8th Annual Don Thompson LGBT Film Festival
About Don Thompson
Don Thompson (1939-2006) began his career at USC in 1978 as head of reference services for the USC School of Cinematic Arts Library. During his tenure, which lasted until 1997, Thompson also served as acting head of the Architecture Library, the acting chair of the Arts Center, and as the preservation librarian. From 1997 until his passing, Thompson was the photo archivist at the Cinema/Television Library. His passion for film and the cinematic arts found expression at his beloved USC, to which he dedicated more than 25 years of service.

Don Thompson's Legacy
The Don Thompson LGBT Film Festival began as an outdoor movie night fundraiser coordinated by Amy Ross PhD ’86 and LA Frontrunners. Today, the festival showcases the work of up-and-coming LGBT and ally Trojan filmmakers and has become one of USC Lambda's signature events, with proceeds benefitting the Don Thompson Scholarship in Cinematic Arts. The scholarship, which celebrates Thompson's passion for LGBT film and his “family” at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, is available to graduate or undergraduate students enrolled at the school who demonstrate a commitment to advancing LGBT issues through creative work, scholarship and/or community engagement.

About USC Lambda
Since 1992, the USC Lambda LGBT Alumni Association has been connecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and ally Trojans to each other and the university. We have awarded more than $300,000 in scholarships to students who demonstrate a dedication to the LGBT community.

Get involved with USC Lambda as we work to make a difference in the lives of LGBT Trojans. From following us on Twitter to helping plan an event to endowing a USC Lambda scholarship, there are many ways to get involved and to support LGBT life at USC! Just visit lambda.usc.edu.
Welcome & Legacy of Don Thompson
Mark Spratt MSW/MPA ’03  
President, USC Lambda LGBT Alumni Association

USC Alumni Association Greeting
Patrick E. Auerbach EdD ’08  
Associate Senior Vice President for Alumni Relations

The USC School of Cinematic Arts: Impact, Projects, & Partnerships
David Isaacs  
Professor, USC School of Cinematic Arts

About the Festival
Eric Moore  
Chair, Festival Committee

Screenings
Drew Droegge  
Host

ACT 1
Tomorrow  Leandro Tadashi
A Gifted Amateur  Steve Soucy ’00
Wuthering Heights  Guillermo Ortiz Pichardo
Blackroot  Ben Kadie and Jack Flynn

Intermission

ACT 2
A Kiss from Your Lips  Allison Tate
Chaining Day  Dominic Haxton ’07
Macaroni and Stars  Julio Vincent Gambuto
Lavender Effect short: AIDS testimonies  Andy Sacher MFA ’06
The Bridge Partner  Gabriel Olson ’05

Sneak Previews
TRAILER: Ennui  Mike Roma
TRAILER: Peace, Daal, & Partition  Paisley Smith

Awards Presentation
Honorary Jury

Closing & Thanks
Drew Droegge
New Year’s Eve 1999 finds college-bound Clark and Trevor concerned about the future of their friendship, and a request for Clark to be Trevor’s wingman ensures things will never be the same again.

Japanese-Brazilian Leandro moved from São Paulo to L.A. for his MFA in film & TV production at USC. Here, he directed the LGBT shorts Absent and Tomorrow (2014). Interested in stories about identity issues and characters who feel like they don’t belong, he’s just finished Ba, short film shot in Brazil, to be released this year.

On their way to pulling off the perfect murder, a scheming couple are undone by their target, who proves to be a most gifted amateur.

Steve is a Los Angeles-based writer/filmmaker and publishing professional. He’s edited two acclaimed collections of short fiction: Art from Art and West Hollywood Stories, and earned his Masters in Professional Writing from USC. His first film, Slant, was programmed at more than 25 festivals including the Don Thompson LGBT Film Festival in 2012.

A love affair begins after chance encounter between a reader and a pianist. A story told in gestures.

Guillermo, Mexican by birth and Parisian by film, Angeleno by lucky chance, is a second-year graduate student at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. He is the recipient of the 2014-2015 John Huston Scholarship for Directing.
In 1967, an American Indian teen struggles with her gender identity and the sudden appearance of four white wannabe hippies who enlist her help in the search for a hallucinogenic mushroom.

Ben and Jack are sophomores at the USC School of Cinematic Arts where they study film & television production. They wrote, directed, and produced Blackroot in 2014 during their time as freshman-year film-school roommates and attended last year's festival together, where Ben received the Audience Choice Award for his film, The Painted Girl.

A one-take swing dance story with a twist.

Allison Tate has written and directed award-winning short films, music videos & PSAs seen on TV and in festivals around the country. As a proud queer woman in the film industry, she is interested in highlighting strong female and minority characters in a way that serves those communities in positive, healthy ways, while entertaining everyone.

Inspired by the last days of Robert “Yummy” Sandifer’s short life, a young boy commits an accidental murder, causing a stir in the community and forcing him to choose between his loyalty to the gang and saving what’s left of his innocence.

Dominic holds a BA in cinematic arts with a focus in critical studies from USC. Since graduating, he has worked on several TV shows and films, including the Academy Award- winning feature, The Help. His films, Teens Like Phil (2012) and Tonight It's Me (2013) won awards for LGBT Awareness at the previous Don Thompson LGBT Film Festivals. His goal as a director is to continue making dramatic, thought-provoking work that addresses socially relevant issues.
Films

Macaroni and Stars  Julio Vincent Gambuto

Macaroni and Stars is a short comedy about family, hopes, dreams and macaroni. When Jamie and his new husband have his Italian family over, no one is safe at dinner for eight.

Julio is an L.A.-based filmmaker. He is proud to be the co-founder of TAYPE, an after-school performing arts program for LGBTQ teens in New York City. Julio is a graduate of Harvard University and an Annenberg Fellow here at USC.

Lavender Effect short: AIDS testimonies  Andy Sacher MFA ’06

The Lavender Effect Oral History Project: AIDS Testimonies is a chapter in a library of videos that captures the voices of participants from the LGBTQ community who are part of its history.

Andy is a creative consultant developing engaging experiences that enrich people’s lives. Clients have included Disney theme parks and filmmakers Steven Spielberg and Jerry Bruckheimer. He is also the founding executive of The Lavender Effect, a nonprofit project dedicated to documenting, teaching and celebrating LGBTQ heritage & culture.

The Bridge Partner  Gabriel Olson ’05

A timid housewife is jolted into a fight for her survival and sanity by her new partner at a weekly bridge game, where she thinks she hears a whispered threat.

Gabriel is a San Francisco native working in commercials. He’s received various awards and was selected for the prestigious SHOOT Magazine New Director Showcase. His work with Questlove and Guitar Center premiered during the Super Bowl in 2014. He met his collaborator and editor on The Bridge Partner, Corey Ziemniak, while at USC.
TRAILER: Ennui

Mike Roma

Ennui follows three misfit teens who break into the perfect American colonial home in order to play a deranged game of House.

Mike is a writer-director living and working in Los Angeles. Originally from suburban New Jersey, he began writing and making films in high school. Mike appreciates stories that balance humor and suspense and yearns to incorporate these elements into his own work. He is a senior in USC’s film and television production program.

TRAILER: Peace, Daal, & Partition

Paisley Smith

Paisley Smith explores the partition of India and how those events have impacted her, her grandma, and her mom. As she delves into history, Paisley realizes that some stories must remain unrecorded.

Paisley strives to tell meaningful stories through virtual reality, documentary film, and kids’ media. Her work has been recognized by Fulbright, the Mister Rogers Memorial Scholarship, & the USC Lambda LGBT Alumni Association. She believes in the power of the individual to make a difference and hopes her work will inspire others to live confidently.

Both Ennui and Peace, Daal, & Partition can be viewed in full at lambda.usc.edu.
Drew Droegge

Best known for his online impression of Chloë Sevigny and his podcast, “Glitter in the Garbage”, Drew’s work has been in *The New York Times, Huffington Post, EW.com, Frontiers, New York Magazine*, and *The Advocate*. His recent TV credits include Logo’s upcoming series *Cocktails and Classics; The Late Late Show; 2 Broke Girls; Key & Peele, Drunk History; Bob’s Burgers, and Kroll Show*. He’s an alum of The Groundlings and Upright Citizens Brigade; an Outfest award winner; one of *OUT Magazine’s* Out 100; one of LA Weekly’s Top Comedy Acts to Watch; and will be a New Online Work artist at TriBeCa Film Festival this year.

Joshua Allen ’05

Josh’s television writing credits include *Empire* (FOX) and *Hostages* (CBS). His plays include *The October Storm, Chrysalis, and The Last Pair of Earlies*. His work has been seen at Cape Cod Theater Project, Primary Stages, Ars Nova, and the Kennedy Center. A resident playwright at New Dramatists since 2011, Josh is also a graduate of the USC School of Dramatic Arts and the Juilliard School.

Zackary Drucker

Zackary is a producer on Amazon’s Golden Globe-winning *Transparent*. An artist and cultural producer, she creates work that breaks down the way we think about gender, sexuality and ways of seeing. She has performed and exhibited her work internationally in numerous museums, galleries, and film festivals including Art Gallery of Ontario; Whitney Museum of American Art; The Hammer Museum; 54th Venice Biennale; MOMA PS1; and Outfest (Platinum Showcase-awarded Grand Jury Prize for Outstanding Experimental Film), among others.
Randal Kleiser ’68, MA ’74


Amy Nicholson MPW ’08

Amy is the head film critic for the *LA Weekly*, and is syndicated across the 11 papers in the Voice Media Group chain. She also co-hosts its weekly “Voice Film Club” podcast. Amy has screened submissions for Sundance, AFI and the Los Angeles Film Festival. She is also the author of *Anatomy of an Actor: Tom Cruise* published by Cahiers du Cinéma.

Scott Zabielski ’01

Chicago-native Scott began his career in TV comedy after earning a BA in cinema production from the prestigious USC School of Cinematic Arts. He edited the pilot of Comedy Central’s *Tosh.0* and quickly rose to director/EP where he has now helmed the show through several successful seasons. Scott directed a Super Bowl commercial for Doritos, winning $1 million when his spot was chosen as the favorite from almost 4,900 submissions around the world. He developed *Police Academy* for New Line/Warner Bros and is currently executive producing and directing season 7 of *Tosh.0*. 
**Where Are Our 2014 Filmmakers Today?**

**Hernando Bansuelo MFA ’14**

“It’s been a wonderful ride since graduation last summer. In my final year, I made an independent LGBT road feature called *A Reunion*, which got strong critical notices and just secured a distribution deal for a limited theatrical and digital release this summer! The screenplay for my next feature, *Martinez, CA*, has been selected by the Tribeca Film Institute and I have been invited to the 2015 Film Festival for key workshops and financier meetings. DTFF was a wonderful showcase for emerging artists telling stories about the unrepresented and I am a proud alumnus who is on the threshold of a successful filmmaking career.”

**Robert L. Goodman MFA ’89**

“My little comedy trifle, *Meet Anna*, from last year’s program, went on to screen in twenty festivals in the U.S. and worldwide, including in Canada, Germany, France, and Denmark. It won a few best-of-the-festival audience awards here in the U.S. I continue to mentor young filmmakers, this year working with Outfest’s Outset program, which creates a safe space for LGBTQ young people to tell their stories and bring them to life in the form of short films. I’m also currently in development on another comedy feature, which I am directing and co-producing.”

**Dawn M. Kamoche MFA ’12**

“After my film *Daughter of Fortune* screened at DTFF last spring, my short has gotten into several other film festivals, and I’ve been repped by CAA and 3Arts Entertainment. I’m currently co-writing a TV pilot and hoping to land a staff writing position on an upcoming drama series this fall.”

**Daniel Leeds MFA ’15**

“I’m excited to announce I’ll be graduating from USC in May! Since last year’s DTFF, I have been producing fiction as well as documentary films. This semester I’m producing the short documentary film *Home Girls*, about female ex-convicts working at Homeboy Industries. We just filmed one of the subject’s weddings, which was surprisingly my first same-sex wedding. I’m looking forward to sharing the film when it’s complete, and to attending many more same-sex weddings for the rest of my life!”
Michael Roma is a writer-director enrolled in the film and television production program at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. He developed his passion for storytelling and dramatization in his high school’s mass-media program. His main interests outside of filmmaking include politics, psychology and art. Conveniently, all these interests merge into his passion for socially relevant, humanistic storytelling. What attracted him to film in the first place, however, was developing characters. *Heterophobia*, which Michael wrote and directed, was featured in the 6th Annual Don Thompson LGBT Film Festival in 2013.

“As I anxiously await graduation this May, I remember the words of Oscar Wilde, who quipped: ‘When bankers get together they talk about art. When artists get together, they talk about money.' Thanks to USC Lambda’s kindness, I am afforded the privilege of focusing on the art rather than the money.”
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*Special thanks to Moncho1929 (www.moncho1929.com) for the use of his street art on the program cover.
In Memory of Albert Brecht ... a USC Lambda inspiration.

—Robert L. Moore, Jr. JD ’66
Congratulations to the Don Thompson LGBT Film Festival in reaching its eighth year! Thanks to chair Eric Moore and the committee for coordinating, and thanks to Dean Elizabeth Daley and the School of Cinematic Arts for your continued support.

Best of luck to all the filmmakers!

Christine Marie Ofiesh ’74
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Christine Marie Ofiesh ’74

Los Angeles Frontrunners is proud to support USC Lambda and the Don Thompson Scholarship in Cinematic Arts

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Mission

The USC Alumni Association’s mission is to support the overall advancement of the University of Southern California by engaging all alumni for life, building a culture of philanthropy among the Trojan Family, and being the representative voice for all USC alumni.

With more than 366,000 members worldwide, the USC Alumni Association supports more than 100 affiliated alumni clubs, alumnae support groups and multicultural and generational alumni communities. These groups collectively distribute nearly four million dollars each year in scholarships for USC students. In addition, the USC Alumni Association hosts hundreds of events and programs around the world, and provides benefits and services to all USC alumni. The USC Alumni Association has a full-time staff headed by the associate senior vice president for alumni relations and is advised by the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors.

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Associate Senior Vice President for Alumni Relations

Amy Ross PhD ’86
President, USC Alumni Association Board of Governors

Danielle Harvey Stinson ’00
Senior Director, Alumni Relations

Todd A. Kimmelman
Director, Lambda LGBT Alumni Association