



THE ANDREW J. KUEHN JR.

AJK

F O U N D A T I O N

AJK NEWSLETTER 2021



Andy at Studio 54 with Jed Johnson, as seen in the Warhol Diaries

Dear Friends of Andy and of the Foundation that bears his name,

Every year, the AJK Foundation makes grants to educational and cultural institutions serving not only Southern California, but the larger world. Every year, we report how recipient organizations spend that money in service to their communities and to our region and society more broadly. While annual reports are a legal obligation for a charitable trust like AJK, what inspires ours is love for the man, gratitude for his life, joy in remembering him with friends and delight in the thought that he lives on— not just in us and the history books, but in the impact of his legacy on so many who never had the privilege of knowing him.

In this newsletter covering 2021, we write to celebrate the values, world view and theory of mind that defined Andy Kuehn and direct the contributions his foundation makes to students, scholars, educators and institutions— gifts that multiply in the hands and hearts of recipients, gifts designed to be shared and paid forward, to enable and to uplift.

As many of you know, Andy prized education. Our grantees amplify that valuation in their extraordinary work: teaching, creating, studying, preserving and empowering learners of all ages. In times such as these, of domestic discord and international conflict, we are grateful for the near and the tangible and the proven. Amidst the tumult and confusion, let us follow the example of our grantees and tend our gardens, both literally and figuratively, as we navigate through 2022.

Courage,

Will & Debbie

UCLA Department of Theater, Film & Television

The world-renowned UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television is an interdisciplinary professional school that develops outstanding storytellers, industry leaders and scholars whose voices enlighten, engage and inspire the world. For its diverse mix of undergraduate and graduated students, TFT offers courses in acting, directing, writing, producing, animation, cinematography, digital arts, lighting design, set design, costume design, sound design and Moving Image Archive Studies.

The school confers BA, MA and PhD degrees in Theater and Performance Studies as well as in Cinema & Media Studies, educating gifted, creative and ambitious students in their pursuit of careers in theater, motion picture, arts and digital media.



Key Art for Transforming Hollywood 9

Transforming Hollywood Conference

After a hiatus predating Covid, our most high-profile event returned in 2021. For a 9th edition, the AJK Foundation was the Presenting Sponsor of the joint USC & UCLA Transforming Hollywood (formerly: Transmedia) Conference in Los Angeles, which connects leading academics and industry figures for an examination of the most important, complex and interesting questions arising from the intersection of technology, culture, commerce and history. Eminent film and media scholars Denise Mann of UCLA School of Theater Film & Television and Henry Jenkins at USC School of Cinematic Arts & the Annenberg School of Communications joined forces to program panels, presentations, Q & A's and social events for an in-person audience at the James Bridges Theater on the UCLA campus. We've excerpted their introductory note below to give you a feel for the enterprise.

The ninth edition of the Transforming Hollywood conference examines the growing prominence of streaming services — a trend that has been accelerated by the Covid pandemic and is reshaping the world of production...



The popularity of streamers is blurring the distinction between cinema and television and impacting the future of the cinema theater-going experience. The changes are having global repercussions and are affecting international collaborations between creators and producers.

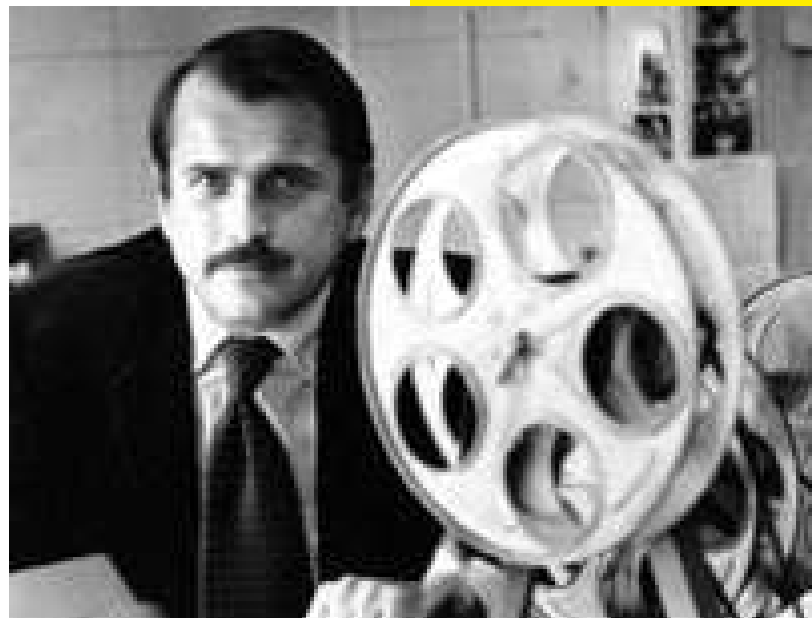
U.S. streamers are competing over high-profile, Game of Thrones-style media franchises that will engage transnational audiences, in many cases by invoking a return of the repressed, using familiar Slavic mythologies inhabited by witches, Sylvan, Kiki-mora monsters, and Dopplers from the Grisha-verse, as well as East Asian mythologies populated by ghosts, vampires, and other tortured souls returning from the afterlife. Local media companies are promoting themselves by providing access to high-tech studios, otherworldly locations, and skilled, inexpensive labor. The latter includes virtual LED studios using game engine technologies to deliver digitally generated landscapes and VFXworkers with the proven ability to render a multitude of magical creatures to attract transnational audiences. Meanwhile, global fans from diverse territories celebrate their knowing recognition of these aesthetic traditions from the past, many of which invoke the reactionary policies of older, authoritarian regimes while invoking progressive critiques of contemporary post-colonial oppression, which they lovingly detail in their blogs, channels, and wikis.

—Co-Directors, Professor Denise Mann (UCLA, Director of the Producer's Program, 1997-2019) and Henry Jenkins (Provost Professor of Communication, Journalism, Cinematic Arts and Education, USC)



The Andrew J. Kuehn Fund for Producing and Media Marketing Fellow: **Suzon Charbonneau**

On the advice and nomination of the Department of Theater Film & TV at UCLA, Suzon Charbonneau was awarded the AJK Fellowship in Media Marketing for 2021. Ms. Charbonneau, a Belgian native, raised in the South of France, received her Bachelors in Business from the École des Hautes Etudes Commerciales du Nord (EDHEC) in Paris. This program, taught in English, enables students to evolve and thrive in multi-cultural environments and partners with UCLA Extension as well as other international institutions. A film-lover from childhood, Charbonneau studied digital marketing, communication and investment at EDHEC, then interned in the film industry in France and Los Angeles, prior to beginning her masters work within the Producer's Program at UCLA. She will graduate this Spring.



Los Angeles Leadership Academy

Located in downtown Los Angeles between Montecito & Lincoln Heights, the Los Angeles Leadership Academy prepares over 900 economically disadvantaged young people in grades K-12 for success as students and citizens. Dedicated to academic and personal development, LALA nurtures achievement, engagement and character.

LALA culture is defined by real and enduring relationships among students, teachers and staff. Attention to individual needs, abilities and interests supports a community of capable, self-directed learners.



Integrated curriculum and performance-based assessment promote critical thinking and intellectual depth, breadth and agility. Opportunities to work with community leaders on the issues affecting student lives provide practical applications of classroom lessons and skills training.



At LALA, every student is asked to embrace the principles of Community, Empowerment, Well-Being, Creation, Love, Integrity, Scholarship, Activism and Courage. Creating a just and humane world is an integral part of the educational mission.

AJK began making grants to LALA after having been introduced to its invaluable work with young Angelenos by two of Andy's oldest friends. Repeated grants have financed facilities, equipment, renovations and enrichment opportunities at this Lincoln Heights institution.

Farming for Social Justice



AJK was an early supporter of the LALA community garden and green-space. Now the LALA Farm has sprouted a curriculum placing food in social and historical context. Farm Manager Eric Tommasini and Mario Soto, a teacher at LALA, introduce students to agriculture science and the political economy of food.

Students in Farming for Social Justice combine academic study with field work—literally. Focusing on social and moral development through mastery of agricultural concepts, theory, historical and contemporary practices, students explore the science of farming, learning what it means to sustainably cultivate land, plants and animals. Students are responsible for plots which they manage collaboratively. Beginning with farm practices (safe and optimal tool use), the course covers all aspects of the growth cycle, from bed preparation, seeding, transplanting, crop choice (vegetables, grains or fruit) to inputs (seeds, labor, water and fertilizer) outputs and the harvest. Students take pride in the results of their effort, results that nourish both mind and body. Social justice is experienced as the totality of the interaction among labor, ownership, exchange and consumption, involving various actors and stakeholders.

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 threat 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.



The AJK Foundation supports the Aids Monument's work of memory and representation. We congratulate the board, staff and volunteers for the following achievements in 2021.

- After months of effort by the creatives at Loyd Design working with the Board and Staff, the Aids Monument has a new website, optimized, of course, for mobile as well as desktop viewing. Visitors can browse audio and video stories, learn histories of activists, survivors and those lost to the pandemic, scale a word-wall, find trustworthy news and resources and access a library of video content.

- Friends of the Aids Monument grew the organization's social media presence and outreach significantly in 2021, connecting communities, raising awareness, disseminating news and mobilizing support. You can follow Aids Monument activity at Twitter, Facebook, YouTube & Instagram (Click the icons above right).



- On World Aids Day this past December, a prototype of the Monument to be built in West Hollywood Park was unveiled in situ. The Monument comprises more than 200 traces, each 15 feet high, with bronze surfaces and of varying colors.

- In June of 2021, the plot at West Hollywood Park designated for the Aids Monument was graded and prepared for installation.



For the most recent updates and information about the Aids Monument in West Hollywood, we invite you to visit the news [page](#).

OUTFEST

CREATING CHANGE. ONE STORY AT A TIME.



In 1982, UCLA Students founded Outfest as a driver of LGBTQIA+ equality. Through the creation, distribution, and preservation of moving images, Outfest nourishes LGBTQIA+ 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, LGBTQIA+ culture and its transformative social impact on the world. While inspiring visual storytellers, Outfest uses the power of movies to promote acceptance and equality for all LGBTQIA+ people.

Over the past three decades, Outfest has showcased thousands of films from around the world, educated and mentored hundreds of emerging filmmakers, archived more than 40,000 LGBTQIA+ films and videos and painstakingly restored dozens of seminal films. Key programs include the annual Los Angeles LGBTQIA+ Film Festival, the largest such event in the world; Outfest **Fusion**, a yearly festival of films by and about LGBTQIA+ 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 LGBTQIA+ films for future generations.

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.



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 this superb Westwood venue a global destination for film lovers.



Outfest / UCLA Legacy Project Screening Series



**Filmmaker Anne Chamberlain and
The Pit founders Hal Diebolt and Billy Rogers.**

Virtual Screening Room presentation of *Out in Public* on August 7, 2020

Outfest and the UCLA Film & Television Archive partnered in 2005 to create the Outfest/UCLA Legacy Project, the only program in the world exclusively focused on preserving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and *other* moving images at risk of loss due to deterioration and/or neglect. Together, these two institutions have established the largest publicly accessible collection of LGBTQIA+ moving images anywhere in the world. During the last year, Outfest and the UCLA Archive exhibited LGBTQIA+ moving image media with regular virtual screenings of high-profile, topical and entertaining programs, thanks to the support of The Andrew J. Kuehn Jr. Foundation. Regrettably, In-person viewing was suspended due to risks associated with the novel coronavirus.

In the last grant period, rare and unique works (comprising 12 shorts and one feature-length film) from the Outfest / UCLA Legacy Project Collection were selected for six programs representing nearly a century of representation. AJK grant monies underwrote restoration, curation and live-streaming exhibition.

Here's an overview of the 2021 series. We invite you to attend one or more of the 2022 screenings!

Out in Public Featuring works from the Collection in which coming out and being out and outside are political acts. Short films like *The Liberation of Griffith Park*, or *A Gay Time Was Had By All* (Matt Spero, 1971), *Tales of the Pit* (Anne Chamberlain, 1997), and *S.P.R.E.E. on a Spree* (Pat Rocco, 1970), spotlight modes of being out and queer. *Tales of the Pit* filmmaker Anne Chamberlain and Southern Illinois Campsite founders Hal Diebolt and Billy Rogers followed the program with a conversation about their work and our times shared with viewers watching from as far away as Thailand and Brazil.

Camp Out! A Queer Program of Comedy Shorts featured five short films, including four made between 1984 and 1997—*The Butch/Femme Polka* (Maureen Brownsey, 1997); *Mister Sisters* (1994) and *Fun with Sausage* (1984), both by Ingrid Wichita; and *Halloweenie* (Bill Daughton, 1985)—as well as the restored *What Really Happened to Baby Jane* (1963) by the Gay Girls Riding Club, an LA based all-male social club.

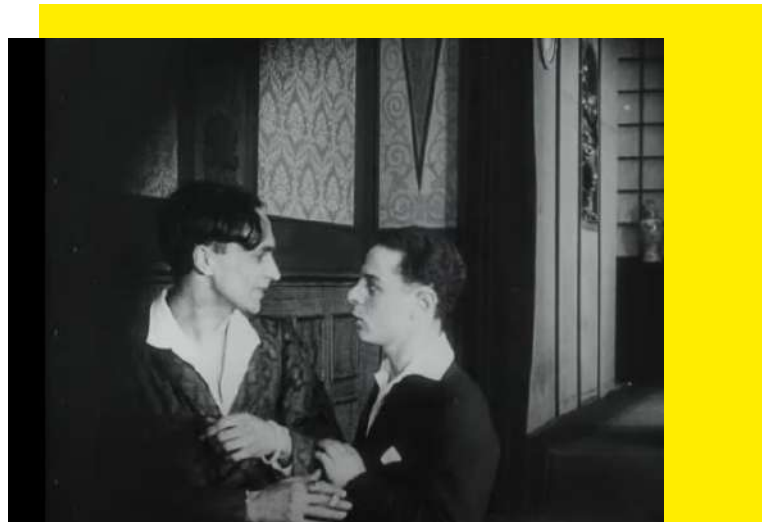
In the Life *Signing On, Signing Off*. In December of 2020, the Archive celebrated the Emmy-nominated, groundbreaking LGBTQ+ newsmagazine, *In the Life*, featuring segments from its 20-year history.



In the Life producers John Catania, Charles Ignacio and Jacqueline Gares, moderated by Kerri Stoughton-Jackson, Deputy Director of Outfest.

Different from the Others

At long last, after years of painstaking restoration paid for by AJK, the landmark silent gay film, *Different from the Others* (Anders als die Andern, 1919), was exhibited with musical accompaniment by composer and musician Cliff Retallick. Widely considered the first feature made for a gay male audience, this historic presentation was enjoyed by a global audience of over 400.



Split: Portrait of a Drag Queen (1993) In April, the Archive screened Ellen Fisher-Turk and Andrew Weeks's 1993 documentary *Split: Portrait of a Drag Queen*, depicting the life and personae of pioneering New York-based transgender performer International Chrysis. Archive programmer Paul Malcolm was joined by Fisher-Turk and entertainers Teri Paris and Steven "Perfidia" Kirkhamand for a conversation about Chrysis's legacy.



Filmmaker Ellen Fisher-Turk, drag performer Steven "Perfidia" Kirkhamand and entertainer Teri Paris, moderated by Archive Film Programmer Paul Malcolm.

"I'm Already Liberated": An Iconographic Talk with Zackary Drucker, concluded the 2021 series. This inspiring film was exhibited in combination with a trio of performances from Jimmy/Jenifer Michaels, star of the Penelope Spheeris films *I Don't Know* (1970) and *Hats Off to Hollywood* (1972), and also the subject of Pat Rocco's 1970 documentary, *Changes*. Excerpts from the three films appeared alongside a digital scan of the 1994 documentary, *Trans*, and Drucker's own *At Least You Know You Exist* (2011), recently preserved by the Archive. The event was followed by Q&A with Trans filmmaker Sophie Constantinou and a post-program discussion with Archive film programmer K.J. Relth-Miller.



Filmmaker Sophie Constantinou and artist-filmmaker Zackary Drucker

Outfest UCLA Legacy Project Digital Preservation

With AJK Foundation funding, the following titles were scanned and digitally preserved in 2021:



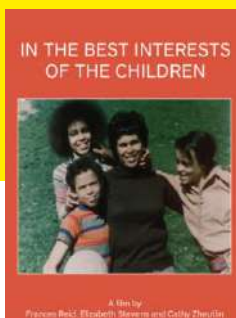
AFTER THE BREAK (1994, Mary Guzmán) – from the Archive's 16mm A/B Rolls. This dramatic short depicts a lesbian group therapy session



GRETA'S GIRLS (1978, Greta Schiller) – from the Archive's 16mm A/B Rolls. This film is thought to be the first independent short to focus on the domestic life of an interracial lesbian couple



STUCK (2001, Jamie Babbit) – from the Archive's 35mm A/B Rolls. A short film about two women in a long-term relationship takes an unexpected and idiosyncratic turn during a desert road trip.



IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILDREN (1977, Frances Reid) – from the Archive's 16mm A/B Rolls. This moving documentary follows lesbian mothers in their fight for custody

In addition to supporting access to these four queer/female-produced Outfest/ UCLA Legacy Project titles for virtual and theatrical programming, AJK paid for digital access copies, available from the UCLA Archive Research and Study Center.

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.



AJK has supported OCSA's Film & TV Conservatory for so long, that much of what students learn and produce involves equipment, facilities and opportunities underwritten by our grants.

In Spring of 2021, Students returned to campus and in-person production after a year of virtual activity. (Virtual and hybrid options remain available as appropriate and needed.) Those enrolled in TV Production III got to work live-taping the Music Conservatory's Original Showcase, inspired by NPR's "Tiny Desk" series.

Spring Cineplex 2021: DRIVE IN!

In a first for OCSA, conservatory projects were shown in a drive-in movie setting hosted by Frida Cinema at FLIGHT in Tustin. Students, their families, friends and neighbors watched from cars at a pop-up theater atop a parking structure. The Drive-In was a grace note for Seniors whose lives and educations have been upended by the pandemic. But out of adversity, they delivered some of the best work in recent memory.

Enjoy a sampling of our Senior Projects here:

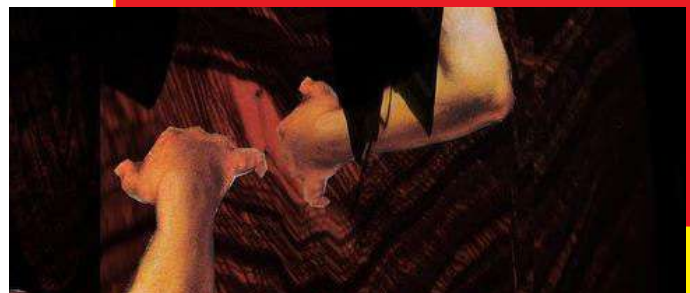
Pho — A boy reconnects with his culture and family through food.



The Omega — A young man learns how to find closure after a traumatic event.



Afterlife — An experimental meditation on interpersonal connection and memory.



The Other — A man and woman find themselves locked in battle in a mysterious hotel.



For the season finale last May, at the end of the first Pandemic year, FTC Seniors Ellie Weber, Angel Arellano, Ethan Chu and Ren Collantes produced a short film about how they and their classmates began their filmmaking journeys. Entitled **"Start to Finish,"** the film was streamed live and broadcast outside Segerstrom Concert Hall.

[Watch Start to Finish here](#)



After a Summer of Delta Variant, students returned to campus with plenty of content to program the annual Back to School Film Festival. From stop-motion to documentaries to horror shorts, nearly two hours of material distilled the summer creativity of students grades 7 to 12.

FTV's Back to School Film Festival 2021, Picture courtesy of Dago Pineda



Senior Film Showcase – Class of 2022

Every Fall, OCSA hosts a Senior Showcase and Mixer with representatives from film schools as part of its College Fair. This October, as in 2020, the event was virtual, so students created a website to showcase the work of those graduating this Spring.

Get to know the OCSA FTV Seniors via photos, visual creativity and personal statements. [Click here.](#)



Killer on the Loose

Music Video (4:02)

A film by Nona Nishigawara

Sometimes a romance can feel a little like a horror movie. Or is it the other way around?



Janebeans

Documentary (5:01)

A film by Avery Cather

Living the life of vagabond has its ups and downs



Popular Music Original Showcase

Music Broadcast (13:13)

Produced by Lauren Stiles

Seventeen Popular Music Conservatory students wrote their own original songs and then made mini music videos that were combined into a live streamed music broadcast. Three of them are showcased above.

Student and Alumni Accomplishments.

Awards, honors, prizes and acclaim rained down on OCSA students in 2021 as they do every year.



•Soren Almeida ('22) was selected as the 2021 Student Artist for Photography at the Laguna Beach Art-A-Fair.



•David Du's ('24) animated film "Incent City" screened at the LA Underground Film Forum.



•Ella Jerrier's ('25) film "The Waiting Room" was exhibited at the Newport Beach Film Festival.

These FTV students and alums were recognized by the national YoungArts Competition 2022:

- Younging Jiang ('22) - Finalist, winner of a \$10,000 prize.
- Ethan Chu ('21) - Finalist and winner of a \$5,000 prize.
- Ren Collantes ('21) – Honorable Mention

Check out the details [here](#).

On other fronts, Anirudh Kota's ('22) film "Perfect" screened at the ARFF Berlin International Film Festival. Kota was also one of three winners of the Lockdown Script Writing Contest sponsored by Notre Dame High School & the Dr. Barbara Seniors Harkins Foundation. Eric Zhu ('22) won 2nd Place at the National Guild Piano Competition and received a special High School diploma in Social Music. Arhana Singhanian ('22) showed her film "Pan-chi" at the Chicago South Asian Film Festival which she also attended in person.

Once again, OCSA students distinguished themselves at The All American High School Film Festival, where FTV student work wowed audiences and judges in New York City. The following alums were nominees and/or prize winners: Nolan Trifunovic ('21), "The Other;" Ethan Chu ('21), "Pho;" Allee Stone ('20), "Tess & Dodi," Rem Collantes ('21) "Dream of Ambivalence," Ellie Weber's "The Omega" and "Run Away" by Noah Frech ('21).

Academy Museum Field Trip:

Renowned for their educational globe-trotting, FTV students enjoyed their first field trip in two years this past October. Making the short, but arduous trek up the 405 to Los Angeles, OCSA scholars enjoyed a guided tour of the spherical and spectacular Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.



At The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures