Fifth Annual Lecture Series in LGBT Studies
University of Maryland Spring 2007

Sexual Dissidence in Popular Culture

Hasn’t popular culture always been a little bit queer? From the homoeroticism of sport to the gender-bending of fashion and musical performance, from cross-dressing in the Renaissance stage to same-sex kisses on TV shows, from the pop art of the 1960s to the queer comics and anime of the 2000s—sexual dissidence and gender variation have been staples of mass culture and entertainment. But how does queerness signify in these cultural spaces and forms? Is it subversive of a dominant, heteronormative order, or are queer energies inevitably caught or contained by that order? Why is Broadway so welcoming to queer people and style, while the sports world is still so anxious about sexual dissidence in the locker room?

This year’s lecture series in LGBT Studies turns a scholarly eye on the queerness that so often puts the “pop” in popular culture. We bring four experts on sexuality, art, and film to shed critical light on movies and activities that confront us every day, whether we are aware of them or not. We invite you to tune in for a series of lively and provocative conversations.

Pat Griffin
NEW RULES FOR THE OLD BALL: NEW GENDER HOMOPHOBIA IN WOMEN'S SPORTS
6 p.m., Monday, March 12
Hornbake 0302H
In this talk, New Rules for the Old Ball author Pat Griffin will draw on her extensive research on gender and homophobia in women’s sports. Griffin is the former executive director of the Larry Kramer Initiative for Lesbian and Gay Affairs and the associate executive director of the National Organization for Women, as well as editor of The Journal of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She has appeared on national TV, and she has published numerous articles and several anthologized short stories and non-fiction works. She is currently associate professor in the Department of Kinesiology—Joan D. Hall Women’s History Discomforted Lecture Series.

Stacy Wolf
“DEFINING GRAVITY,” OR HOW MYTHIC WOMEN MEET MODERN BROADWAY: THE BROADWAY MUSICAL
4 p.m., Tuesday, April 3
Art-Rockefeller 405
In this talk, Wolf, the editor of Theatre Topics and former associate professor of theatre at the University of Texas at Austin, will draw on her research into the gender-bending and queer energies that pervade musical theatre performances, emphasizing the role of subversive, queer energies in musical theatre performances. Wolf is currently an associate professor of theatre at the University of Texas at Austin. Her publica-
tions include Queer Performance Pedagogy and Musical Theatre and the co-edited book, Queer Performance Pedagogy and Musical Theatre: A Postmodern Turn in American Art, as published articles on thea-ter performance and pedagogy, and many journals, including Theatre Journal, Modern Drama and Oedipus and Shakespeare. She is the author of Theatre Topics in 2006.

Jonathan D. Katz
COMMITTING THE PERFECT CRIME*: SEXUALITIES, ASSEMBLAGES AND THE POSTMODERN TURN IN AMERICAN ART
4 p.m., Tuesday, April 17
Art-Rockefeller 405
In this talk, Katz, a former executive direc-
tor of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, will draw on his research and teaching in the United States. Katz was the George D. Widener Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania and the former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. He is the author of The American Joke: Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, and the End of Pop Art, a recently published book published by the University of Chicago Press. Katz was also the co-founder and editor of the journal Artforum and the editor of Theatre Topics (2000–2006).

Gayatri Gopinath
QUEER REGIONS: LESBIAN AND HOMOPHOBIA IN SOUTH ASIAN PUBLIC CULTURE
4 p.m., Monday, May 7
Tyler 107
In this talk, Gopinath, the Department of Asian Studies and the editor of the journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies, will discuss her research on South Asian public culture and its relation to queer identities and spaces. Gopinath is an associate professor of South Asia Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of California, Davis. She is the author of Transnational: Gender, Sexuality, and the Hindi Film Industry and is currently writing a book on the history of queer desire in India.

Now Queer This

Oka and reception to follow each lecture. All are welcome to informal colloquia with the speakers. Contact the LGBT Studies office or check www.lgbts.umd.edu for readings. We are grateful to the Office of Undergraduate Studies for its support of the series. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Studies is a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Studies.