

THE ANDREW J. KUEHN JR.

AJK

FOUNDATION



NEWSLETTER 2019

# DEAR FRIENDS OF ANDY,

It is with pride and pleasure that we publish our annual report regarding the philanthropic activity of the Andrew J. Kuehn, Jr., Foundation. Yet again, we celebrate the creative and humanitarian achievements of our grantees whose contributions to education and the arts represent the living legacy of their benefactor. At the same time we return the interest of his friends in the gifts he gave during his life and from the hereafter.

In the course of a technicolor career, Andy changed an industry; since his passing, he's changed the lives of a new generation. Students and professionals have felt his love of humanity and his belief in the better angels of our nature. Like us, they have been inspired and empowered to contribute, strive and uplift.

A testament to the power of thoughtful philanthropy, the AJK Jr. Foundation is privileged to support humanistic endeavors that honor the past, examine the present and build a better future. As Andy understood, we won't get there through division and hate. We will only arrive through understanding, compassion, love and determination.

Indeed, in perilous times, when the worst are fueled by a passionate intensity to achieve vicious ends, and evil (what other name would you use?) is ascendant, we recollect with relief his certainty that the arc of history bends toward the light and the good. In a less somber mood, we also remember, "it was a party, just to be near" him. Lucky us, to have known his joie de vivre, love and generosity, first hand.

We're so proud of what our grant recipients have done. We invite you to examine the report that follows, specifying how our donations have been spent and to what significant, substantial ends. We think you'll find these stories of people and communities rising to their potential a source of joy and inspiration.



# KELOWNA ACTOR'S STUDIO ACADEMY

*The Kelowna Actors Studio Academy, in the Okanagan Valley of Canada, is a place where kids learn and train alongside professionals and adult students of Musical Theatre.*

*after years in which students of theater arts assembled a Performance Troupe, then a Young Company, and ultimately enrolled in a full time, performing arts school for grades 10 to 12.*

*A logical outgrowth of The Kelowna Actors Studio—a presenter of Musicals and Plays to regional audiences for 18 years-- the Academy was formally opened in 2014*

*Graduates of the tight-knit and ambitious program have pursued post-secondary training at distinguished institutions nationally and internationally.*

The Academy allows people of all ages to learn and perform in a commercial venue, taught by theatre, film, dance and music professionals. The AJK Foundation proudly supports this unique and invaluable environment for performing arts education.

In 2019, AJK funds were used to present workshops in Drama, Film, Dance, Music and Theatrical Makeup. Professional artists offered instruction and insight into careers in the world of performance.

During the 2019 season, Academy students and the Performance Troupe made short films, learned the cosmetic arts, studied a core academic curriculum and produced *Carrie: the Musical* in a new modular theater space. They dove into the world of musical theatre and experienced its rigor, while exploring the topic of bullying, on stage and in person.



Kelowna Actor's Studio Academy members rehearsing *Carrie: the Musical*

# STORIES: THE AIDS MONUMENT

*In stories and sculpture, the AIDS Monument seeks to memorialize the AIDS/HIV Crisis and honor the courage of activists, caregivers and community leaders. Nearly 1,000,000 Americans have died since 1981 and while the losses have slowed, the epidemic continues.*

*In recalling and retelling the stories of those who fought, those who died, and those who endured, the Aids Monument advances the work of raising awareness and money for research and treatment of persons living with AIDS/HIV.*

## FOUNDATION FOR THE AIDS MONUMENT (FAM)



Stories and Telling: HOLLYWOOD & HIV/AIDS

The AJK Foundation was an early donor to the Foundation for the AIDS Monument, committing resources to finance the painstaking process and meticulous planning of the physical memorial and the digital platforms and multi-media archives that comprise the larger vision long before ground would be broken. Our support continues as the idea becomes reality.

## FAM'S PROGRAMMATIC VISION

In 2019 FAM adopted these strategies to reach communities of interest around the AIDS Monument:

### ONLINE

FAM's website will be the nation's premier online destination for AIDS/HIV history, hosting stories from the epidemic and a master archive of images. The site provides a platform for fundraising, stakeholder communication and social media outreach.

Grove, The Wall/Las Memorias Project of Los Angeles and Seattle's AIDS Memorial Pathway. This bi-coastal collective enables collaboration, organization, education and access to a national audience.

### EDUCATION

FAM's education program is developing lessons about the AIDS epidemic for the Los Angeles Unified School District. The LAUSD partnership offers a template for districts nationwide and a basis for college curricula regionally and nationally.

### CULTURAL SERIES

FAM's cultural series deploy the AIDS Monument and story/image archives to engage with and examine AIDS/HIV history for diverse Los Angeles audiences. Outreach to regional leaders, activists, and cultural workers on multi-media projects has yielded early results: a partnership with the Grammy Museum for a program about the impact of HIV/AIDS on the music industry; a screening and panel conversation about the intersectional web series, POZ ROZ, in collaboration with ONE Archive Foundation.

### NETWORKING

In 2019, FAM established a national coalition of AIDS Memorials. The Collaborative of AIDS Memorial Sites includes FAM, the New York City AIDS Memorial, the San Francisco AIDS Memorial



The Aids Quilt on the Mall in Washington

# UCLA FILM & TELEVISION ARCHIVE

*The UCLA Film & Television Archive is the second largest moving image archive in the United States and the world's largest university-owned repository of media materials. An unparalleled resource for UCLA's department of Theater, Film & TV, the Archive is a destination for visual storytellers, film historians, students of media and working professionals.*



The gorgeous new UCLA Archive in Valencia, CA

*Combining gifts and acquisitions from all the major studios and television networks, leading producers and legendary figures from the history of broadcasting, the Archive prioritizes preservation and restoration. As the collection grows, iconic materials are continually returned to public view and made available for scholarly research. Screenings of rare and important art-house and historical works at the Archive's [Billy Wilder Theater](#) make that superb, Westwood venue a global destination for film lovers.*

# OUTFEST

*In 1982, UCLA Students founded Outfest as a driver of [LGBTQ](#) equality. Through the creation, distribution and preservation of moving images, Outfest nourishes LGBTQ community by presenting filmed and videotaped stories from the lives of diverse populations. It preserves the past, celebrates the present and nurtures the future by enabling artistic expression of gender, sexuality, LGBTQ culture and its transformative social impact on the world. While inspiring visual storytellers, Outfest uses the power of the moving image to promote acceptance and equality for all LGBTQ people.*

*Over the past four decades, Outfest has showcased thousands of films from around the world, educated and mentored hundreds of emerging filmmakers, archived more than 38,000 LGBTQ films and videos and painstakingly restored 25 seminal works. Key programs include the annual Los Angeles LGBTQ [Film Festival](#), the largest such event in the world; Outfest [Fusion](#), a yearly festival of films by and about LGBTQ People of Color; Outfest Forward, dedicated to educating and mentoring the next generation of film artists; and the UCLA [Legacy Project](#), the only program on earth dedicated to preserving and providing access to LGBTQ films for future generations.*

## OUTFEST / UCLA LEGACY PROJECT SCREENING SERIES

In 2019, the Andrew J. Kuehn, Jr. Foundation supported the *Outfest / UCLA Legacy Project* in presentation of four films at the [Billy Wilder Theater](#) at the Hammer Museum.



Tribute to pioneering filmmaker Pat Rocco at the Billy Wilder Theater

Beginning with a posthumous tribute to pioneering gay filmmaker and documentarian Pat Rocco (1934-2018), this rare partnership of university archive and activist festival then presented *Tropical Malady* (2004) with director Andrew Ahn and LA Times film critic Justin Chang providing commentary and context. Watch their conversation [here](#). Later in 2019, a rare 35mm print of Isaac Julien's *Young Soul Rebels* (1991), loaned by BFI, was shown to a rapt audience. The program concluded with a screening of *Something Special* a.k.a. *Willy/Milly* (1986) curated by filmmakers Rhys Ernst and Jenni Olson.



*Tropical Malady* (2004) at the Billy Wilder Theater, with guest curator Andrew Ahn left in conversation with Los Angeles Times film critic Justin Chang.

Drawing on AJK support, and collaborating with San Francisco's Frameline LGBT International Film Festival, the Legacy Project completed restoration of Arthur J. Bressan Jr.'s fabled documentary, *Gay USA* (1977). This seminal film premiered at UCLA Film & TV Archive's Festival of Preservation followed by a sold out screening at [Outfest](#) in July.



A Still from *Gay USA* (1977)

# OCSA

*Founded in 1987, the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) provides a creative, challenging and nurturing environment for bright and talented students as well as an unparalleled preparation for higher education and professional attainment in the arts. OCSA ranks among the top schools in the State of California.*

*The only specialized arts program of its kind in the region, OCSA offers tuition-free academic and arts instruction to students from Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. A non-profit, OCSA relies on private and corporate donations to finance its many arts conservatories.*

*Serving 2,000 students in grades 7-12 from over 100 cities across Southern California, OCSA places personal growth and educational achievement first. Excellence, innovation, professionalism and integrity are expected of every student.*



Filming in the Gothic Quarter of Barcelona, Summer 2019



A still from a promotional film made by Alums for OCSA Film & Television Conservatory

The OCSA Film & Television conservatory (FTV) has received grants from the AJK Foundation since 2007. In addition to facilities improvements, AJK funds allow OCSA to train students with professional technology, inspiring and enhancing the production value of their filmmaking. With its 2019 grant, FTV purchased five Sony X70 Camcorders. These cameras not only improve recording of campus arts performance, they are the foundation of the forth-coming OCSA Broadcast Channel.

## SUMMER TRAVEL WITH CAMERAS & CURIOSITY

In June, OCSA Film & Television Conservatory students traveled to Spain to make films about food and culture. Visiting Catalonia, Aragon, Basque Country, Castile and León, before concluding in Madrid, students interviewed restaurateurs, chefs and food experts, toured an olive oil mill, studied cooking in Barcelona and visited the Prado and Reina Sofia museums in Madrid. At the Back to School Film Festival, students showed films of their Summer adventures.



Film Conservatory students in San Sebastian, Spain

# FTV SENIOR FILM SHOWCASE

In September, the annual Senior Film Showcase unspooled at the Frida Cinema in Santa Ana. As part of OCSA's College Fair, recruiters from nationally accredited film schools met OCSA seniors and viewed their work. At the reception following, students pitched and networked. Showcase films can be viewed below.

["The Rule of Fours"](#) (drama)

A young man struggles with his OCD in a new relationship.

["Redefined: Shannon Carder"](#) (documentary)

A homeless man finds renewal through an artist and local church.

## OCSA FILM & TELEVISION CONSERVATORY ON VIDEO

FTV alums Josh Kaufman and Anthony Liechti produced this celebration of FTV, its students, teachers and mission. [Here](#) are some of the many reasons AJK supports OCSA.

## SOVIA AGAVE "THE BETTER COCOA" COMMERCIAL CONTEST

In Spring, FTV sophomores helped Soviia Agave, a local company that makes agave syrup for the national marketplace. Soviia launched a new product called "The Better Cocoa" and asked the Industrial Video Production class to make commercials. Entries were posted to Soviia's YouTube [channel](#); FTV students added client-delivered work to their portfolios.

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT

For 2019, FTV student and alumni achievements were (as always) impressive and extensive:

At the *All American High School Film Festival*, Adrian Delcan, Isabel Mansour and Gavin Conlon won the "Best Comedy" prize for "T.I.M." Braden Swope & Ethan Hammock won "Best Directing" honors for "The World Within Vincent." Of course, many of their classmates were fellow nominees.

At the *National Film Festival for Talented Youth*, Allee Stone won Best New Talent Award (ages

14-19); Meanwhile, Roxana Gough-Eschrich and Alexis Macdonald took home the "Best Research & Accuracy" prize for their PSA, "No Texting and Driving" at the 4th *Annual Streets, Art, Safe Awards* at AFI, Los Angeles.

At the *LA Shorts Film Festival*, Max Rogoff won the Diamond Award for "The Rule of Fours" and Best Documentary Platinum Award for "Head above Water." At *Indie Fest*, Max also won *Award of Excellence* for "Rule of Fours" and *Award of Merit* for "Head Above Water."



Multiple-award-winning film by Max Rogoff

In 2019-20, FTV will produce 100+ student projects including PSAs, narratives, TV pieces, and documentaries. Much of this can be seen at the Winter and Spring Cineplex at Chapman University's Folino Theatre. OCSA also programs a showcase at the nearby Newport Beach Film Festival in April.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING AND REMEMBERING,**

*Alan, Will & Debbie*