the launch of the film. In order to get the word out, we've put together a press release about the unfair removal by Instagram." Unfortunately this is a common story, so we posted an update on the films release to help move things along.

Legendary leatherman Jack Fritscher met Mark Hemry in the late '70s at Harvey Milk's birthday party – and the two fell head over heels in love. When the AIDS epidemic swept through San Francisco, the couple left the city to begin a new venture: turning a rural ranch in Sonoma County into a safe-sex porn studio that offered viewers new sexual possibilities in an age of plague. Casting rugged non-professional models to explore their unique erotic fantasies onscreen, the studio explored a wild array of queer kinks – and helped champion sex-positivity in the porn industry.

See their brand new Wohler Films account on Instagram (@wohlerfilms) so you can stay up to date for their release date and more info about their festival release.
21 LGBTQI+ Films To Look Out For in 2021
WOW Report (February 18, 2021)

WOW EXCLUSIVE: 21 LGBTQI+ Films To Look Out For in 2021

BY: JARED J. RYOTT ON FEBRUARY 18, 2021, 13:06 PM

Based on the book by Alexis Coe, director Jennifer Kent’s (The Babadook, The Nightingale) lesbian murder thriller Alice + Freda Forever tells the true story of two teenage girls in late 1860s Memphis whose unstable romance turns into a violently jealous obsession. If the filmmaker’s previous work is any indication, this one’s gonna go hard.

Last week, the prudish Instagram content moderators deleted the account for Raw! Uncut! Video! Ryan White and Alex Clausen’s upcoming documentary about Palm Drive Video, a DIY porn company that specialized in raunchy solo videos at the height of the AIDS crisis. We caught an early cut and it’s everything you could ask for – political, provocative, educational — while also telling the sweet love story of the Palm Drive founders (leather men Jack Flitscher and Mark Hemy).
I’m a belly man, a total sickie for a guy with a gut. From a burgeoning dad bod to a massive tusk, my attention goes directly to a man’s midsection. While this love runs deep down to my sexual core, only recently have I found the power to openly claim these desires. For most of my adult life, it was a secret that I rarely admitted to, for fear that my appetite for non-receptive bodies would be ridiculed.

A few years ago, I was introduced to the legendary Donnie Russo while I was making Cruising Elsewhere, a film about a lost gay beach on the Russian River. After that initial meeting, my co-director, Alex Cloeren, and I became fascinated with Palm Drive Video, the Bay Area porn studio that Fritsch and his husband Mark Henry ran out of their Sonoma County ranch in the 1980s and 90s. During the height of the North American AIDS crisis, their two-man production company produced over 150 multi-order fetish videos covering a diversity of kinks from leather meetings and biker twinks to medical torture and group play. The couple explained that they wanted the videos to promote safe-sex alternatives to penetrative intercourse during the plague, and to help keep sexual exploration alive. After viewing Tucker Cigar Bunt, starring the criminally sexy Jack Holley, Alex and I decided that Palm Drive would be the topic of our next documentary.

“As we immersed ourselves in the project, I was excited to learn that Palm Drive had produced some early bear and chub videos. I spent some extra time “researching” their films, Bellybucker and Water Bear. During our production trips, I started getting frank with Alex about my fetish for big dudes, explaining that our exploration of this sex-positive production company was helping me feel empowered in my sexual desires. My kinks weren’t making me feel ashamed anymore; instead, I felt unique, more whole—and honestly, hornier!”

The past three years, Alex and I have been working on RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO!, our documentary about Fritsch and Henry’s adventures in safe-sex fetish porn production. We’ve interviewed legends of porn and kink such as Donnie Russo, Roger Earl, Dura Dehner, Rick Castro, Mickey Squires, Susie Bright, and mr.Pam. We’ve spent countless hours digging through archival behind-the-scenes footage from raunchy Palm Drive shoots.

At the core of every interview and Palm Drive tape is a joyous celebration of the idiosyncrasies of erotic desires. And, at every stage of production, the project has reinforced my belief in the importance of promoting, preserving, and participating in sexual cultures. If I’ve learned anything, it’s this: if fucking a mud-puddle is your thing, or slurping up the ass-juices of sweaty construction workers, or even expanding your limits with sounding, don’t question it! Own it! And maybe even make a porno about it!

We’re currently editing RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO! Funding a documentary about queer fetish porn continues to be a challenge, but we’re pushing forward for a late 2020 release. Check out rawuncutvideo.com for more information and find out how to support the project. We need your help to finish the documentary! And rest assured that as a result of making this film, I now proudly wear my apricot hanky on the right.
Masters of Erotica: The Fathers of Fetish Video

Advocate (April 27, 2018)

Jack Fritscher and Mark Henry's Palm Drive Video was a ray of hope for those of us who wanted something a little hairier, a little more real, and a lot more kinky that what the big gay studios were offering in the 80s and 90s. For many kink and leather aficionados, Drummer magazine set the standard. Small wonder that half of Palm Drive Video was co-founded Jack Fritscher, the former Editor-in-Chief of Drummer and one-time lover of Robert Mapplethorpe.

The men of Palm Drive include Mr. America Chris Duffy, Colt Studios stars Mickey Squires and Torn Howard, Bagging Studios co-founder JD Slater, plus countless "real men" hand-selected by Fritscher and his partner of 40 years, Mark Henry. They are all intimately immortalized in hundreds of hours of videos behind-the-scenes footage from the massive Palm Drive archive.

Director and producer Ryan White says, "We are inspired to create RAW UNLIMITED VIDEO to explore the historic significance of gay fetish porn during the height of the AIDS crisis in the U.S.; to trace the dedicated efforts of two leathermen (Fritscher and Henry) to produce erotica that allowed queer men to safely explore their sexual boundaries in an age of plague; and to resurrect an assortment of wild characters who shared their own sexual kinks onscreen to help diminish the many impacts of AIDS.

"Ultimately, we hope that the film reveals the complexities of historic efforts to combat AIDS in the U.S., and in so doing, expand the discussion on best practices to continue fighting the epidemic around the world. At the same time, we hope to cast light on the importance of embracing non-normative sexualities and overcoming moralistic frameworks that only accept human sexuality in extremely limited terms.

"We have currently shot 75% of our footage and have upcoming shoots scheduled in Northern and Southern California throughout the Spring of 2018. Production will wrap in Summer 2018. In order to raise critical funds for post-production we expect to apply for a series of grants—including the Frameline Completion Fund and the Arch & Bruce Brown Foundations. Additionally, a public fundraiser will be held in San Francisco at Mi S Leather in March 2018, and a crowdfunding campaign is now underway on Indiegogo."

"We get a cool t-shirt as a contributor. Keep this history alive!"
RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO! Palm Drive Documentary Kickstarts at Mr. S
Bay Area Reporter (March 29, 2018)

Raw! Uncut! Video! Palm Drive documentary kickstarts at Mr. S

Alex Clausen

Alex Clausen is Palm Drive Video's Rennaisse River (1987). Renaisance represents the currently nonexistant now that appeared in Palm Drive Video catalog.

By Race Bannon

As feature-length documentary directors Alex Clausen and Ryan White, and the founders of Palm Drive Video, Jack Fritscher and Mark Hemry, that produced more than 100 films between 1984 and 1997, Palm Drive Video won an edge over other studios that promised kink as an integral form of self-expression at a time when the AIDS epidemic was spreading. The latter part of the 1980s and early 1990s was a critical time for gay production and distribution. The films featured male actors, which has its own special meaning because the producers often worked from small crews. They often worked on budgets that were often what it would take a film, which was an incredible challenge. Instead, they encouraged their actors to be more creative and to find their own voice. The films were not just about sex, they were about the gay experience.

The films stand on their own as art, not just as sex vehicles, but as films that tell the story of the emerging gay culture. They are a testament to the power of storytelling and the ability of films to inspire change. The films are riotous, irreverent, and often hilarious. The love scenes are made from the actors themselves, and are often beautiful. The films are a form of self-expression, and a way for the producers to explore their own sexuality in a safe and legal manner. They are a form of self-empowerment, and a way for the producers to find their own voice. The films are not just about sex, they are about the gay experience.

The directors of the documentary, Ryan White and Alex Clausen, are both gay men who are passionate about the issues that affect the LGBTQ community. They are committed to using their platform to raise awareness about these issues and to fight for change. They are passionate about the power of storytelling and the ability of films to inspire change. The documentary is a form of self-expression, and a way for the producers to explore their own sexuality in a safe and legal manner. The documentary is a form of self-empowerment, and a way for the producers to find their own voice. The documentary is not just about sex, it is about the gay experience.

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