



Volume 25, Issue 10

October 2025

www.GayDayton.org



Events
Articles
Calendar


OUT HERE DAYTON FILM FEST

REEL QUEER FOR 20 YEARS

OCTOBER 9-12
OUTHEREDAYTON.ORG



Calendar of Events



Oct. 2	6:00 PM	Rainbow Elder Care	Center
Oct. 3	6:00 PM	Greater Dayton LGBT Center Board Meeting	Center
Oct. 3	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Oct. 6	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Group	Center
Oct. 8	6:00 PM	Q+ Youth Center Activities Group	*Center
Oct. 8	7:00 PM	Pozitive Attitudes HIV support group	*Zoom
Oct. 9	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Oct. 9-12	7:00 PM	OUT HERE Dayton Film Fest	Neon Theater
Oct. 11	National Coming Out Day		
Oct. 13	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Group	Center
Oct. 14	6:30 PM	PFLAG Dayton monthly meeting	Center
Oct. 16	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Oct. 17	7:00 PM	Dungeons and Dragons (game night)	Center
Oct. 20	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Group Meets	Center
Oct. 21	5:00 PM	FREE HIV Testing till 8 PM	Center
Oct. 21	7:00 PM	Gatlyn Dame Group	Center
Oct. 22	7:00 PM	Pozitive Attitudes HIV support group	*Zoom
Oct. 23	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center
Oct. 24	7:00 PM	Religious Trauma Support Group	Center
Oct. 25	11:30 AM	Coffee and Conversation	Center
Oct. 27	7:00 PM	LGBTQ AA Group Meets	Center
Oct. 28	6:00 PM	Q+ Youth Center Support Group	Center
Oct. 30	7:00 PM	Yoga at the Center	Center

**For Info/Link call or email the Center at:
(937) 274-1776 or info@DaytonLGBTcenter.org*



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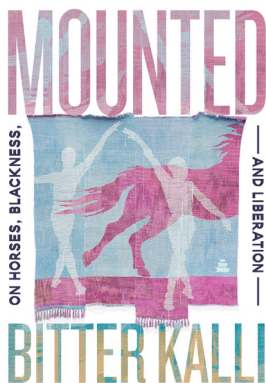
Book Reviews

by: Terri Schlichenmeyer

aka: "The Book Worm"

bookwormsez@yahoo.com

"Mounted: On Horses, Blackness, and Liberation" by Bitter Kalli. 2025, Amistad \$22.00 192 pages



One thousand, two hundred pounds and four legs.

Put that between your knees and you'll find out what real horsepower is. You're five feet off the ground, moving as fast as a car on a downtown street, hooves pounding as hard as your heart. Dangerous? Maybe. But as you'll see in **"Mounted"** by **Bitter Kalli**, your ancestors did it and so can you.

When they were a young child, "around the age of six or seven," someone gave Bitter Kalli a set of "pony books," the kind that appeal to young girls, mostly white ones. Kalli wasn't entirely comfortable identifying as a girl then but they adored the books, in part because the stories featured the kinds of friendships and acceptance Kalli wanted. After devouring those stories, they begged their parents for riding lessons from a nearby Brooklyn stable.

Fast forward to 2014, when Kalli was seventeen years old, an experienced equestrian, a trans individual, and a protester at college. During that protest, they watched the horses that carried the police, and wondered what those animals saw in the crowd.

For that matter, what did horses see throughout Black history?

In times of slavery, it was not uncommon for fleeing slaves to steal a horse or two to get away faster. Kalli shares heart-pounding tales of escape, sharing examples of how human chattel was often compared to that of equines in newspaper ads, as slaveholders mourned the latter loss much deeper than the former.

Many Americans are unaware of the rich contributions that African Americans made to the settling of the West. Kalli examines a popular movie,

deconstructing it and adding real history to the Hollywood tale.

"What we know as the Wild West would not exist without the 182,000 enslaved people living in Texas in 1860..." they say.

Horses are featured in many of the world's religions. Horsey language lends itself to the erotic. Even, says Kalli, "Black and brown youth in Brooklyn" understood the appeal of a good-looking Polo pony...

Take a good study of the cover of "Mounted." Appreciate the artwork, notice the design. Then add this book to your "Things I Never Really Thought About" list, because you'll think about it now. And you're going to want to read every delicious word.

Horses have been hiding in plain sight in Black history for centuries, but author Bitter Kalli pulls them to the forefront, turning each facet of the subject over for deeper examination and additional thought. Happily, you won't feel forced to do that; their writing comes across like an invitation to a warm, intimate conversation, the kind you get while casually hanging out with a new group of friends on the patio. What you learn is highly intriguing, and you won't ever see horses in the same way again.

Beware that this book has one explicit chapter inside, but it fits the narrative and you won't mind. You'll be too busy enjoying what you read and wanting more. For horse lovers and history lovers alike, "Mounted" is the perfect ride.

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October 11th, is National Coming Out Day!

National Coming Out Day, celebrated every October 11, is more than just a date on the calendar—it's a powerful reminder that living openly and authentically can be a transformative experience. If you are a part of the LGBTQ+ community and you feel ready and safe, coming out on this day can be a deeply affirming and empowering step.


Coming out is personal. There's no one-size-fits-all timeline or journey, and you should never feel pressured to do it before you're ready. But if you are in a supportive environment and feel emotionally and physically safe, National Coming Out Day offers a sense of solidarity. You're not alone—thousands of others across the country are also taking brave steps toward living their truth.

Visibility matters. When more people come out, it helps break down stereotypes and challenges misinformation. It allows others—friends, family, coworkers—to put a face to the LGBTQ+ community, making acceptance more personal and impactful. Your story might even inspire someone else who's struggling with their identity.


On a personal level, coming out can bring a sense of relief and self-acceptance. Hiding a key part of who you are can be emotionally exhausting. Being open, even with just one trusted person, can reduce that burden and help you build deeper, more honest connections.

It's important to remember that safety comes first. If coming out would put you at risk—physically, emotionally, or financially—it's okay to wait. You are still valid, no matter where you are on your journey.

Ultimately, coming out is about claiming your story on your own terms. And if you're ready and safe, National Coming Out Day can be the perfect moment to do just that.



"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are"
— *E.E. Cummings*



Out Here Film Fest 2025: Twenty Years of Queer Cinema in Dayton

From October 9 through 12, 2025, Dayton's downtown will once again transform into a hub of queer film and storytelling as the 20th annual Out Here Dayton Film Fest takes center stage at THE NEON. This milestone edition honors two decades of amplifying LGBTQIA+ voices on the big screen, while also pointing forward—curating new, bold work that reflects the evolving landscape of queer lives, culture, and resistance.

A Legacy of Visibility and Community

Since its founding, Out Here Dayton has aimed to provide not just film screenings, but a gathering space for queer minds and hearts in the Miami Valley. Over its first 19 years, the festival screened 337 films and hosted 57 guest artists.

The name “Out Here” itself signals a desire to bridge the margins—not simply “LGBT films in Dayton,” but a plural, expansive platform for narratives “out here” in the world, reflecting intersectional identities and lived experience.

According to Festival Director Jonathan McNeal, the festival is more than entertainment: it is community infrastructure. In a time when queer expression in many places faces pressure, Out Here Dayton's 20th anniversary carries weight as both celebration and affirmation.

Programming Highlights: 24 Films, 9 Programs

This year features 24 short and feature-length films across 9 distinct screening blocks, weaving together documentaries, narrative features, experimental work, and short films from multiple nations.

The selections were chosen to evoke laughter, provoke reflection, and spark conversation, with stories that traverse race, class, gender, family, and activism.

Here are a few standouts from the announced schedule:

Opening Night, Thu, Oct 9, 7:30 PM -Highlights: Outerlands (Dir. Elena Oxman) — a 100-minute film about a gig worker in San Francisco

negotiating care, risk, and emotional labor.

Friday (Oct 10, 7:30 PM): Blue Moon (Dir. Richard Linklater) screens, preceded by a short film I'm the Most Racist Person I Know (Dir. Leela Varghese).

Saturday Highlights:

- The Librarians (Dir. Kim A. Snyder) — a timely documentary on librarians defending intellectual freedom amid waves of book banning.
- Top Drawer Shorts — a collection including Sweet Talkin' Guy, Safety State, Thanks Babs, and more.
- We Are Pat — revisiting the iconic SNL "It's Pat" sketch in a trans lens.
- Queens of the Dead — a horror-comedy blending queerness and camp, featuring names like Margaret Cho.

Sunday (Oct 12):

- State of Firsts (Dir. Chase Joynt) — following the campaign of Sarah McBride, the first transgender member of Congress.
- #300LETTERS — closing the festival with an Argentine film about love, absence, and communication.
- Also included: In the Best Interests of the Children, Lesbian Custody, Old Girl in a Tutu: Susan Rennie Disrupts Art History, among other shorts.

Beyond the screenings, the festival will host a Friday Night Party at Joui Wine (117 E. 3rd St.), offering a social gathering space for attendees after the films.

Logistics, Access & Support

Venue & Seating: All screenings are held at The NEON in downtown Dayton. Seating is open (not reserved), but "All Access" passholders and sponsors will receive priority seat selection. Tickets and passes are sold online via [the festival website](#) and the Neon Box office.

A festival pass grants entry to all 9 screenings and the opening-night party. Single tickets for individual screenings are sold online and at The NEON's

box office.

Scholarships are offered so that cost is not a barrier for community members who wish to attend. **Parking & Location:** Free parking is available directly across the street from The NEON. The theater is surrounded by restaurants and amenities within walking distance.

Why This Year Matters

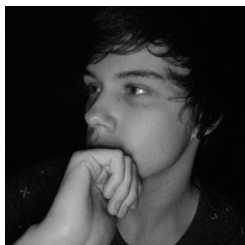
Reaching a 20-year milestone is no small feat for a regional queer film festival. For the organizers, it's a moment to reflect on how stories have evolved—and how the need for gathering spaces endures. As McNeal told The Buckeye Flame, “building strong community is more important than ever... our community is more and more under attack.” The festival's programming emphasizes not only representation, but connection: laughter, advocacy, emotional resonance, and critical engagement. This year's lineup is notable for the diversity of voices and forms. From horror to documentary, experimental shorts to feature narratives—these works defy neat categorization and push viewers to reckon with complexity. The inclusion of local partnerships (like with Dayton Metro Library for The Librarians) also roots the festival in civic engagement. As attention to queer cinema continues to grow nationally, festivals like Out Here Dayton help maintain the vital ecosystem where emerging voices find an audience, and where local communities can see themselves reflected in stories that are not always shown on mainstream screens.

Final Thoughts & How to Participate

Whether you're a longtime fan of queer cinema or a newcomer eager to engage, the 2025 Out Here Dayton Film Fest offers something for everyone: rigorous, funny, challenging, moving. It remains a space to gather, to resist, to celebrate.

Mark your calendar (Oct 9–12), secure your [festival pass or single tickets](#), and plan to arrive early. Follow updates via the festival's Facebook and Instagram for any last-minute changes or special events.

In a changing world, a film festival is more than a lineup—it's a statement: that queer stories matter, that community endures, and that cinema can carry us through. Here's to year 20—and many more.



Poets Corner

by True Hoffman

Howling wolf beneath a white autumn moon
Your mother's fur, and the butterfly's cocoon.

Madness rides down rusted railroad lines,
As the fake summer sun sets for one final time.

Ghostly, ghastly raven rising, high into the rain,
A feathered phoenix filled with knowledge and with pain.

Horror hounds from hell let loose their howling cries,
While pumpkins, pixies, phantoms, people
gather under haunted skies.

Trick-or-treaters tricked for treats—
Mummified youngsters and green goblin feet.
Chocolatey snacks in curved cul-de-sacs,
Jack-o'-lantern jellybeans and tall Skellington Jack.

On October thirty-first, all the vampires thirst,
And the candy-covered streets
Are cleaned by the first—
Vanishing into darkness for a while,
As children hurry home to mix their sweets into a pile.

"I'll trade you Skittles for a Snickers or a Twix,
Or a bat-shaped lollipop for six licorice sticks."
"Wait—what is that? Is that a poison apple chew?"
"I'll give you three eyeball mints
if you're willing to spare two."

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