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one INSTITUTE 

Co-Presented by
One Institute and the
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Closing Plenary of
Circa: Queer Histories
Festival 2024

Tre'vell Anderson
Roxane Gay
George M Johnson
Justin Torres
Eric Cervini

The Future of Queer History: LGBTQ+ Writers on the Election
Sunday, October 27, 2024, 7-8:30 PM
Los Angeles LGBT Center's Renberg Theatre

circa QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL 2024
Presented by One Institute



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ONE INSTITUTE TO CLOSE CIRCA 2024
WITH "THE FUTURE OF QUEER HISTORY" PLENARY FEATURING
AWARD-WINNING LGBTQ+ WRITERS
DISCUSSING THE IMPACT OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Panelists to include Tre'vell Anderson, Roxane Gay, George M Johnson, and
Justin Torres, with moderator Eric Cervini

Conversation To Take Place Sunday, October 27, 2024 at the
Los Angeles LGBT Center's Renberg Theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (August 7, 2024) — One Institute announced today "The Future of Queer History: LGBTQ+ Writers on the Election," the closing plenary for the 2024 Circa: Queer Histories Festival. The event will take place on **Sunday, October 27,**

2024, at the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Renberg Theatre. The conversation will convene acclaimed LGBTQ+ writers and journalists for a candid discussion about what's at stake for queer people, life, and culture in the climactic race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. The plenary will close Circa, the organization's second annual LGBTQ+ History Month Festival, which is slated to feature over 60 programs at venues across Los Angeles during October.

Pulitzer Prize-nominated historian **Eric Cervini** will moderate the panel which will feature *New York Times* best-selling author **Roxane Gay**; National Book Award-winning author **Justin Torres**; award-winning journalist, noted podcast host, and authoress **Tre'vell Anderson**; and **George M Johnson**, author of the notoriously banned book *All Boys Aren't Blue*.

"I'm so excited to have this conversation with some of the most brilliant LGBTQ+ artists and writers of our time," said Eric Cervini. "With the future of our country hanging in the balance, one thing is for certain: it is up to queer folks to use our voices and shape our own history.

"The Future of Queer History: LGBTQ+ Writers on the Election" will take place on **Sunday, October 27, 2024, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Renberg Theatre.** Tickets for the closing plenary and all 60+ Circa: Queer Histories Festival programs will be available September 10. Sign up to receive festival updates: circafestival.org.

"The outcome of this Presidential election will result in two very different queer futures," said Tony Valenzuela, Executive Director. "How will our communities mobilize around these starkly different administrations? This immensely distinguished group of thought leaders participating in Circa's closing plenary—just one week from the election—will lead us through a conversation of possibilities."

Debuting in 2023 in celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month, **Circa: Queer Histories Festival** is the first and only festival of its kind in the United States, attracting thousands of attendees. At year's festival, attendees will once again be immersed in the world of queer artists, writers, filmmakers, activists, and community organizations as they explore queerness in the past, present and future.

"The Future of Queer History: LGBTQ+ Writers on the Election" is organized by One Institute and co-presented with the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

Circa: Queer Histories Festival is presented by One Institute. Generous support for the festival comes from the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, California Arts Council, the City of West Hollywood, and Ares Management.

About the Panelists

Tre'vell Anderson (they/them) is an award-winning journalist, noted podcast host, and authoress doing world-changing work around society and culture. Named to *Out* magazine's 2023 list of the 100 most impactful LGBTQ+ people and *The Root's* 2020

list of the 100 most influential African Americans, they have dedicated their career to centering those in the margins, grey spaces, and at the intersections of life. Tre'vell co-hosts Crooked Media's daily news podcast *What A Day* and is the Founder and Chief Imagination Officer of the social curation and media production house Slayzhon. They are also the authoress of *We See Each Other: A Black, Trans Journey Through TV and Film* and the NAACP Image Award-nominated *Historically Black Phrases: From 'I Ain't One Of Your Lil' Friends' to 'Who All Gon' Be There?'*. Formerly Editor-At-Large for *Xtra* magazine and Director of Culture and Entertainment at *Out*, Tre'vell got their start in journalism at the *Los Angeles Times*. Their work—which has graced the pages of *Essence*, *TIME* and *Entertainment Weekly*, among others—has been recognized by the Online News Association, National Association of Black Journalists, the Shorty Awards, and the Los Angeles Press Club, among others. Tre'vell is a Board member for the National Association of Black Journalists. A well sought-after moderator and commentator, they've made appearances on *MSNBC*, *NPR*, *Fox Business Network*, *NBC Nightly News*, *Good Morning America*, and *Entertainment Tonight Live* as well as the Netflix documentary *Disclosure: Trans Lives on Screen*.

Dr. Eric Cervini (he/him) is an award-winning author, producer, and historian of LGBTQ+ politics. His first book, *The Deviant's War: The Homosexual vs. the United States of America*, was a NYT bestseller and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. It also won the Publishing Triangle's Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction, the NYT Editors' Choice, and the "Best Read of 2020" at the Queerties. Cervini is the Emmy-winning creator and Executive Producer of *The Book of Queer*, a queer history docu-series boasting the largest all-queer cast in Hollywood history, now streaming on Max. In March 2024, Cervini launched Allstora, an online book marketplace, alongside fourteen-time Emmy-winner RuPaul Charles. Cervini currently serves as Allstora's CEO. On the site, Cervini also hosts *Eric's (Very Gay) Book Club*, where he highlights the most brilliant and exciting works of gay literature.

Roxane Gay's (she/her) writing appears in Best American Mystery Stories 2014, Best American Short Stories 2012, Best Sex Writing 2012, A Public Space, McSweeney's, Tin House, Oxford American, American Short Fiction, Virginia Quarterly Review, and many others. She is a contributing opinion writer for the New York Times. She is the author of the books *Ayiti*, *An Untamed State*, the New York Times bestselling *Bad Feminist*, the nationally bestselling *Difficult Women* and the New York Times bestselling *Hunger*. She is also the author of *World of Wakanda* for Marvel. She has several books forthcoming and is also at work on television and film projects. She also has a newsletter, The Audacity, and once had a podcast, *The Roxane Gay Agenda*.

George M Johnson (they/them) is an award-winning Black Non-Binary writer, author, and executive producer located in the LA area. They are the author of the New York Times bestselling author of the young adult memoir *All Boys Aren't Blue*. As a former journalist, George has written for major outlets including *Teen Vogue*, *Entertainment Tonight*, *NBC*, and *Buzzfeed* and in 2019 was awarded by the National Association of Black Journalists for their article "When Racism Anchors your Health." George was listed on *The Root* 100 Most Influential African Americans in 2020, the *Out* 100 Most

Influential LGBTQ People in 2021, and in 2022 was honored as one of the *TIME*100 Next Most Influential People in the World. Their second memoir *WE ARE NOT BROKEN* was released in September of 2021. It received the Carter G. Woodson Honor. In 2021 they wrote and Executive Produced the Dramatic Reading of *All Boys Aren't Blue* starring Jenifer Lewis and Dyllon Burnside which received a 2022 Special Recognition Award from GLAAD and 2023 Emmy nomination for Outstanding Daytime Special. George is also a proud HBCU alum twice over, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated.

Justin Torres (he/him) is the author of *Blackouts*, winner of the 2023 National Book Award for Fiction, and was a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Lambda Literary award, and the Southern California Book Award. His debut novel, *We the Animals*, won the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award, was translated into fifteen languages, and was adapted into a feature film. He teaches at the University of California, Los Angeles.

About One Institute

Founded in 1952, One Institute (formerly ONE Archives Foundation) is the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the United States. One Institute produces one-of-a-kind exhibitions and public programs that elevate queer and trans history and embrace emerging stories. Through K-12 teacher trainings, lesson plans, and youth mentorship programs, One empowers the next generation of teachers and students bringing queer and trans history into classrooms and communities. Additionally, the Institute assists in promoting the materials within ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, which houses the largest collection of LGBTQ+ materials in the world.

The curatorial and educational choices made by One Institute are guided by our commitment to social equity and justice. We engage with the complexity of LGBTQ+ history and representation through highlighting the intersectional and authentic narratives of Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), women, gender-nonconforming and transgender people, people of various abilities, youth, and elders across all socio-economic classes. Learn more at oneinstitute.org, and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @[oneinstitutela](https://www.instagram.com/oneinstitutela).

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SELECTED PRESS IMAGES



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Roxane Gay



George M. Johnson



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