

TKRC presents:

Queer / Violence

www.homotopiafilm.net

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GREETINGS!!!

First and foremost, thank you for your interest in our current project. TKRC is excited about bringing our provocative new film *Homotopia*, and the entire Queer/ Violence program to a diverse list of community groups, collective spaces, Universities, and anywhere else that is interested in radical queer film. We most recently have been giving artist lectures and public screenings of the Queer/ Violence program in the North East to packed audiences. Radical queer visual cultures, like the Queer/ Violence program, that connects the struggles against racism, imperialism and capitalism while undoing homophobia and transphobia are central to any vision of resistance. The absence of such images speaks to the ways such representation threaten normative power and filmic traditions. It is this gap that the Queer/Violence tour hopes to address through its interactive and critically inspiring presentation.



Chris and Eric speaking at the University of Maine

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ABOUT THE TOUR

In these times of never ending wars, fence post lynchings, and the continuing HIV/AIDS genocide; violence and its relationship to queerness seems to ask for urgent attention. The disappearance of critical work around HIV/AIDS that was central to the making of a radical queer politic forces us to reimagine the importance of visual culture in our contemporary. Our Queer/Violence program seeks to recenter questions around violence and queers as a political project. From resisting war through an anarchist critique of the State to new reading of the Holocaust and AIDS genocide, the Queer/ Violence program provokes, instigates and explores queer (un)doing.

The Queer/Violence tour is a mixed media extravaganza. The presentation will open with a short arts talk about both the state of current queer cinema and the larger state of LGBT politics. The connection between HIV/AIDS, queer violence and the politics of assimilation in the dominant GLBT movement serve as the provocative place of departure the film makers stage for the audience. The screening is comprised of the *Maggots and Men* (2006 Oakie Tredwell) trailer, *By Any Means Necessary* (1994 James Wentzy), *Mentalitet* (2001 Stefan Orlandic Stojanovski) and *Homotopia*(2006 Chris Vargas, Eric Stanley). Following the screening time will be allotted for questions and conversation around both the films as well as larger question of, HIV/AIDS gay marriage, trans-liberation and/or anything else. The entirety of the event is about 1 1/2 hours

Maggots and Men (Oakie Treadwell). In the style of a Soviet Propaganda film *Maggots and Men* recounts the tragic events of the Kronstadt Uprising (Russia, 1921). This history is combined with fictionalized inter-personal relationships between the sailors. There is a strong emphasis on the filmmaking process to be a positive, affirming experience and an opportunity for people in the trans community to meet each other and work together.

By Any Means Necessary (James Wentzy, KIKI MASON 1994) is an experimental meditation on AIDS, loss, and cultural trauma. Thorough direct address the audience is held captive by the enormity and urgency of the pandemic and our continued unwillingness to act. The film opens with the haunting truth, "A wealthy, well-connected hetero friend recently said to me, "I'm amazed that you guys haven't turned to terrorism – everybody's afraid of you anyway....".

Mentalitet : Marche des fiertés de Belgrade (Stefan Orlandic Stojanovski 2001) This short film is a montage of images from the Gay Pride celebration and subsequent anti-queer violence that erupted in Belgrade in 2001. Although hard to watch, the film asks the viewer what it means to not witness.

Homotopia (Chris Vargas, Eric Stanley 2006) see next page.



Chris and Eric Speaking at Wesleyan University

ABOUT *Homotopia*

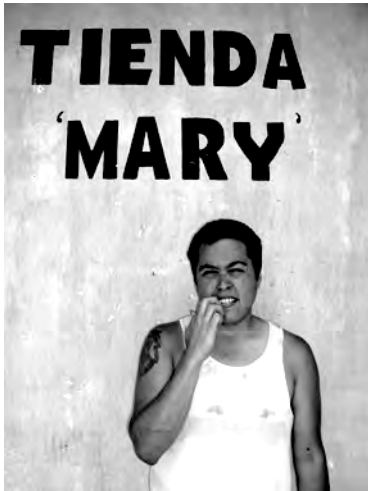
Synopsis:

Set sometime in the future-present Homotopia chronicles a group of radical queer's dedicated to exposing the trouble with gay marriage, dismantling the State, undoing Empire, while looking totally fierce. Woven into the story of Yoshi's adventures in love, resistance, and sex, is a critique of the crushing violence of homonormativity and its deadly perpetuation of US patriotism, conservative kinship structures and affective accumulation. Homotopia holds cinematic assumptions hostage through its motley assemblage of never-passing crew. Race, gender, ability and desire are reworked through an anti-colonial take of queer struggle creating a visual rhythm of melancholic utopianism that knows there may be no future but still hopes today is not their last. Love revolution, not State delusion, Homotopia.



Eric, Ralowe and Kentaro on set of Homotopia

ABOUT THE FILM MAKERS



Christian E. Vargas (born Christina Eileen) is an FTM transsexual from LA's San Fernando Valley. Chris first Super 8 short Road Rash made at LA City College in 2003 debuted at LA's Outfest, and has screened in queer film festivals internationally including Madrid, London, Milano, Paris, Toronto, and is still currently working the film festival circuit. He left Southern California in 2004 to study film and digital media at UC Santa Cruz. There he made Drive and Gay Country Line Dance Aerobics, shorts that are also making their way into queer shorts programs near you. Along with revolutionizing queer cinema Chris is also interested in the provocative potential of fiber arts, gay and workers liberations, as well as imagining fantastical utopian visions onscreen and off. HOMOTOPIA is his largest and most beloved film project to date.



Eric A. Stanley is a radical queer activist, outlaw academic and experimental filmmaker. Eric has worked in the anti-globalization movements, HIV/AIDS direct action, as well as countless other multi issue organizing. Currently Eric works with Gay Shame; a virus in the system, a queer direct action collective in San Francisco. S/he is also currently working on a PhD in the History of Consciousness program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Under the direction of Donna Haraway and Angela Davis, Eric is writing about the connections between race, biocapital, anti-queer violence and sovereignty. Eric's work has been published in *That's Revolting! Queer Strategies for Resisting Assimilation*, *Nobody Passes* as well as magazines and journals. Eric can be reached at queeriot@yahoo.com.

TECHNICAL RIDER

For the screening:

The format of the movies for this presentation is available on DVD only. If your facility cannot support this format, we can discuss customizing our media to meet your needs. If you are not sure about whether your audio/visual equipment fits the necessary criteria for this presentation, please ask us.

We will need to have access to the venue and any provided equipment 1 hour before the films are to be shown to test and troubleshoot any possible technical problems. We have found that it is best to show films in spaces that are often used for such purposes such as a mini-theater or multi-media enhanced lecture hall. You know your facility's capabilities best, so please keep our needs in mind when securing a venue.

You Provide:

- a large room with seating
- a video projection and audio system that will connect to a laptop or dvd player
- a large screen or blank wall onto which the movie can be projected
- an audience!

We Provide:

- *Homotopia* (color, 35 min)
- *Maggots and Men* (trailer)
- *By Any Means Necessary* (color 9 min)
- *Mentalitat* (color 7 min)
- Q and A with the Directors after the film (30 min)
- Full color movie posters and press release templates

Fee:

\$1,500.00-\$2,000.00 plus travel and lodging for two.

We ask that institutions such as colleges and universities pay as much as they can on the scale. Higher paying college and university showings allow us to negotiate and lower our fee at community centers and non-profit venues that work within a much more limited budget.

Possible Funding Sources: GLBTIQQ Centers, Multi-cultural Centers, Women/ Gender/ Feminist Studies Departments, Ethnic Studies Departments, Politics Departments, Film/ Art Departments, and any other clubs, research units, funding sources interested in the connection between anti-oppression and art.

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

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TKRC presents its queer/violence film tour.

A radical trans and queer film program intended to analyze, instigate and inspire.

TKRC, a California based trans and queer art collective, is excited about presenting these films to expand conversation beyond the homonormative agenda of gay marriage and gays in the military. The program includes the trailer for *Maggots and Men, By any Means Necessary* and features *Homotopia*.

Set sometime in the future-present *Homotopia* chronicles a group of radical queer's dedicated to exposing the trouble with gay marriage, dismantling the State, undoing Empire, while looking totally fierce. Woven into the story of Yoshi's adventures in love, resistance, and sex, is a critique of the crushing violence of homonormativity and its deadly perpetuation of US patriotism, conservative kinship structures and affective accumulation. *Homotopia* holds cinematic assumptions hostage through its motley assemblage of never-passing crew. Race, gender, ability and desire are reworked through an anti-colonial take of queer struggle creating a visual rhythm of melancholic utopianism that knows there may be no future but still hopes today is not their last. Love revolution, not State delusion, *Homotopia*.

For more information and upcoming screenings see:

www.homotopiafilm.net