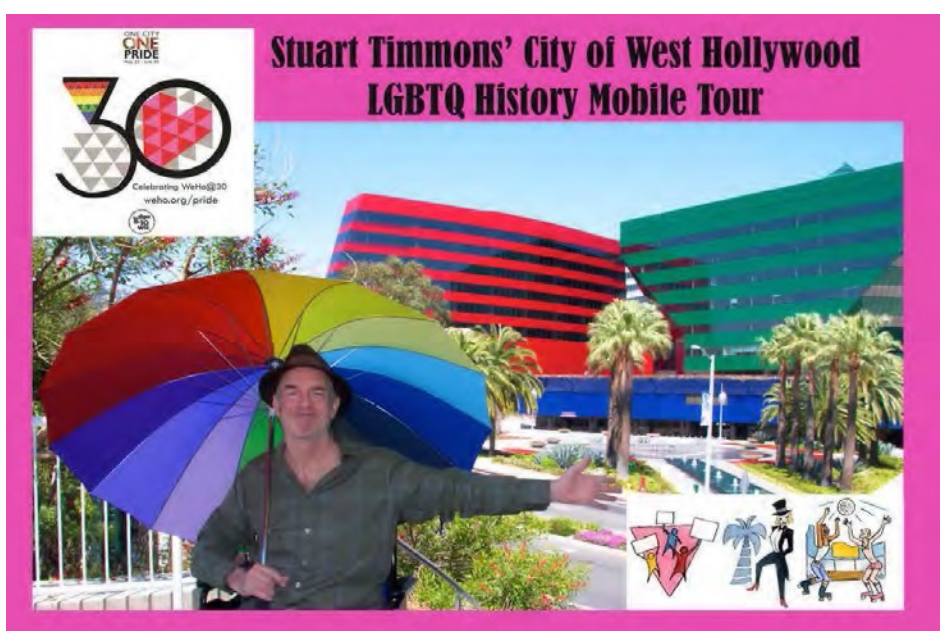


STUART TIMMONS' CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD LGBTQ HISTORY MOBILE TOUR (2017 Edition)



Introduction

Welcome to Stuart Timmons' City of West Hollywood LGBTQ History Mobile Tour. This tour was originally researched and written by our beloved late author/historian Stuart Timmons, and it is in his memory and honor we present it.

In 2007 Stuart began developing a trio of walking tours of LGBTQ History in Los Angeles. He used his years of extensive research, interviews with living witnesses of history, and his experience as an activist and participant in the community history to create the tours. Stuart served briefly as the executive director and on the board of directors of the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, wrote a biography about the gay activist and radical pioneer Harry Hay called "The Trouble with Harry Hay" and co-authored, with Lillian Faderman, the quintessential Los Angeles queer history tome "Gay L.A.: A History of Sexual Outlaws, Power Politics, and Lipstick Lesbians."

Stuart had completed tour documents about Downtown Los Angeles and Silver Lake, but was unable to finish his tour about The City of West Hollywood due to a severe and debilitating stroke in January of 2008.

In 2015, a small team - led by Jason Jenn and with superlative administrative assistance by WeHo Arts Coordinator, Mike Che - helped Stuart to complete the tour, thanks to a grant from The City of West Hollywood's One City One Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival for the 30th Anniversary of cityhood called "WeHo@30".

The original walking tour has evolved over the years to accommodate new information from various changes to "The Creative City" and in order to accommodate the Tour's transformation into a performance art happening involving over a dozen colorfully costumed performance artists delivering the historical material on location. Stuart greatly enjoyed seeing his work adapted in such an entertaining fashion, and helped give his final years a wonderful lift in spirit.

The tour written here was organized to involve a 15-minute shuttle ride that loops around a portion of the city from a loading station at West Hollywood Library to a drop off on Sunset Blvd. Participants then proceed to make their way on Stuart's original walking path following a map and directions for an easily accessible urban hike through the central core of West Hollywood to 9 stopping points of historical presentation.

The Illustrations for this guide were created especially for for Stuart's WeHo LGBTQ Tour and donated by Eugene Salandra.

With Stuart's blessings, some additional written material was compiled and edited for the updated tour by producer/director Jason Jenn. It was crafted to simulate Stuart's witty and at times rather waggish style of writing. The new material is based on additional research and assistance from various cast members, especially Bill Fishman, Robert Patrick, Jane Cantillon, MJ Brown, Joey Jenkins, and Mike Che.

While there are yearly revisions, all writing is © copyright 2007/2015 by Stuart Timmons and gifted to the City of West Hollywood for all to enjoy.



2015 Stuart Tour Cast – photo by Tony Coelho



THE SHUTTLE RIDE START: WEST HOLLYWOOD LIBRARY HEADING EAST ALONG MELROSE

This little City of West Hollywood is saturated with history and amazing architecture. While it is only 1.9 square miles large, there's always a great view here - whether the buildings or the people!

Before this little parcel of land was called West Hollywood, the area was known as the town of Sherman, named for Moses Sherman, who built much of LA's train system (and who Sherman Oaks is named after). Imagine if you would a time when the current Pacific Design Center across the way was once the Pacific Electric Sherman rail yard at the center of a sprawling network of beautiful street cars connecting downtown LA to the ocean!

Railroad workers were among the original population groups of the area. Their charming little bungalows cost only a few hundred dollars to build in the 1910s, but now sell for around a million bucks! Of course, there are also many not so humble buildings. All across WeHo you'll find a vast collection of architectural gems, including many enchanting Spanish/Moorish houses and apartments with courtyards and fountains.

As more movie stars and sophisticates moved into the area, the neighborhood sought to change their rough, working class image and adopt a new name. The Los Angeles Times wrote: *"Like a healthy, outdoor child, Sherman has suddenly burst all her old dresses and thinks while she is getting a wardrobe, suitable for a fully grown girl, she might as well discard plain 'Mary' and become up-to-date 'Marie.'"* They considered calling it "The Magnetic City", but wanted the prestige of Hollywood in their name. So in the mid 1920's, after much debate, the name West Hollywood was adopted.

For an enchanted period between the early 1920s and the 1970s "old" West Hollywood was at its so-called best. At least that's what actor John Carlyle claims. Well, we still feel there are a lot of wonderful things about West Hollywood today! By the way, Carlyle wrote a book called "Under the Rainbow: An Intimate Memoir of Judy Garland, Rock Hudson & My Life in Old Hollywood", but IMDb (The Internet Movie Database) says he's best

known for his role as ‘Shoe Fetish Man’ in the 1991 movie “Whore”. Eh-hem!

Carlye also said that West Hollywood’s denizens were “hell-bent on enjoying what they could not perceive were their halcyon days.”

Halcyon: that means “most enjoyable” days, not days of taking the drug Halcyon, although a lot of that went on as well!

Those were the days when you could hear Judy Garland’s voice wafting into the jasmine-scented night singing at someone’s private party. Or find literary legend Dorothy Parker, on her way home from drinking, passed out in someone’s bush! Or you might get picked up by some impossibly handsome actor, whom most of America would never believe would ever do the things he had just done with you. Woo! That’s WeHo!

Some folks say homos moved here for two reasons: One, because of the tacky old joke that the zip code ends in “69” and two, because as unincorporated county land it was just outside the cruel clutches of the gay-intolerant LAPD. The region known as West Hollywood was always a *somewhat* safer place to hang out for LGBTQ people – and why many people sought to move west in order to live at least with the hope of a more free and happy life under the California sun.

In the early 1980s, a campaign started up for official cityhood. It was driven by a coalition of groups who had more power united than they’d ever thought --- renters, senior citizens, and LGBTQ activists. Together they formed a city with progressive policies and strong tenants’ rights protections.

In the early 80s, Los Angeles County’s rent control laws were about to expire and when faced with this and the possibility of rising rents and a vastly gentrifying neighborhood (Sound like a familiar problem?) West Hollywood area renters banded together to vote for cityhood. The seniors and local gay population, both whom were mostly renters and not owners, became natural allies.

Of course, the immediate focal point that the media latched onto were the gays! Ask yourself - which one catches more attention in the media? “The old city?” Or - “the gay city?”--- GAY!

And so...The City of West Hollywood came into existence on November 29, 1984. Its first five councilmembers were sworn in at **Plummer Park, located at 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.** When Cityhood passed, West Hollywood officially became the first City in the United States with a majority of openly gay elected City Council. All eyes turned to the City of West Hollywood and Valerie Terrigno, the first openly lesbian mayor in the US, became a worldwide celebrity.



“The Creative City” was adopted as West Hollywood’s motto with the understanding that while the LGBT population was very important to its identity and values, WeHo supported the rights and needs of ALL its residents, including large percentages of seniors and Russian-speaking immigrants.

Plummer Park served as the location where many renters’ rights meetings took place prior to Cityhood, and was also a very active meeting area for the AIDS advocacy organization ACT UP - which did you know is an acronym for “AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power”?

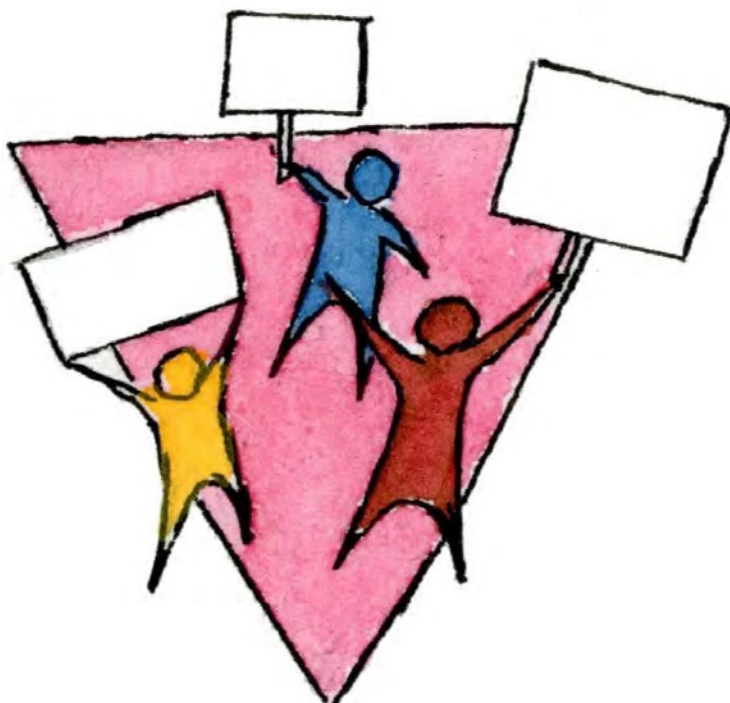
Plummer Park is also where weekly gatherings called “Hayrides” took place, so named because they were organized by New Age healer/metaphysical counselor Louise Hay. While “Hayrides” were controversial to some, these motivational gatherings were essential to many during the height of the AIDS epidemic as a way to heal and connect with community.

SHUTTLE NORTH ON CRESCENT HEIGHTS TO SANTA MONICA BLVD

Louise Hay was also one of the founders of Project Angel Food, a program to deliver food to people debilitated by the AIDS crisis and other critical illnesses. It started in 1989 organized by Course in Miracles guru Marianne Williamson, death-and-dying expert David Kessler, and Hay. Project Angel Food was an outreach program of the LA Center for Living. It first operated out of a kitchen up the street at the Crescent Heights Methodist Church at the intersection of Fountain.

They held several fantastic fundraisers where you could bid on an auction for amazing things - like having David Hockney paint your swimming pool or hosting your birthday party at Michael Jackson’s Neverland Ranch! To meet the growing demand a new Project Angel Food kitchen facility was opened in 1994 located at 7574 Sunset Boulevard and its offices are now located at 922 Vine Street.

The small triangular section of park at the corner of Santa Monica Blvd and Crescent Heights is the location of the Matthew Shepard Human Rights Triangle also known as “Queer Village.” It is a popular and historic area for holding protests, vigils, marches, and where the pride parade route begins.



In 1989 two HIV-positive men named Wayne Karr and Lou Lance held a hunger strike here to demand the compassionate release of experimental AIDS drugs to the public in need. "Queer Nation," a group of radical activists, held their planning meetings in the park, sitting in a circle, like modern day Camelot Knights.

In 1991, Rob Roberts fasted there in support of AB 101, the gay civil rights bill. When Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed the bill, thousands of gays and straights gathered at the site and marched down Santa Monica Blvd to San Vicente where they rallied for five nights. There is a standing plaque commemorating those events and trees are planted there in honor of the activism of Morris Kight and Ivy Bottini.

SANTA MONICA BLVD BETWEEN HAVENHURST & LA JOLLA

The stretch of block on Santa Monica Blvd between Havenhurst and La Jolla is known for its fashionable and affordable "Out of the Closet Thrift Store" outlet – which benefits the AIDS Healthcare Foundation via your recycled clothes and household items. Behind the building is an infamous area widely referred to as "Vaseline Alley," a once active cruising spot for anonymous male sexual encounters. There are many tales to be told on the streets before the days of Grindr.

Today you'll likely find men merely on their way from their cars to other area landmarks, like the Gold Coast bar or across the street to Circus of Books. For over 40 years the eclectic bookstore has sold a mix of X-rated and mainstream materials. Perhaps two of the most unexpected things you'll find in the store are its owners Karen and Barry Mason, a darling older Jewish couple who went from distributing Hustler publications out of the back of their station wagon to taking over the business (formerly Book Circus) from an owner who couldn't properly pay the bills in the mid 1970's.

The adult toys they sell were the subject of numerous "Freedom of Speech" court cases as late as 1992. It now has a large selection of "vintage"

material, which includes the books and magazines it sold when the store opened. We haven't completed all of our historical research on this area just yet though and you're welcome to help us thoroughly investigate. Wink, wink!



And on the corner of Santa Monica & Sweetzer is City Hall and the site of the rather new, first of its kind in the country, automated garage that will actually park your car for you! Just pull up, lock up, and the robotic system moves it around and finds a spot for you and returns it to you as well. It's really quite something and they made it even cooler by including hand-painted artist murals and a community plaza for special events. Hate having to hunt for parking spaces or accumulating tickets for expired meter, well then this \$18million innovative garage just might be the thrill you need!

NORTH ON SWEETZER TO FOUNTAIN ON ROUTE TO SUNSET & LARRABEE

Here in West Hollywood, if you can't be a star, you can at least live next to one. Or at least tell stories that you did. This part of town is teeming with celebrity addresses.

West Hollywood was home to one of the great silent movie hunks, William Haines, who was outed so left stardom behind to live openly with his handsome lover Jimmie Shields. They were known as "the happiest married couple in Hollywood" and their relationship lasted over 40 years until their deaths, both in 1973. Their home on N. Stanley Ave. became a showplace of style when Haines became Hollywood's premier interior decorator. He styled the homes of people such as Joan Crawford, Gloria Swanson, Carole Lombard & even...The Reagans!

There is a very tall old building nearby on Fountain and 1416 Havenhurst called The Colonial House. It is apparently where Hollywood icon Bette Davis lived for years. Several West Hollywood fellows used to like telling the story that they lived in the Colonial building and they kept seeing Miss Davis in the elevator. Finally, one day they conjured up the nerve to invite the movie legend over to dinner, and were delirious when she accepted. They had a delightful evening. A few weeks later, she reciprocated, and the astonished, star-struck queens had another delightful dinner evening at her

place. However, at the end of it, their story goes, Bette turned to them and said, “You’ve had me to dinner and I’ve had you to dinner. Now, I never want to speak to either of you again.”



Famed screenwriter, novelist, and biographer Gavin Lambert who wrote the screenplays to *Sons and Lovers*, *Inside Daisy Clover*, *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, and *I Never Promised You A Rose Garden* lived at North Laurel Ave. near Fountain until his death in July 2005. He was attended by his friend, writer/director Mart Crowley, author of the ground-breaking *Boys in the Band*.

Above Sunset on Kings Road, lived acclaimed and award-winning author Paul Monette, who wrote *Borrowed Time*, *Becoming a Man*, and many other significant works about love in the time of AIDS.

On Cordell Drive was the house of one of the biggest early Hollywood movie directors, M.G.M.'s George Cukor, who made such iconic films like “Little Women,” “A Star Is Born” & “My Fair Lady.” Did you know that he was originally slated to direct “Gone With the Wind?” – that is until its star Clark Gable, always afraid of being associated with anything gay, used his clout to have Cukor fired! Well, that didn’t stop Cukor from holding many notoriously wild parties where closeted movie stars mingled (*and much more*) with the neighborhood’s most attractive men.

Fabulous after hour parties also happened at the home of “Mr. Showmanship” – Liberace. From 1961-1979 he apparently resided at 8433 Harold Way in an estate with 30 bedrooms, seven dining rooms, and 17 pianos. Supposedly he wanted to turn it into a museum, but the neighbors didn’t like the idea of thousands of visitors muddling about.

And finally icon Marilyn Monroe called West Hollywood home. She once said: “I am trying to find myself. Sometimes that’s not easy.” Well she may have made it hard for others to find her too, considering the fact that between 1947-1961

Marilyn lived at 7 different addresses throughout the city, including a place on Doheny Drive where Frank Sinatra also resided!

And that dear westward travelers, is only a mere sampling of some of the historic stars that have graced this little city just west of Hollywood.

One last note, we're dropping you off here along Sunset Strip, a place with quite a history of gambling and speakeasy's. Guy McAfee was the name of the head of the LAPD Vice Squad who actually enjoyed the Sunset Strip's various vices – owning some of the local brothels and gambling saloons! Well, in 1938 when Judge Fletcher Bowron was elected the new city mayor on a platform to clean-up the city, McAfee moved to the rising sin city of Las Vegas. He eventually opened up the Golden Nugget. He named the Las Vegas Strip after this beloved Sunset Strip.

Well, the neighborhoods in WeHo are still full of local living legends. Who knows, you might just catch a glimpse of some along your tour today as you now proceed for the rest of the journey on foot!

ENJOY!!

#1: SUNSET BLVD NEAR LARABEE

Gather round and welcome - to a boulevard marked by delicious stories from different decades. For some, ancient history begins as far, far away as...1993 when a young, straight actor named River Phoenix died of an overdose outside the Viper Room - a famous club at the corner of Sunset and Larabee. But did you know that way back in the 1940s, long before Johnny Depp owned it, this club was known as the Melody Room, purportedly operated by the gangsters Mickey Cohen and Bugsy Siegel - and among its entertainment were transvestite strippers! Oh my!



There's a surprising amount of queer history along this other kind of strip – the Sunset Strip, a

mile and a half long dense cluster of nightclubs, ritzy hotels, chic boutiques, and rock venues. Why is West Hollywood so associated with gay goings-on? It's partly a continuation of the glamour of Hollywood Boulevard leading up to this area, which was thick with gay bars in the 1930s, '40s and '50s.

But WeHo was a gay zone for an additional and very specific reason: it was "over the line" from the City of Los Angeles, which was under the thumb of the then anti-gay LAPD. Located in unincorporated territory of Los Angeles County (until 1984), West Hollywood was under the much more lenient and gay tolerant Sheriff's department. Speakeasies, gambling clubs, and houses of ill repute tended to flourish along the Strip and in other parts of West Hollywood.

Speakeasies were already illegal, so it didn't matter much what other kinds of illicit activity might be going on. In fact, the illicit boys were often the entertainment! Drag shows were very popular in those early clubs. It was all one big illegal tipsy underground.

There was *Ciro's*, one of the most glamorous nightclubs of 1940s Old Hollywood. Located at 8433 Sunset Blvd, where you'll now find The Comedy Store, *Ciro's* was the place to go to be written up in the gossip columns and you could see might encounters such queer icons and starlets like Marlene Dietrich, Carmen Miranda, Gypsy Rose Lee, Janis Paige, Hildegard, Mae West, and of course Judy Garland.

Ciro's eventually turned into a rock and roll club called "It's Boss" in the late 1960's. Sunday's hosted gay tea dances – and was one of the first places where men were allowed to dance together. The LAPD had rules governing public dances and No. 6 was "The management shall not permit any person to dance with another person of the same sex while attending and participating in a public dance."

The West Hollywood area also contained a high concentration of Bohemian actors, writers, and costumers. Many, if not gay themselves, were very friendly to unconventional sex arrangements. Most typical of this was a happening scene circa 1920 to 1950 called the Garden of Alla(h), located down at the intersection of Sunset Blvd & Crescent Heights.

The Garden's 25 bungalows were rented to superstars and has-beens, who were either skyrocketing up or plummeting down. To the glow of colored garden lights, inebriated guests giggled, gossiped, and sometimes jumped into a pool shaped like the Black Sea—all while still wearing their tuxes or evening gowns. It was a haven both for wild hetero adultery and frisky homo cavorting – right in the middle of Los Angeles, but once again in that Sheriff's Department safety zone.

Presiding over all this was a major silent movie star who was also a major lesbian, a Russian émigré named Alla Nazimova. As forgotten as she is today is how popular she was then – her fame and flamboyant lifestyle were as big and wild as her facial expressions and on screen roles! You can watch her surreal 1923 version of Oscar Wilde’s “Salome” on Youtube!

Part of the party at Alla’s Garden involved the Sapphic scene of that era –which she referred to as the “Sewing Circle,” a group of lesbian and bisexual entertainment industry women who lived secret lives. There was Jean Acker, a motorcycle-riding actress who was Rudolph Valentino’s first beard/wife. Acker later lived openly with lover and former Ziegfeld Follies girl Chloe Carter.

Other notable women in Alla’s life: Dorothy Arzner (who just so happens to have the largest body of studio film work of any female director to this day), actress Eva Le Gallienne, Oscar Wilde’s niece Dolly Wilde, the writer Mercedes de Acosta, and theatrical benefactor Glesca Marshall who lived with Nazimova at the Garden of Alla until Nazimova’s death in 1945.

Yet the parties carried on for quite some time without her. “Nothing interrupted the continual tumult that was Life at the Garden of Allah. Now and then the men in white came with a van and took somebody away, or bankruptcy or divorce or even jail claimed a participant in its strictly unstately sarabands. Nobody paid any mind.” So wrote the journalist Lucius Beebe, one of the wittiest and best dressed New York queens covering Hollywood for Time Magazine in 1959.

Sheliah Graham, lover to F. Scott Fitzgerald, wrote an entire book about the place and said: “There is no place for a Garden of Allah that, for one brief moment, was Camelot. It was inevitable that Hollywood as we knew it, and its satellite, Alla's garden, should disappear together.”

And so it did. In 1959 the hotel was completely razed to make way for a new branch of Lytton Savings and Loan. There’s not much to look at now but fast-food stands and banks. It’s total disappearance may have even inspired laurel canyon resident Joni Mitchell’s lyrics in Big Yellow Taxi – afterall “they paved paradise and put up a parking lot.”

Well, that’s just a bit of the atmosphere of “gay old Hollywood” and its Western parcel. Now that you’re tipsy on that bit of history, please make your wobbly way down Sunset another block to the intersection of Holloway where your next encounter awaits! Ta-ta!

#2: THE JUNCTION OF SUNSET, HORN, & HOLLOWAY



That unassuming white building across the street over there at 8795 Sunset at Horn housed two legendary restaurants. You've likely heard of Wolfgang Puck's Spago. It was located there from 1982-1997, before moving into Beverly Hills to further its notoriety for fancy California cuisine, high prices, and hungry celebrity sightings.

But first it was Café Gala, a movie-star hot spot and gay club rolled into one. The Café Gala was jokingly referred to as "Cafegaleh" (fegelah is a Yiddish term for gay) or more prominently called "The World's Most Interesting Supper Club". It opened in 1939 as the brainchild of red-head patroness Catherine D'Erlanger, a Franco-Germanic Baroness, and a for certain fag hag.

The Gala was a swanky supper club that catered to movies stars with a separate bar area that catered mostly to gay men. At Café Gala you could find the likes of Cole Porter, Judy Garland, Lena Horne, Conny Salinger, Roger Edens, Lenny Hayton, Dorothy Dandridge, Christopher Isherwood, and Kay Thompson to name a few.

There was a don't-ask-don't-tell policy of that era for those engaged in the entertainment industry. Gays had to be very discreet, but The Café Gala was one respectable place they could feel a bit of queer comfort without getting fingered in the tabloids. Even Greta Garbo could be talked into having a night out at the Gala.

A gay singer named Johnny Walsh, ran the club with an iron hand and a huge white handkerchief that he waved around. Walsh was said to have growled at guys who got a bit too 'relaxed,' saying something like – "Butch it up – I don't want people to think I'm running a grope-ateria here."

For a brief time in the early 1950s, famed pianist Bobby Short started his career as a sophisticated "saloon singer" at the Gala before rising to fame in New York City. Short never came out but, at the Gala, he never really had to.

Look now to 8804 Sunset Blvd



This massive building here with its ornate greenery and structure is quite the sight to behold, but it gobbled up a charming little bar with walls that were decorated by a Disney artist, where the waiters wore red sarongs, the drinks were killer, and if all of that didn't do you in, the music sure did. This vanished club was called the Café Bali, and was owned by an LA society man named (*get this*) Icky Outhwaite. But the power was all in the pianist, a guy named Bruz Fletcher. (*Google him! There's a fabulous web site that tells all about his incredible queer life.*)

The Bali was covertly known as a “gay spot” but advertised itself as the “it bar” for everybody – one write-up described it as perfect for the “partially potted.” Pianist Fletcher all but flew around in a purple cape. He sang wicked songs with titles like “Get It Up Kitty” and “Just Keep an Eye on His Business,” which were thick with triple-entendres. Stuart Timmons' favorite Fletcher song goes like this:

*I want a cozy little nest, somewhere in the West
Where the best of all the worst will always be
I want an extensive, expensive excursion
To the realms of “per,” “in,” and “di”-version
It's the simple things of life for me*

Initially booked for a mere two-week gig, Fletcher reigned at the Café Bali from 1935 until the club's closing in 1940. Everyone from silent-screen beauty Louise Brooks, who popularized the iconic flapper bobbed haircut look, to actor and future president Ronald Reagan, drank and laughed at Bruz Fletcher's antics. A gay time was had by those in the know. Unfortunately, Bruz did not carry on the fun after the club's closing, for in 1941, at the young age of 34, he sadly committed suicide. A tragic loss.

During the hard-drinking 1930s & 40s, there was also Club Rendezvous on the Sunset Strip,

run by comic singer Ray Bourbon, an intimate of sultry sex symbol Mae West. Bourbon who changed his clothes (to female) and his name from R-A-Y to R-A-E, was one of L.A.'s most charismatic female impersonators known for some rather risqué material that was a mixture of high and low brow entertainment. Rae claimed to have had a sex change operation, the title of Rae's 1956 album is "Let Me Tell You About My Operation." However, it was likely more of a publicity stunt than reality.

Speaking of cross-dressing, in a famous scandal from that era, some of West Hollywood's local workmen turned out to be women. One such laborer cut her hair, dressed carefully in overalls and won the respect of her male colleagues for her skill with a hammer. However, she was discovered and arrested for impersonation, but then was cleared of charges by the judge who accepted her explanation that she could not make as much money as a woman as she could as a man – which 80 years later is still sadly true!

But what is not sad - is the adventure and surprises that await ahead for you. Continue now down Holloway Drive.

***NOW MOVE DOWN HOLLOWAY toward SANTA MONICA BLVD.**

(a bit of a lengthy stretch – a midway station with live musical performance & info)



#3 HOLLOWAY DRIVE

Hello history-hikers! Your next stop will offer up some cool refreshments, but in the meantime enjoy this bit of refreshingly cool information.

Like, right over there at 8573 Holloway Drive was one of Marilyn Monroe's 7 WeHo addresses, She lived there with another actress, Shelley Winters. At the time Winters was a blonde bombshell in her own right, but if you know her larger than life personality from later in life it may explain why Marilyn was only there for 2 months!

As you walked along Holloway you passed by Saint Victor's Catholic Church – which was originally built in 1906 to serve the rail and oil worker population of the neighborhood. Many stars have graced its grounds since then, including the likes of Vincent Price and Caesar Romero, who while not out publicly are known closeted queer actors. Who knows what kind of confessionals came from those two!

St Victor's claims to be one of the most important parishes in the motion picture industry, because from 1929-1976 its pastor John J Delvin served as the head of the *Legion of Decency*, an organization that was precursor to our modern day ratings system. Saint Victor's embraced its location in WeHo and became the first Catholic Church in Southern California to offer regular AIDS masses and an AIDS Memorial Chapel.

Holloway Drive is also where handsome bisexual actor, Sal Mineo was murdered on February 12, 1976. Mineo is best known as the co-star with James Dean in *Rebel Without A Cause*, for which he received a best supporting actor Oscar nomination. As an adult he had trouble achieving leading role status because of his known sexuality and boyish good looks, but he found a lot of work in television supporting roles and even directed and starred in a production of the gay play *Fortune and Men's Eyes*.

He was coming home from a production of a gay themed play called *P.S. Your Cat Is Dead* to the apartment he shared with his lover of six years, Courtney Burr. He was stabbed in the heart in his carport by a robber who didn't even know who he was. While WeHo is an open environment for the LGBTQ community, Mineo's tragic death is a reminder we can never quite be immune to such events happening. Before you proceed onward, let us share a moment of silence for him and all victims of hate crimes.

**#4 STOP NEAR THE FOUNTAIN AT THE
SAL GUARRIELLO VETERANS' MEMORIAL
look to Barney's Beanery, 8447 SM Blvd.**



“Give the Queens the Beans!”

This was the wording of a seemingly funny sign carried by one of the many gay activists during multiple protests outside of this place in the early 1970s. But the sign that started the trouble, wasn't funny at all: “FAGOTS STAY OUT!” (sic) For nearly half a century, it hung prominently over the bar in a place that has been – and still remains – an institution in West Hollywood - Barney's Beanery.

Today, the rainbow flag flies there proclaiming gay pride and solidarity, but back in those days, it was a notoriously homophobic establishment. In the mid 1960's Barney's founder, John Barney Anthony, an apparently beloved old bigot, posed in front of this hateful, misspelled slur for a spread in LIFE magazine. In the article, he expressed his feelings about homosexuals:

“I don't like 'em. There's no excuse. They'll approach any nice-looking guy. If anybody does any recruiting, I say shoot him. Who cares?” Well, you know the saying “the lady doth protest too much, methinks!”

Some gay men frequented Barney's anyway and said the sign didn't matter. However, as pride-politics jelled, the existence of such a sign became a festering insult. The Gay Liberation Front denounced it fiercely. People would take it down. But somehow it would find its way right back up again!

When West Hollywood became a city in 1984, the city council passed a landmark anti - discrimination ordinance. Valerie Terrigno, the first openly lesbian mayor of an incorporated American city, marched a group of mad gay activists right into Barney's Beanery, at which time she personally removed that sign! The sign was handed over for good to gay activist and historian Morris Kight and now resides in the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at the University of Southern California Libraries.

**Look to 8430 Santa Monica at Croft
– The former Rudi Gernreich Studio**



At the corner of Santa Monica and Croft, 8430 SM Blvd. was where you used to find the studio of great fashion designer Rudi Gernreich. He was incredibly talented and one of the first designers ever to have graced the cover of TIME magazine.

His overriding fashion message was freedom. Back in the days of the heavily sculpted BULLET TITS, he designed the no-bra bra – made of sheer fabric without underwires or lining of any kind, allowing breast to be their natural shape. He was also known for leather based haute couture, and the Unisex look.

In 1964, he became internationally famous for creating the Monokini, the world's first topless swimsuit. He also invented the Thong. No kidding – he patented it.

In 1950 he became lovers for a couple years with renowned gay activist Harry Hay. Harry showed Rudi his document "The Call" which discussed plans for creating a gay rights organization. Rudi said: "This is the most dangerous thing I have ever read. And yes, I'm with you 100 percent." He secretly became a founding member and private funder for one of the earliest grassroots gay rights organizations in the US, The Mattachine Society.

Rudi never came out publicly – no one in fashion did in those days as it could hurt business – he just assumed everybody knew because it was rather obvious. He kept his 31 year relationship with Oreste Pucciani private up until he died. In West Hollywood though, Rudi could have the same sexual freedom as a gay man that he advocated for women. On slow business days, rumor has it that Rudi used to stand out in front of his studio and pick up hot guys passing by.

That's an important part of our history – before everyone could come out for life, some daring souls came out one hour at a time. And had a little fun while at it!

Now if you'll just head a wee bit westward on Santa Monica Blvd you will not be able to miss our next guide... one which I think Rudi himself would approve of.

#5: LA CIENEGA & SANTA MONICA BLVD
The CVS at 8491 Santa Monica Blvd



The building you see before you now is an architecturally significant...drugstore! Before that it was a clothing phenom – Do you remember Esprit? Well, clothing trends come and they go. Roller skating was a huge fad universally, and very much so in the gay world. It was great for the legs, great for the glutes, and people went absolutely wild over it. Homo skaters enjoyed wearing satin bomber jackets and very worn blue jeans cut off at the tippy-top of the thigh.

There were skaters on the beach, there were skaters on the streets. Some hustlers would even skate up to parked cars and negotiate a date, particularly in this neighborhood. Flippers was the homo roller paradise for a brief burst – especially since it was believed that Cher was one of the owners and stars like Olivia Newton John made it her WeHo Xanadu. For a time Flippers truly had skaters believing "they were magic - nothing can stand in our way". Of course there were other place for skaters to gather, like the offices of local orthopedists.

When developers bulldozed Flippers, they also demolished a black gay landmark, the Jim Morris Gym next door – now this glorious parking ramp. Jim Morris was a handsome African-American bodybuilding champion. He also trained celebrities as private clients before opening one of the first gyms in this part of town. He even worked as Elton John's personal bodyguard from 1974-1988. He was still training up until his late 70's and

believed his vegan lifestyle contributed to his excellent condition, although he died last January at age 80.

In the 1970s, guys with big deltoids were rather a rarity in the gay world. Many gay American men had grown up with the idea that athletics were for straight men only, and had never developed their bodies. But in the 1970s, that changed - big time! Jim Morris Gym was famous for its pink neon sign that glowed with the word "Muscles." It was quite the busy place, and folks say that Morris often personally took on young aspiring body builders as "special projects."



The cult of the body was becoming a big deal, and West Hollywood became a sort of ground-zero for macho men in tight t-shirts and jeans seeking out other macho men in tight t-shirts and jeans – on the streets as well as in the bars. It's hard to describe the electric feeling of being in the midst of so much homoerotic possibility. That hasn't changed entirely, but what has changed is the sense that it was a daring new public adventure – and genuinely idealistic.

Back in the day, exploring one's gay sexuality felt like a righteous political and moral cause. There was the feeling of inventing something new and world-changing. To paraphrase Oscar Wilde, the love that dare not speak its name was finally never going to shut up again.

Now, let us celebrate, for a moment, this strip of Santa Monica Boulevard known colloquially around the world – or at least certain corners of it – as Boystown. It was jokingly named "Boystown" after a Catholic charity home for orphan boys, run by kindly priests. (Leave it to gays to twist some sexual innuendo into something so spotlessly innocent as the Church, right?)

West Hollywood is bigger than this one street, but “the Boulevard” carries the distinction of being one of the most publicly gay streets in L. A. – known for its massive Gay Pride parade the second Sunday in June (except for this year - they're having a march instead) and the wildly festive street carnival on Halloween. Both have an interesting origin:

Gay Pride started on Hollywood Boulevard in 1970, reflecting a time when that street had stronger gay associations. The first Christopher Street West gay parade, started by Morris Kight, Troy Perry, and Bob Humphries, stepped off from Hollywood Boulevard and McCadden Place in June 1970, led by a Lesbian on horseback, followed by a float portraying a crucified Tinkerbell.

Halloween, on the other hand, used to be carefree and cruisy –over all of Los Angeles. Public outdoor parties, private masked balls, and drag were common occurrences on that night. But by the 1970s WeHo became informally established as the place to party and strut your costumed creativity. Now the West Hollywood Halloween Carnival attracts around 1/2million people each year. You may have heard complaints that it's a bigger attraction for straight tourists and shutterbugs to gawk at the clever costumed queens than it is the purely gay pagan rite that some loved it as.

One last note about the streets of WeHo. Some became notoriously wild pick-up scenes. The alleys along Melrose were particularly crazed in the '80s, and prior to that, Robertson Boulevard was known for outrageous carryings-on. Eventually, gay organizations partnered with the LAPD to stop all that “compulsive” behavior. Many activists were incensed that community members seemed to take sides with, literally, the sex police. Some called it the price of wider acceptance— others call it an obscene obsession with respectability. It is a division that continues to this day.

But regardless of where you stand in your beliefs, it is time for you to imagine what the streets would say if they could talk - as you cruise on down Santa Monica Blvd several blocks to the next station.

walk west down Santa Monica Blvd

**#6: WESTBOURNE DRIVE & SM Blvd
look to 8714 SM Blvd – formerly MCC**



That building across the street may not look like home base to the largest lesbian and gay church in the world now, but it was once the site of The Metropolitan Community Church. It began in October 1968, the work of Reverend Troy Perry, who at the time he began it was working at Sears after having been forced out of a ministerial job due to his homosexuality.

Like so many, Perry followed the call to "Go West", in order to enjoy a good gay life. And, like so many at the time, got caught in a police raid! Perry was involved in the infamous Flower Power raid in August 1968 at a bar called the Patch in South LA near Long Beach. Before there was Stonewall in NY, LA experienced several stand offs against the police. Demonstrators armed with bouquets from a local florist staged a early morning "flower power" protest calling for the release of those arrested during the Patch raid. Among those arrested was Troy Perry's boyfriend, Tony Valdez, who was so devastated by the arrests he renounced God as not caring about homosexuals.

That sparked Perry to stop worrying about fitting gays into established churches, and instead to start building "a church for all of us who are outcasts". He started small – in his living room in his Highland Park apartment –and advertised in a new local gay paper, The Advocate!

The Metropolitan Community Church grew and grew, literally outgrowing building after building. What's remarkable about its story is that the trend at that time was for gays to abandon religion because they saw nothing but evidence that religion had abandoned them. The gay counter-culture considered atheism to be chic, and religion to be part of the oppressive establishment. *Besides, gay life was hedonistic, right?* But even though Perry, tall and good-

looking, fit perfectly into the bar scene, he had the ministers' calling and skills. *Can I get an amen!*

Troy Perry didn't just built his own church, but welcomed many expressions of spirituality. Pagan witches who wanted meeting space formed the Susan B. Anthony Coven at MCC for a time. So many Jews attended MCC that Perry encouraged them to form their own temple, which became Beth Chayim Chadashim, which made history on its own as first LGBT synagogue and is still thriving down on Pico Boulevard. Likewise, he encouraged the formation of Unity Fellowship Church, the first African-American GLBT church, founded by Carl Bean. Where there's flesh, there's spirit. *Amen!*



And now for a bit about some of WeHo's spirited lesbians. Down the street in the now empty lot just east of 24 Hr Fitness and Capitol Drugs was The Palms, which for 40 years was a bar frequented by many women who were making a mark in the entertainment industry, and for whom a glamorous look was part of their stock in trade. They claim that Ellen Degeneres, Melissa Etheridge, k.d.lang, and Jim Morrison stopped in at the Palms –(wait, was Jim Morrison a lesbian?) In later years, as the lesbian clientele dwindled, it was known for its festive transgender nights.

Further up the street just past Crescent Heights, at 7969, there used to be a booming lesbian disco called Peanuts hosting girls purportedly even femmer and wilder, and a very butch door-woman named Mel (wearing suits and a blonde pompadour) who made sure that predatory straight men didn't crash to try to pick up on the women. At Peanuts drag queens were actually employed by the management to hit on those obnoxious straight guys and scare them away. But the women of the Palms could take care of themselves.

Girlbar, down on Robertson Blvd. across from West Hollywood Park was known as the birthplace of the lipstick lesbian. But nothing comes into being fully formed. This bar existed for many decades as the grounds of stomping butches and flitting femmes.

By the late 1970s, the plaid flannel crowd began to give way to a growing number of girls who actually didn't object to being called "girls" and started showing up looking "Hollywoody" – silk blouses, gold chains, and those oh-so '70s designer jeans. Ladyloving ladies with these fashion tastes became known as "Lipstick Lesbians," and some of their sisters considered them politically incorrect.

But bars don't do it for everybody, and coffeehouses provide good places for a caffeinated culture to commune. Little Frida's was West Hollywood's well known lesbian hangout in the 90's before the megalithic mermaid took over every corner. Originally located at 8545 and later 8730 Santa Monica Blvd. Little Frida's was the location that k.d.lang sang featured in the tv sitcom Ellen's "The Puppy Episode" which was Degeneres' famous coming out.

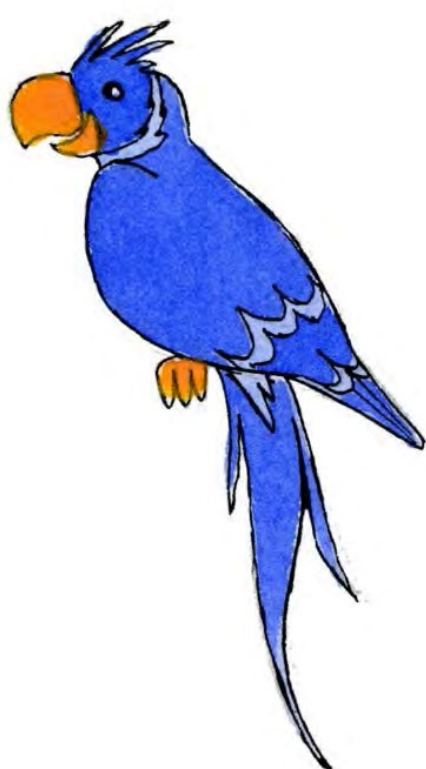
The venue held numerous special events, like the comedy showcase "Women With Balls" and the "All Women's Motorcycle Parking Lot Sale." Many folks lament its disappearance from the landscape, which foamed lattes while stirring the hearts of many couples who proclaimed their love began there.

And last but not least we say hallelujah to Cake and Art which opened in 1976 by Glenn von Kickle, who revolutionized the art of cake design. Nothing seems to be impossible here, from sculptured life-size carousel horses to zombies crawling out of a delicious red velvet cake. Under owner Tom Rosa, the magic continues for almost every star under the sun. Beyonce just had her baby shower cake made last week, and speaking of Ellen Degeneres – a cake replicating the cover of People Magazine celebrating the 20th anniversary of her TV sitcom.



move west down Santa Monica Blvd

**#7 CORNER OF LARRABEE & SM Blvd
8851 Santa Monica Blvd - The Revolver Bar**



What better place is there to “drink in” a bit of local queer history than a bar? We are now in one of the densest areas for gay bars in all of Los Angeles. What you see here called the Revolver, used to be called the East/West Lounge, and before that it was, guess what...the Revolver! What goes around, comes around again! The original incarnation of Revolver became famous as one of West Hollywood’s first video bars. A television in a bar – oh how revolutionary (for the time)! And they played these new things called music videos. Astonishing – and so 1980s!

One night in the early ‘80s, to launch her dubious new “hit” *The Clapping Song*, Revolver hosted the famous Pia Zadora. Uh, Pia Who? Exactly! Here today, has-been tomorrow. Semper Hollywood. When the Golden Globe Award winning *New Star of The Year* failed to become a successful actress, she tried a music career. There was Pia, in a beaded gown, on the bar, lip-synching as local boys screamed. After eight minutes of hysterical adulation, everyone ignored her and began cruising again. Semper homo.

Before its novel revolving door and televisions, this place was a bar known as the Blue Parrot. Now, here’s a fascinating little tidbit of queer bar history: Back in those shady, raid-y days, “gay” was a word that could mean either “lighthearted, bright, merry” or... “*you’re busted, you disgusting pervert!*” Therefore many queer bars, which could not really exist officially, or they’d get shut down, used code names.

Often the first word of the bar’s name was a color, and the second word was a bird. This was known as the “bird circuit” – you could visit any urban area in the country and usually find a “Blue Parrot” or a “Purple Parrot” or a “Black Swan” or such like. Here in L.A. we also had the “Red Raven” down on Melrose near La Brea. Of course, everyone’s favorite bird circuit bar name was in San Francisco, called...the White Swallow. Ahem.

The strip is so thick with landmarks here we can only mention a few. Next to Revolver used to be the pioneering gay bookstore “A Different Light, West Hollywood”. Before the era of internet giant Amazon, “A Different Light” was the most influential LGBTQ book source, and used to hold all manner of community readings.



And nearby is Micky’s, which has been around for years as a popular dance spot. It’s even survived coming close to burning down. And in 2013 Lady Gaga – an actual star you ought to be familiar with - filmed her “Applause” lyric video here. Mickey’s was once a so-called “grungy gay sanctum” from the Jurassic era called the Four Star Saloon. OK, it only went back to the late 1950s, but that’s still going way back for some!

In the book *Under the Rainbow* (edited by Chris Freeman), the actor John Carlyle mentions that two lavender lads, the singer Johnnie Ray and actor Clifton Webb often “had to be helped off their bar stools at closing time.” How scandalous! Carlye adds that composer Leonard Bernstein, although a married man in New York, was quite queer out here in West Hollywood. He’d come to the Four Star Saloon “in evening clothes after a concert and ogled hustlers.” Gasp!

Oh, so many bars have come and gone: the Purple Lion, the Rusty Nail, the Stampede, the Rafters. To paraphrase that lost little Kansas girl, “My! Bars come and go so quickly here.” There have been hundreds of different gay bars that have come and gone in WeHo –and thousands of different stories from every one. A few of those tales are even true!

Now, after all this bar talk and drinking in of history, I imagine you might have a pressing need to relieve yourself! Fortunately we are in a very friendly city in that regard. In 2015 West Hollywood passed a law requiring all single stall bathrooms to be gender-neutral, designed to make public restrooms more welcoming to all people. Similar measures across the rest of the country are creating controversy, but hopefully it’s paving the way for more dialogue on important trans-visibility community issues.

In 2016 the City of LA announced the creation of a Transgender Advisory board, but West Hollywood was the first in the nation to have one, created on October 19, 2009. Transgender activists have been

working hard long before that though to gain more sensitivity and respect among the community and from local law enforcement. In the late 20th Century, activists and transgender support groups worked with the West Hollywood's Sheriff Station to create briefings for deputies and their treatment of the trans community and in 2001 WeHo had the Transgender Task Force giving the city advice.

The Transgender Advisory Board addresses matters relating to the advocacy on behalf of transgender rights such as education, community, awareness and empowerment – and makes recommendations to the City Council relative to the adoption of programs, policies, ordinances of benefit to the constituency. This year Trans Pride will take place June 16 & 17 at the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

Ok – you know the drill! “Move on down, move on down the road” – and over the rainbow!

#8 WEST HOLLYWOOD PARK



We're here to continue your education in WeHo's club culture! Pop quiz! Does anyone know which of the bars here is the oldest *continuing* gay bar in Boystown and has been proudly packed with pick-ups since 1979? Answer: The Motherlode!

But before that back in the '60s, it was a bar/restaurant called the Por Favor, and a famous movie star who loved the gay boys was a regular there - none other than Judy Garland! She loved gay guys – she even married several. And at the Por Favor, she's said to have frequently waved at her crowds while sweetly saying, “Hi fags!” Now that was “in-family” and she meant it with true affection.

But there were some rather mean customs in place at gay bars as well. Like no touching allowed! Seriously: you could not touch anyone if you were a gay person in a gay bar. Be it as casual as a tap in the shoulder, an affectionate hug, and certainly any sort of contact dancing – all of those constituted the arrest-worthy offense of “lewd conduct.” Maybe that's why Judy Garland sang in the song Friendship "If you ever feel so happy, you land in jail... I'm your bail."

And you know who had to be the enforcers of this policy? Bar owners and bartenders

themselves - gay or not, they stood to lose their liquor licenses and their livelihoods if they didn't obey. This created quite a bit of conflict and clashes among the community over the years.

Los Angeles had many protests in the late 60's that may have influenced the folks in NYC to create the revolution that kicked off the Stonewall Pride movement (which coincidentally happened on the eve of Judy's funeral). Encouraged by the Black Power and Chicano movements, thousands of gays and straights, dubbed as the "Disturbing the Peace Corps" protested along Sunset Strip in 1966 against imposed curfews to get off the streets by 10pm - as you know, that's just when the parties get started! In 1967, LAPD raided bars in the so-called "Barbara Streisand Sweep" arresting 60 gay men for lewd conduct on the eve of Barbara's TV special. And in Silver Lake there were the infamous Black Cat riots of 1967.

In the 1970's a new Los Angeles City Attorney, Burt Pines, was among the first who courted the gay vote instead of running from it. He abolished the practice of unequal enforcement of gay bars. If touching wasn't really sexual or "grossly offensive", either gay or straight, Burt refused to prosecute. However, the homo-hating police found ways around Pines' policies, and begun arresting an increased number of gay men for lewd conduct in the parks and streets!

As we know far too often, one advancement of equality for gays, can bring a counter action to mess with us in another. Of course, there are plenty of problems within our community as well...

661 N Robertson

Long before Manhattan's trendy Studio 54, Scott Forbes' Studio One was the gay-owned disco that invented attitude, proclaiming itself a Valhalla of blond, buff youth. It extends between Robertson and Lapeer at the former site of The Mitchell Camera Company built in 1929, which just so happened to manufacture the early Technicolor motion picture cameras used in films like The Wizard of Oz!

There were other discos in town – the Odyssey on Beverly, where way underage kids could dance and drink juice boxes, the Paradise Ballroom downtown, and more. But Studio One was "it" – the best deejays, the best lights, at a time when disco lightshows were new. And tons of guys – those cute built types, fresh from working out at Jim Morris.

However, before getting into their ugly racist door policy, let me stress that this place saw some wonderful history. Some of the first gay fund-raisers which showed straight candidates that gay money existed as a potent force - happened right here. The first AIDS fundraiser in town happened here, headlined by Joan Rivers during a time most performers were scared silent.

Her face may have been a bit *plastique*, but her heart was as real as it gets. That happened at the Backlot Theater, later called Ultrasuede, which was an absolute phenomenon in its early days.

Among its many stellar performers were Wayland Flowers, a cute, funny puppeteer, and his foul-mouthed old lady alter-ego named Madame. In one act, Madame was going on and on about screwing a cute 22-year old. Flowers asked her gently if she wasn't, uh, worried about the danger the age difference could make with such vigorous sexual activity. Madame replied, "Honey, if he dies, he dies."



The “gay homeland” of West Hollywood actually started off as rather inclusive – as one man put it, “there weren’t so many people out, so everyone was welcome everywhere.” Unfortunately, a myth developed that in this valley of harmony and erotic possibility, the streets were paved with blonds – gorgeous, young blond guys – and no one else was deemed good for business, hence not so welcome.

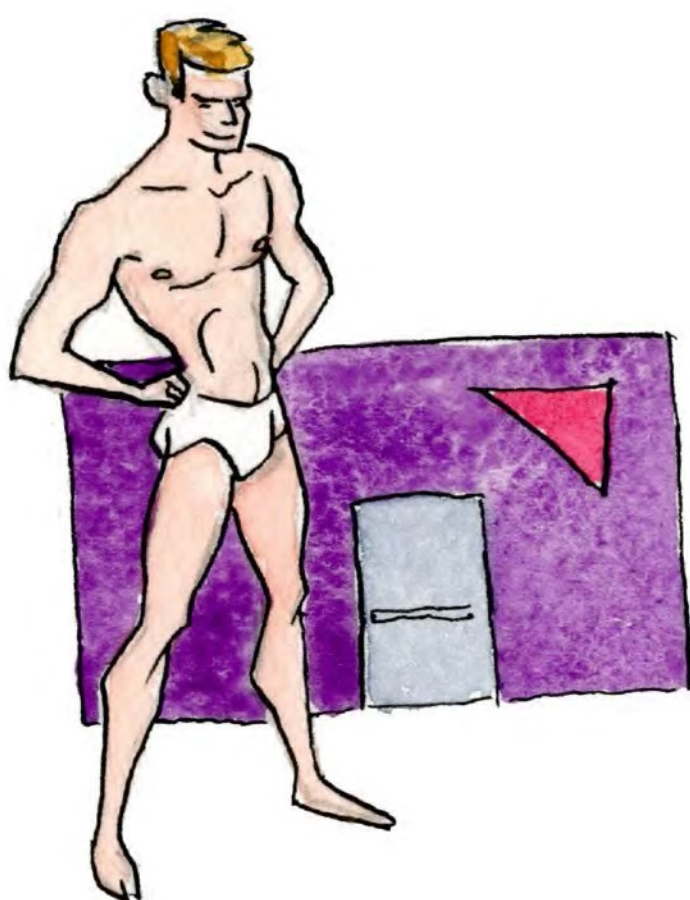
That golden boy myth started to attract paying customers to places like Studio One. Racism and sexism became “just business.” The late Scott Forbes, the principle owner of Studio One, defended – in the LA Times – his policy that people of color and women were not welcome, basing it partly on the idea that non-white people were associated with higher crime. The door enforced a policy of “three pieces of ID” required for anyone who didn’t fit the preferred look.

For years, many gay progressives protested constantly, but the crowds of hedonists—and their dollars –never stopped coming. The same racial profiling and judgement over being young and fit began to occur at several local bath houses. Unfortunately these policies still exist to this day. Just look at popular hook-up/dating apps where users proclaim “no fats, no fems, no rice, no chocolate, no poz, no over 30” – ugh - it sounds like no fun!

After last call at Studio One, the sweaty humpy masses flocked to an equally exclusive sex club called the 8709, located at that address down on Third Street near San Vicente Boulevard. 8709 was the Xanadu of bathhouses, admitting beauties only. Its owner, Sheldon Andelson, was an attorney known as “Mr. West Hollywood” who became a regent of the University of California – but only after selling his most lucrative holding of Studio One to power-lesbians Sandy Sachs and Robin Gans. The duo transformed the place into The Factory and the wildly successful Girlbar.

There are currently proposals aiming to transform the popular nightclub into a hotel and shopping boutiques. As we have learned from our history travels, nothing lasts forever, except in the minds of history lovers!

#9 AH-MEN! Fashion Boutique (A Pop-Up Dress-up Costume Display)



There's more to gay life than just drinking, right? Of course: there are clothes! Starting in the late 1950s, a little freak boutique called AH MEN! set up shop along Santa Monica Blvd a block from here. It became a local legend as well as one of the first booming gay mail-order businesses. The brainchild of one Don Cook, Ah Men! sold fashions for the homosexual persuasion. Sheer harem pants – for men! Nylon rear cleavage revealing underwear – for men! Loose-knit tank-tops with peek-a-boo nipples – for men! And caftans. Lots and lots of caftans.

AhMen! rode the unstoppable social wave of the sexual freedom movement – as early as 1964 they marketed a small brass plaque that could be bought and installed at the front doors of their customers considered “sophisticates,” it proclaimed “If you Don't Swing, Don't Ring”!

The great inheritor to Ah Men! is International Male - you know that one, right? There was also a men's boutique called All American Boy, and

shops called The Mart and Propinquity (Pro-pin-quit-ee AH! Now if that isn't a fancy gay name, then I don't know what is! Propinquity means, and I had to look this up - proximity or kinship - which I suppose means that anyone seeing what you were wearing knew immediately that you were "family").

Those are just a few of the many unique shops that have catered to fey tastes over the years, a tradition carried on today by the various unique and unusual boutiques all around. Although WeHo is known for its elaborate network of showrooms and suppliers for the home décor industry like at PDC, the creation of a specifically gay set of businesses (aside from just bars) helped give West Hollywood the quality that makes it so very...if not tasteful, at least very colorful.



And that brings us to the final moments of our tour – we're here where the old ways have ended and new plans are underway in West Hollywood Park. Changes of attitude are evidenced by everything that used to take place behind the City Council's old meeting place over there in West Hollywood Auditorium. There is indeed a gay agenda, or at least as they call it - a West Hollywood Park Master Plan Phase II!

West Hollywood Park is under construction in order to build a brand new pool and recreation center, and to increase green space. The project was divided into 2 phases. The first phase consisted of building the new West Hollywood Library, which completed around the time of the City of West Hollywood's 25th anniversary of Cityhood. The current phase will last approximately two years to completion.

There's still tons of queer history in the neighborhood to explore, especially nearby in the Werle Building, just off Robertson. Housed in a building of donated space from the City of West Hollywood, you will find the **June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives** (originally the West Coast

Lesbian Collections). This fantastic archival resource contains many books, manuscripts, magazines, pins, posters and early periodicals. Even June Mazer’s Birkenstocks! June Mazer adopted the Archives from Oakland California, and kept them at her home in Altadena until her death. Today the Archives are run by a volunteer staff and holds community events in addition to preserving lesbian history.

Also in the same building is the **ONE National Archives Museum and Gallery space**. ONE Archives is the largest gay and lesbian archive in the world and the ONE Foundation which published ONE Magazine is the oldest existing lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) organization in the United States. The archives are no longer housed in this building, but were moved to the University of Southern California several years ago and are now part of the USC Libraries Collections. Our dear historian Stuart Timmons was actually the executive director of ONE Archives for brief time.

We’ve tried to give you a wide, general idea of West Hollywood history, but by no means did we share it all. In addition to this tour, you can experience LGBTQ history tours all year long throughout Los Angeles from “**Out and About Tours**” who are partnered with The Lavender Effect, both dedicated to preserving LA’s LGBTQ history. If you enjoyed today’s history tour, you’ll also love theirs – so definitely check them out.

Ok, after all this walking –you’ve got to be exhausted. So find yourself a lovely spot nearby to sit down, have a drink or a meal in one of the nearby venues, enjoy the human scenery and raise a toast to the scenes and scenesters of years past who helped contribute to our life today.

Thank you for participating in our tour – we sure had fun and hope you did too while gaining some more perspective on the history of this “Creative City”!



2016 Stuart Tour Cast – photo by WeHoArts

Tour written & researched by:

Stuart Timmons

Stuart Timmons' History Team:

Jason Jenn, director, lead coordinator,
lead additional writer

Eugene Salandra, Illustrator, advisor

Additional research by: Robert Patrick, Jane
Cantillon, MJ Brown, Joey Jenkins, Mike Che

Additional assistance and thanks:

Bill Fishman, Eli Rarey, Liz Brown

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Mike Che

Andrew Campbell, Amanda Carlson,

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Eli Manzanero, Nina Schonwetter, DeeA'na

Saunders

Map Design

Robert DeHart

Tour Guides

(list of all performers from 2015-2017)

R. SKY Palkowitz, Justin Elizabeth Sayre,

Jane Cantillon, April Hava Shenkman,

Robert Patrick Playwright, Odious Ari,

Handsome Jeremy, Princess Poodle Poo,

Joey Jenkins, Dolores DeLuce,

Qlint Steinhauser, Vanessa Sew Gay,

Kristina Wong, Marqueeeda Watson,

MJ Brown (aka Miss Barbie Q), Atasia,

Dane Hereford, Leopold Nunan, Rich Yap,

Jason Jenn, Eugene Salandra, Alan Ishii,

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2017 Tour Cast – photo by Tony Coelho

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STUART TIMMONS

Gifted to The City of West Hollywood