

CELEBRATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER HISTORY MONTH

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS February 2010



Tower Hamlets Partnership



A large print version of this document is available on request.

For more information on any events in the booklet including accessibility requirements or to find out more about the work of Tower Hamlets LGBT Forum contact:

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London Borough of Tower Hamlets
020 7364 4979
mohammed.choudhury@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Introduction

Welcome to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) History Month information brochure 2010. The following pages include details about lots of events planned for this February. It will be an exciting few weeks, with plenty going on for everybody to enjoy.

The theme for LGBT History Month 2010 is Museums, Libraries and the Arts and this is reflected in the range of exhibitions, screenings and talks happening in local libraries and Idea Stores. There's also a varied programme of other activities and projects, many of which continue beyond February, providing ways to get involved all year 'round.

This is the first year that Tower Hamlets and Hackney councils have joined up to list events in both boroughs together. We know that people don't always live, socialise, work, study and play in the same borough and we want to give you maximum choice about where and how you celebrate LGBT History Month.

As well as the events listed here, you can access constantly updated information about other activities online. So make sure you keep in touch with the latest listings throughout February at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk or www.hackney.gov.uk

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Events

LGBT Teaching & Learning Resources Evening

Date: Thursday 4th February

Time: 4pm-6pm

Venue: Professional Development Centre, English Street,
London E3 4TA

Tower Hamlets Schools Library Services and the Humanities Education Centre are hosting a resources evening for those working with children and for parents and carers to browse through the LGBT resources for nursery, primary and secondary schools. The collection includes story books, information books and DVDs that portray different types of families and that facilitate discussion. HEC will demonstrate the LGBT web-pages for young people on www.eastendeye.org.uk/LGBT. Light refreshments will be provided.

FREE

Contact:

Gillian Harris | 020 7364 6428 | Gillian.harris@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Rainbow Parents 2nd Year Celebration

Date: Sunday 7th February

Time: 12pm-2pm

Venue: Positive East Stepney, 159 Mile End Road,
E1 4AQ

Rainbow Parents is a support and social group for lesbian and gay parents who live, work, study or socialise in Tower Hamlets or nearby. We meet on the first Sunday of the month, please contact us by phone or email for further details.

We will be marking our 2nd Birthday during LGBT History Month 2010 with entertainment from Magic Sam and delicious refreshments. Come along to help us celebrate and meet with other lesbian and gay parents.

This event is funded by London Borough of Tower Hamlets Children, Schools and Families Directorate.

Contact:

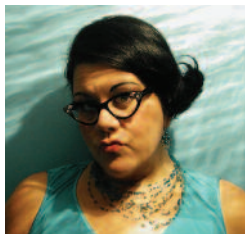
Rosie Green | 07506 012282 | rainbowparents@googlemail.com

LGBT History Month Celebration

Date: Friday 12th February 2010

Time: 6pm

Venue: Rich Mix, 35 - 47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA



The main event for your History Month diary 2010!

Multi-talented, multi-media, multi-award-winning presenter and performer Amy Lamé will be our star host for a fabulous free event where everyone's welcome.

Join us for stunning entertainment and music, enlightening speeches and delicious food. Be part of LGBT History Month in your community and get the low-down on local networks, services and groups like the Tower Hamlets LGBT Community Forum.

Get in touch for full details of the evening's programme or check out the website for this and other events in the area during History Month 2010.

FREE

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk

Contact:

Mohammed Choudhury | 020 7364 4979 |
mohammed.choudhury@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Authors' Panel Discussion: Gay Identity and Homophobia

Date: Thursday 18th February 2010

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm

Venue: 4th floor, Idea Store Whitechapel,
321 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BU

As part of our celebration of LGBT History Month, we are holding a panel discussion with three prominent gay writers. Come and join in our debate on Gay Identity and Homophobia. Appearing on the panel are:

Writer and Performer **Stella Duffy**, the author of eleven novels, including both literary fiction and crime fiction. Her latest, *The Room of Lost Things*, was nominated for the Orange Prize and won the Stonewall Award 2008.

Max Schaefer, whose first novel is *Children of the Sun*.

The host for the evening is **Paul Burston**. The author of four novels, including *Shameless*, *Lovers & Losers* (shortlisted for the Stonewall Award 2007) and his latest, *The Gay Divorcee*. He also hosts London's gay literary salon, *Polari*, at the Southbank.

(You must be 18 or over to attend. Refreshments available.)

FREE

Contact:

Jefferey Smith-Hayzer | 020 7364 1732 |
jeffrey.smith-hayzer@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Post Valentine's Day Special

Date: Thursday 18th February

Time: 6.30pm - 8pm

Venue: CLR James Library, 24 – 30 Dalston Lane,
London, E8 3AZ

The Love that dares not...

As part of our celebration of LGBT History Month 2010 Hackney Libraries invites you to join us for an evening of love poems from LGBT writers. Poets Peter Daniels and Sharon Morris perform a selection of their work.

FREE

Contact:

For more information visit www.hackney.gov.uk/cl-libraries-whats-on or call 020 8356 3000 and ask for your local library.

Hidden Archives 2010 + Behind the Mask

Date: Thursday 18th February

Time: 6pm - 7.30pm

Venue: Hackney Museum, Ground Floor, Technology and Learning Centre, 1 Reading Lane, E8 1GQ

Hackney's conflict and arts company deep:black will join us again to celebrate LGBT History Month and our current Behind The Mask exhibition. How much of our identity is still hidden behind a mask? What mask do we choose?

With this instant art session we hope to unveil some of the precious stories of the LGBT community.

Contact:

020 8356 3500 | info@hackney.gov.uk

**Celebrate LGBT History Month with Poet,
Roger N.Taber [Ages 16+]**

Date: Friday 19th February

Time: 7pm - 8.30pm

Venue: Bethnal Green Library, Cambridge Heath Road,
London, E2 OHL

Roger N. Taber was born in Kent in 1945 and has a growing reputation as a poet. Some 500+ poems have appeared in various poetry publications world-wide. His 6th major collection will be available in the spring. A gay man, his poems (and fiction) often reflect issues about sexuality among many other contemporary themes.

Refreshments available.

FREE

Contact:

Richard Bolt | 020 8980 3902/6274 | richard.bolt@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Lesbian Love/Hate Letters

Date: Wednesday 24th February

Time: 7pm (90 mins)

Venue: Women's Library, London Metropolitan University,
Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT

Do lesbians have a special relationship to letters, a writing practice that Virginia Woolf described as 'the humane art that owes its origin to the love of friends'?

Come and share your thoughts on letters and letter relationships at an evening with Margaretta Jolly, whose book *In Love and Struggle: Letters in Contemporary Feminism* explores the history of women's correspondence since 1970.

£8/ £6 concessions

Contact:

020 7320 2222 | moreinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY



Reading by Rupert Smith

Date: Thursday 25th February

Time: 7pm-8.30pm

Venue: 4th floor, Idea Store Whitechapel,
321 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BU

Join us for our author event where we will be presented with *Man's World*, the latest novel by **Rupert Smith**, as part of our LGBT Month celebrations. Rupert will be talking us through a visual presentation of his research as well as taking questions and signing copies of his brand new book.

Rupert Smith is the author of ten novels, in his own name and as Rupert James and James Lear, and of several biographies and books about television. He was born in Washington DC, grew up in Surrey and has lived in London since 1978. As well as writing fiction, Rupert has a long career as a journalist, contributing to dailies, weeklies and monthlies in Britain, America and Europe. As a founder of The House of Homosexual Culture, he produces events celebrating LGBT history, art and literature in venues around London and the UK.

(You must be 18 or over to attend. Refreshments available)

FREE

Contact:

Jefferey Smith-Hayzer | 020 7364 1732 |
jeffrey.smith-hayzer@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Living Libraries

Date: Saturday 27th February

Time: 12.30pm - 4pm

Venue: Hackney Central Library, 1 Reading Lane E8 1GQ

Come and hear a rich range of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people's experiences and stories.

FREE

Contact:

For more information visit www.hackney.gov.uk/cl-libraries-whats-on or call 020 8356 3000 and ask for your local library.

Standing Together Against Hate

East London is an important site for LGBT heritage and home to communities of different cultures, traditions and histories. Homophobia and transphobia can hold us back as we try to build an area where people live, work and socialise in harmony.

Hackney and Tower Hamlets councils are committed to supporting safe, cohesive and diverse communities.

Residents tell us they want to take a stand against hate crime and to celebrate LGBT people's positive contributions to our communities. We are working together to create opportunities for everyone to show support for our LGBT communities during History Month 2010 and beyond.

Contact:

For more information visit www.hackney.gov.uk/equality-lgbt | 020 8356 4109 | benjamin.smith@hackney.gov.uk

Regular Activities

Pink Law LGBT Legal Advice Service

- Date:** Wednesday 24th February and every last Wednesday of the month
- Time:** 6pm - 8.30pm
- Venue:** Queen Mary University, the Legal Advice Centre, Mile End Road, E1 4NS

Pink Law recognises the lack of free legal advice provided to the LGBT community in the UK. It offers confidential, free advice sessions specifically for the LGBT community for clients with concerns about employment discrimination, cohabitation and civil partnerships.

Please telephone for an appointment. Drop-in advice not offered.

FREE

Contact:

The Legal Advice Centre Office | 020 7882 3668 |
legaladvicecentre@qmul.ac.uk

Step Forward (Tower Hamlets)

Step Forward is an organisation that provides information and support to all young people aged 11-25. As part of our service we run the **Step Out Youth Project**.

Opening Times:

Monday – Friday for all services. Step Out Drop-in and group Tuesdays 5-8pm.

Venue: Step Forward, 234 Bethnal Green Road, E2

The Step Out Project based at Step Forward is a free and confidential service for young lesbian, gay and bisexual people under 25 and those questioning their sexuality. We provide individual support and group work activities in a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment. Call or come to a drop-in session to find out more.

FREE

Contact:

Step Forward | 020 7739 3082 | www.stepforward-web.org

Support for Older Lesbians and Gay Men

Isolation and loneliness are often experienced by older lesbians and gay men. Come along to our monthly social get together in Tower Hamlets for older lesbians and gay men to socialise, exchange views and meet new friends.

FREE

Contact:

Christine Sheppard | 0207 183 2996 | christine.sheppard@acth.org.uk

Age Concern's Opening Doors project supports older lesbians and gay men. Our Older Gay Men's Group continues to be a success meeting on the 2nd and the last Tuesday evenings of the month.

FREE

Contact:

Nick Maxwell | 020 7239 0419 | N.Maxwell@ageconcerncamden.org.uk

Positive East

Location: Positive East Stepney, 159 Mile End Road,
E1 4AQ

Positive East provides support services for anyone affected by HIV who lives in or receives HIV treatment in East London. Our aim is to create a safe environment for people to come and receive peer and professional support.

We provide a wide range of services in the local community and we will be offering activities to mark LGBT History Month 2010. For dates and details or more information about our services call or email us.

Contact:

020 7791 2855 | info@positiveeast.org.uk

Tower Hamlets LGBT Community Forum

The Tower Hamlets Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Forum is for those who live, love, socialise, study, worship, or work in the borough. The Forum provides a network for LGBT people in Tower Hamlets, a way for LGBT people to get involved in our communities and to shape the services on offer in the borough.

The Forum is currently changing how it works to offer more ways for you to get involved. It's a great time to join us in making Tower Hamlets a better place so get in touch to find out more.

Contact:

Mohammed Choudhury | 020 7364 4979 | mohammed.choudhury@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Dockyard Doris opens the Carousel Bar, Shakespeare pub, Bethnal Green. Friday 10th November 1995.

Walk Proud LGBT History Project

Join River Cultures and Proud Heritage in an exciting new project to collect memories of East London lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans life.

East London lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans lives have largely gone unrecorded in the archives and museums. Now, thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, we've teamed up to change that, with your help.



Joanne Evans, Hackney Women's Football Club coach. Circa 2002

We need volunteers, young and old, to help collect stories and memorabilia.

And of course, we need people to come forward to recount their stories about LGBT life: from Hackney or Tower Hamlets; through Newham, Waltham Forest, Barking & Dagenham, and Redbridge; and out to Havering in Zone 6.

Tell us about the people and places, the venues, sports, groups and the events. Talk us through your memories. Share your photos, papers and mementoes.

As East Londoners ourselves, we know the extraordinary richness of LGBT history on our doorstep. Walk proud and help us to make sure each borough in East London knows it too!

Contact:

020 7278 0102 | 07846 614691 | eastlondon@proudheritage.org

Images courtesy Millivres Prowler Group archive for ProudHeritage.

Exhibitions

Out in Time

This fascinating exhibition depicting the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans history of the East End will be touring around venues in Tower Hamlets during February.

Date: Monday 1st February

Venue: Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG

Date: Tuesday 2nd – Sunday 7th February

Venue: Idea Store Canary Wharf, Churchill Place, London, E14 5RB

Date: Monday 8th - Saturday 13th February

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, Bancroft Library, 277 Bancroft Road, London, E1 4DQ

Date: Monday 15th - Thursday 18th February

Venue: Idea Store Whitechapel, 321 Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BU

Date: Friday 19th – Saturday 20th February

Venue: Bethnal Green Library, Cambridge Heath Road, London, E2 OHL

22 | LGBT History Month

Date: Monday 22nd - Sunday 28th February

Venue: Chrisp Street Idea Store, 1 Vesey Path,
East India Dock Road, London, E14 6BT

FREE

Exhibition schedule may be subject to change. For confirmation before your visit contact us.

Contact:

Mohammed Choudhury | 020 7364 4979 |
mohammed.choudhury@towerhamlets.gov.uk



The pink map of Tower Hamlets

LGBT History Month @ Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

Date: Throughout February

Venue: Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives,
277 Bancroft Road, London, E1 4DQ.

An exhibition of original materials from Tower Hamlets' archives and local history library collections reflecting LGBT histories in the East End. On display in the exhibition cases on the first floor during opening hours.

FREE

Contact:

020 7364 1290 | localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Pink Paperbacks [Ages 18+]

Date: Throughout February

Venue: Idea Store Canary Wharf, Churchill Place,
London, E14 5RB

An exhibition about gay & lesbian writers and their history.

FREE

Contact:

020 7364 4332 | ideastore@towerhamlets.gov.uk

LGBT Families Exhibition

Date: Monday 22nd February - Monday 22nd March

Venue: Idea Store Chrisp Street, 1 Vesey Path, East India Dock Road, London, E14 6BT

Join us as we celebrate the lives and achievements of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

FREE

Contact:

020 7364 4332 | ideastore@towerhamlets.gov.uk

LGBT Teaching & Learning Resources Display

Date: Throughout February

Venue: Professional Development Centre, English Street, London E3 4TA

Tower Hamlets Schools Library Service provides a display of LGBT resources for nursery, primary and secondary schools at the PDC.

FREE

Contact:

Gillian Harris | 020 7364 6428 | Gillian.harris@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Performance & Screenings

LGBT Month Film Screenings

Venue: Idea Store Bow, 1 Gladstone Place,
Roman Road, Bow, London E3 5ES

In celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month we will be showing a film every week. Free popcorn!

Gods and Monsters (Cert 15)

Date: Wednesday 3rd February

Time: 6pm - 9pm

Kinky Boots (Cert 12)

Date: Wednesday 10th February

Time: 6pm - 9pm

Transamerica (Cert 15)

Date: Wednesday 17th February

Time: 6pm - 9pm

Milk (Cert 15)

Date: Wednesday 24th February

Time: 6pm - 9pm

Contact:

020 7364 4332 | ideastore@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Half Moon present: Begin/End

- Dates:** National Tour 3rd February-27th March 2010
(Press performance: Thursday 4th February 7pm)
- Venues:** around the country including dates in Tower Hamlets (see below)



Half Moon's brand new show *Begin/End* is an exciting fusion of new writing and multimedia performance for 14+ audiences. The show opens at Half Moon, London E1 on 3rd February 2010 before embarking on a national tour.

Begin/End centres on the friendship of Lili (Amy Costello) and Yaz (Rachel McKenzie) who are struggling

with their identities. Their friendship offers a form of escapism from their problems at home and school and they become an inseparable gang of two. However the intensity of their relationship reaches breaking point when Lili develops unreciprocated feelings for Yaz.

David Lane's script has been developed in consultation with young people and speaks with the authenticity of their voices. Directed by Angela Michaels, *Begin/End* is a compelling piece of drama in which betrayal and loss of

trust can mean that sometimes even the greatest friendships just end. The play is set within the transformative designs of Anna Harding.

The multimedia production features the visceral artform VJing not often explored in theatre – blending the original soundtrack composed by Ed Thomas with projected video and imagery created by Paul Hithersay of Addictive TV.

Begin/End will be performing from 3rd – 9th February at Half Moon's East London venue as well as touring nationally until 27th March. Tickets are now available for all performances at Half Moon - call 020 7709 8900 or visit the website www.halfmoon.org.uk to book.

**Half Moon, 43 White Horse,
London E1 0ND**



020 7709 8900 | www.halfmoon.org.uk

All tickets £5

Wednesday 3rd February 2pm

Thursday 4th February 4.30pm & 7pm

Friday 5th February 10.30am & 1.30pm

Monday 8th February 4.30pm 7pm

Tuesday 9th February 1.30pm & 4.30pm

Rich Mix, London E1 6LA

020 7613 7498 | www.richmix.org.uk

Tickets £8/£5



Saturday 27th February 7.30pm



Moonfleece

Dates: Tuesday 2nd March - Saturday 13th March/
7.30pm (except Monday 8 March)
Sunday 7th March/6pm
Saturday 6th and 13th March / 3pm Matinee
Thursday 11th March / 2pm Matinee

Venue: Venue 1, Rich Mix 35 - 47 Bethnal Green Road,
London, E1 6LA

£15 / £12 concessions / Group prices available

An abandoned home. A lost brother. An East End tower block. A secret love story. In this award-winning play, families and friendships are splintered by the politics of

race, sexuality and money as a new generation encounters a world torn apart by the adults. Followed by a series of post-show discussions and debates on Friday 5th, Tuesday 9th, Wednesday 10th and Friday 12th March to explore issues raised by Moonfleece.

Contact:

020 7613 7498 | info@richmix.org.uk | www.richmix.org.uk



Various projects for young people (year 9 and above) will run alongside 'Moonfleece', including:

- The chance for two school/college groups to devise a play with Moonfleece's creative team for performance at Rich Mix.
- A competition for unsigned musicians/bands to submit work inspired by East London – with a chance of it appearing in the production.
- A textiles / fashion competition to create the Moonfleece jacket itself.

For more information or to get involved, contact Ben Monks: ben@supportingwall.com or 07789 962 725

**Spoken Words/Lovesongs for Extinct Creatures/
Part of Philip Ridley Season**

Date: Sunday 7th March

Time: 8pm

Venue: Venue 2, Rich Mix - 47 Bethnal Green Road,
London, E1 6LA

£3

Here, for one evening only, **Philip Ridley** will read sequences of his own poems that chart the journey of a love affair; from wanting love through to the grief of losing that love.



In Conversation/Philip Ridley

Date: Monday 8th March

Time: 6pm

Venue: Screen 2, Rich Mix - 47 Bethnal Green Road,
London, E1 6LA

Followed by screening of 'Heartless'

£8 / £6 concessions

A writer and film-maker, East Londoner Philip Ridley won the Evening Standard award for Best Newcomer to Film for his screenplay 'The Krays'. He has written and directed three films: 'The Reflecting Skin' (1990), 'The Passion of Darkly Noon' (1995) and 'Heartless' (2010).

+ FILM / Heartless

90mins / cert 15

Cast: Jim Sturgess, Timothy Spall, Clemence Poesy
Urban-horror focussing on Jamie Morgan, a young man with a large heart-shaped birthmark on his face, who discovers that there are demons on the streets of East London.

