



Saving Film & Television for Future Generations

*UCLA Film & Television Archive presents a Pat Rocco Memorial Tribute and Screening,
March 15, 2019 at the
Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum in Westwood*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES, CA (Mar. 13, 2019) – UCLA Film & Television Archive is joining with Outfest and ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives to celebrate the inspiring life and career of the late Pat Rocco, pioneering activist and filmmaker of gay cinema, with a screening of a selection of films, clips and remembrances at this free-to-the-community tribute memorial event in his honor on March 15, 2019, at the Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum in Westwood.

Los Angeles and its LGBTQ community lost one of their great chroniclers with the passing in November of filmmaker and activist Pat Rocco. Rocco, who came out at age 13, was equally open with his films, debuting a selection at the Park Theatre in Westlake in the summer of 1968 in the city's first public on-screen exhibition of overtly gay films with male nudity. More than titillating erotica, they exhibited a personal vision that celebrated a romantic, joyful positive image of men in love that critic and author Jim Kepner then described as "exhilarating, fresh, ideal, basic, and agonizingly beautiful." And his films were a hit, attracting coverage in the mainstream press and sold-out audiences, which allowed Rocco to branch out into features.

Rocco revolutionized the representation of gay love on screen and used his camera to capture the simultaneous revolution of gay identity in the streets. He documented the city's earliest Gay Pride parades, the flavor of local nightclubs and in *Sign of Protest* (1970), the landmark demonstrations against the homophobic policies of Barney's Beanery in West Hollywood.

For a community long forced underground, Rocco shot movies guerilla-style on location all over the city, in Griffith Park, Los Feliz, Echo Park, Hollywood and, most notoriously, inside Disneyland, the surreptitious setting for his tale of young gay love *Disneyland Discovery* (1969). A one-of-a-kind storyteller and entertainer, Rocco was a great friend and supporter of UCLA Film & Television Archive, Outfest and ONE Archives.

Learn more about Pat Rocco on our [blog](#).

Admission is free. Doors open at 7 p.m., program starts at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for free events are available at the theater box office beginning one hour before show times. Free tickets cannot be reserved or obtained in advance.

Part of: [Outfest UCLA Legacy Project Screening Series](#)

About UCLA Film & Television Archive

The mission of the UCLA Film & Television Archive is to save film and television for future generations.

The Archive is internationally renowned for rescuing, preserving and showcasing moving image media and is dedicated to ensuring that the visual achievements of our time are available for information, education and enjoyment. The sixth-largest moving image repository in the world, and the second largest in the U.S., behind only the Library of Congress, the Archive's more than 450,000 holdings are stored in a state-of-the-art facility that meets and exceeds all preservation standards, from nitrate film to digital.

A unit of UCLA's School of Theater, Film and Television, the Archive's Research and Study Center provides free access to its holdings to researchers, writers and educators. Many of the Archive's projects are screened at prestigious film events around the globe, as well as locally at UCLA's Billy Wilder Theater.

For more information about the UCLA Film & Television Archive, please visit the Archive website: www.cinema.ucla.edu.

For additional information, please contact Marisa Soto at (310) 206-8588 or msoto@cinema.ucla.edu