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Community Event to Celebrate the Life and Work of Local Transgender Filmmaker, Christopher Lee

A consortium of LGBTQ community organizations will present **Christopher Lee: A Community Celebration and Film Screening**, taking place at **The New Parkway Theater** on **Saturday, December 21, 2013**. Two separate programs will feature four of Mr. Lee's groundbreaking and award-winning films, *Christopher's Chronicles*, *Trappings of Transhood*, *Alley of the Tranny Boys*, and *Sex Flesh in Blood*

Christopher Lee, also known as Christoph, touched many individuals and communities during his lifetime. An artist, trailblazer, mentor, and dear friend, he left an indelible mark on everyone who met him. It has been almost a year since Christopher Lee took his life. The intimate setting of the New Parkway Theater provides the perfect setting to celebrate the life and lasting legacy of this groundbreaking artist and community leader.

The New Parkway Theater is located at 474 - 24th Street in Oakland, CA. Program 1, which will screen *Trappings of Transhood* and *Christopher's Chronicles*, is scheduled for **12:00PM – 1:45PM**. Program 2 will take place from **2:00PM – 4:45 PM**, and will feature *Alley of the Tranny Boys* and *Sex Flesh in Blood*. Tickets can be purchased at **Brownpapertickets.com** or at the New Parkway Theater on the day of the event for \$10 per program. Onsite childcare will be available.

At the end of each program, community leaders and activists will make short presentations about how Christopher impacted their own work and on other efforts to keep Christopher's legacy alive. Attendees also will have an opportunity to bear witness on how they were touched by Christopher as a person and/or an artist. In addition, organizers are inviting attendees to bring flyers, brochures, or other materials related to supporting the health, resilience, art and culture of transgender people and their families, and to share them at resource information tables that will be set up in the theater lobby.

Masen Davis, Transgender Law Center Executive Director, says of the event, "It's so important to celebrate and honor those who we have lost. Christopher's legacy will live on in so many ways, one of which is inspiring the momentum to change the law so that all Californians can have their gender identity respected upon their passing."

Chino Scott-Chung, a member of Christopher's chosen family shares that, "Christopher was my brother, my best friend, my confidante, the one who came to help at a moment's notice, the one I went to when I could go to nobody else. He had that way of looking right into your eyes, looking for that place where he could find you, where his deeply etched smile lives. Christopher lives."

A number of community leaders who were featured in *Trappings of Transhood* will be present, including writer and public health consultant **Willy Wilkinson**. "*Trappings of Transhood* is a historic documentation of the lives of a multicultural group of transmasculine individuals at a time when few genuine representations of us existed," said Wilkinson. "This film blew open a world of racial, cultural,

gender, and sexual complexity like no other film before it, and is a smart, sexy reflection of early trans pride."

Event co-sponsors include:

Host: Dragon's Blood Rising, <http://www.dragonsbloodrising.org>

An evolving space for reflection on the legacy of Christopher Lee providing support resources for transgender people and their extended families

Host: The New Parkway Theater, <http://www.thenewparkway.com>

An eclectic movie-going experience where people watch movies with friends and community

Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women and Transgender Community, <http://www.apiqwtc.org>

A fun, welcoming, multi-generational group of Asian & Pacific islander queer women and transgender people in the Bay Area, who are building community together

Fresh Meat Productions, <http://www.freshmeatproductions.org>

The home of Sean Dorsey, Fresh Meat Productions creates, presents and tours transgender and queer performance, dance and media arts

Gender Reel Festival, <https://twitter.com/genderreel>

The only national film and performance art festival dedicated to enhancing the visibility of gender non-conforming individuals

Lolo Cooperative Health, <http://www.lolohealth.com>

Clinic run by a community of doctors and therapists who provide holistic, integrative, and patient-centered care

San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, <http://www.sftff.org>

Promotes the visibility of transgender and gender variant people and challenges the mainstream media's negative stereotypes of our communities. Run by Artistic Director, Shawna Virago, the festival was founded in 1997 by Christopher Lee, Al Austin and Elise Hurwitz. Originally named Tranny Fest, SFTFF was North America's first transgender film festival.

Saint Harridan, <http://www.saintharridan.com>

Providing a line of suits featuring a sleek masculine cut, re-engineered for women and transmen

Transgender Law Center, <http://transgenderlawcenter.org>

Working to change law, policy, and attitudes so that all people can live safely, authentically, and free from discrimination regardless of their gender identity or expression.

Transgress Press, <http://www.transgresspress.org>

Using entrepreneurial capitalism to support progressive thought and projects change conventional publishing practices and in empower communities and organizations

What Makes a Baby? <http://www.what-makes-a-baby.com>

Written by Cory Silverberg and illustrated by Fiona Smyth, this modern picture book about where babies come fits for every kind of family and every kind of kid.

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DragonsBloodRising.org provides a growing and evolving space for reflections on the life and legacies of Christopher Lee as well as support resources for transgender people and extended families. Organizers invite LGBTQ community members and allies to share their stories about Christopher. The site also provides film updates, action opportunities, resiliency resources, and more.