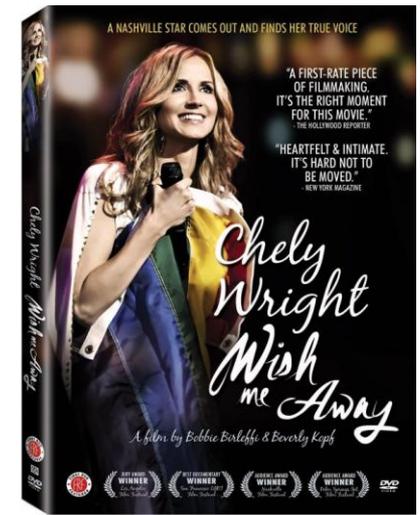
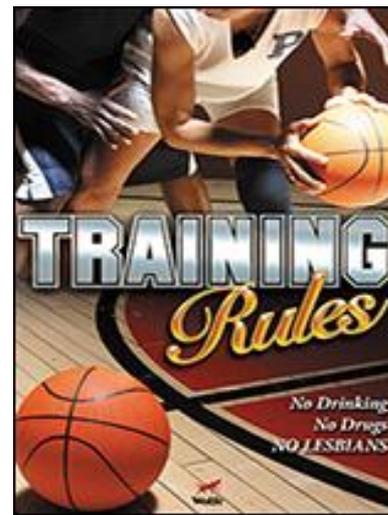
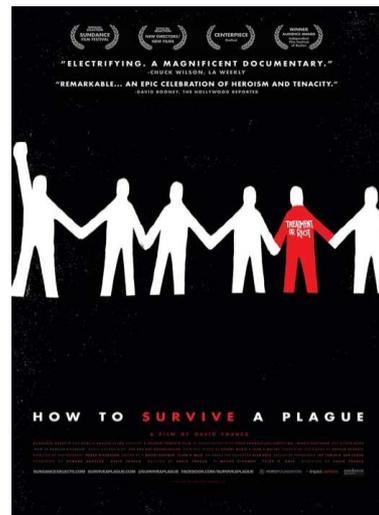
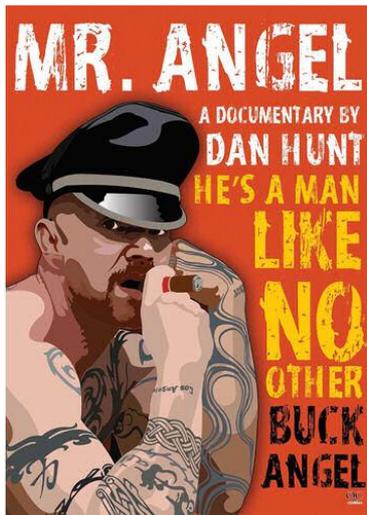
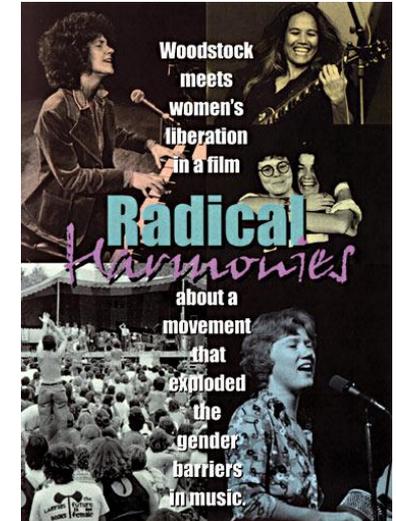
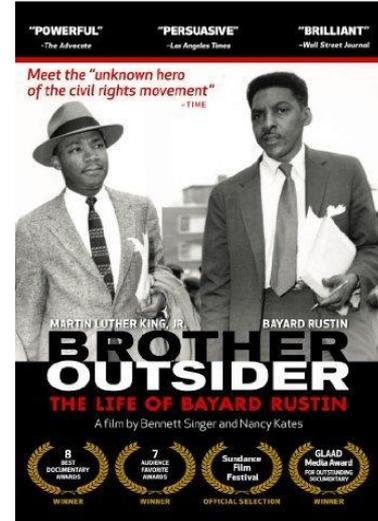
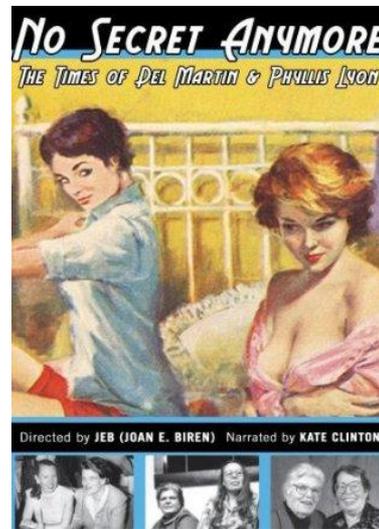
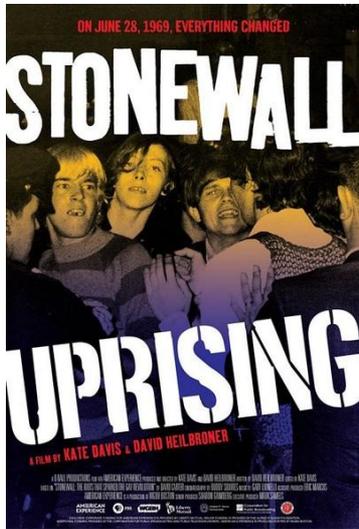


People, Protest, and Progress: Recent Documentaries About LGBT Lives and History



Brief introduction to documentaries

- There are four generally-accepted types/formats of documentary films:
 - Expository
 - Observational
 - Participatory
 - Dramatic
- Some documentaries are hybrids of the above, or include features of different types
 - Most of the films we'll view in this study group are Expository, although there is one Participatory and one Dramatic documentary on our roster

Features of Expository documentaries

- Expository documentaries usually include the following elements:
 - Interactive with the subjects; interviewees are asked questions
 - May or may not have narration
 - Linear flow, in the order in which the events happen
 - Strong point of view
 - Examples: *An Inconvenient Truth*; A&E's *Biography* series

Features of Observational documentaries

- Observational documentaries usually include the following elements:
 - Non-intervention of filmmaker with subjects
 - No asking questions directly
 - Longer camera takes
 - Synchronous sound: what you see has the actual sound that goes with it
 - Examples: *March of the Penguins*; *Koyaanisqatsi*

Features of Participatory documentaries

- Participatory documentaries usually include the following elements:
 - The filmmaker or host is the central catalyst of the documentary
 - Biased opinion/viewpoint, most likely that of the host
 - Higher entertainment value for the viewer
 - Examples: *Super Size Me*; *Bowling for Columbine*

Features of Dramatic documentaries

- Dramatic documentaries usually include the following elements:
 - Focus on events as they are known or believed to be true at the time
 - Use of narrative techniques to flesh out the story, such as reenactments
 - Less of the documentary maker's point of view
 - Example: Ken Burns' *Civil War* and *Jazz* series

LGBT documentaries in film history

- First feature-length documentary about lesbian and gay identity made by openly gay filmmakers:
Word Is Out (1977)
 - Directed by the six-person collective known as the Mariposa Film Group
 - Aired on many PBS stations in 1978
 - Interviews with 26 people who speak of their experiences as gay men and lesbians
 - Book containing transcripts of the interviews was released in 1978
 - “The silence of gay people on the screen has been broken”
 - Vito Russo, *The Advocate*

LGBT documentaries in film history

- Other notable entries in the genre include:
 - *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984), director Rob Epstein
 - *Paris is Burning* (1990), director Jennie Livingston
 - *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* (1990), directors Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman
 - *The Celluloid Closet* (1995), directors Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman
 - *Freeheld* (2007), director Cynthia Wade (short)

Session 1:

Stonewall Uprising

