



# DISCLOSURE

## A Screening and Discussion on Trans Lives (On and Off Screen)

Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 5 p.m. PT  
Presented Online  
University of Southern California

RELATED EVENT:

**TRANS LANGUAGE: WORDS AND BODIES**  
**A CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**  
Friday, February 5 | 11:30 a.m. PT

### WHAT TO KNOW

- *Disclosure* is a documentary about how trans people have been represented in film and television over the past 100 years.
- The group viewing party (hosted on TeleParty) will be followed by a panel discussion with director Sam Feder, actress and USC School of Dramatic Arts professor Alexandra Billings, and *Disclosure* creative consultant and actress Jen Richards. Michael Renov, a USC Cinematic Arts professor and Vice Dean of Academic Affairs, will moderate.

“80 percent of Americans don’t think they have ever met a trans person, so everything they know about trans people comes from film and television.”  
—[www.disclosurethemovie.com](http://www.disclosurethemovie.com)

### IN THE FILM

Some of the people who appear in *Disclosure* include **Chaz Bono**, a writer and activist whose transition is documented in the 2011 documentary *Becoming Chaz*. Chaz was also a competitor on *Dancing with the Stars* in 2013. His parents are Cher and Sonny Bono (aka Sonny and Cher).

**Jamie Clayton**, an actress and model known for her roles on *Sense8* and *Designated Survivor*.

**Laverne Cox**, an Emmy-nominated actress, producer, and equal-rights advocate. She was the first trans woman of color to have a leading role on a mainstream scripted TV show (*Orange Is the New Black*).

**Yance Ford**, a producer and director whose projects include the Oscar-nominated documentary *Strong Island*. He was the first openly trans man to be nominated for an Academy Award, in 2018.

**Jen Richards**, a writer, actress, producer, and activist.

**Mj Rodriguez**, an actress and singer known for her role on *Pose*.

**Lilly Wachowski**, part of the writing/directing team the Wachowskis, who created *The Matrix* and several other major films.

## VOCABULARY CORNER

From *Trans Student Educational Resources*:  
[transstudent.org/gender](https://transstudent.org/gender)

**Gender identity:** One's internal sense of being male, female, neither of these, both, or another gender(s). Everyone has a gender identity, including you. For transgender people, their sex assigned at birth and their own internal sense of gender identity are not the same. Female, woman, and girl, and male, man, and boy are also not necessarily linked to each other but are just six common gender identities.

**Gender expression/presentation:** The physical manifestation of one's gender identity through clothing, hairstyle, voice, body shape, etc. Many transgender people seek to make their gender expression (how they look) match their gender identity (who they are), rather than their sex assigned at birth.

**Sex assigned at birth:** The assignment and classification of people as male, female, intersex, or another sex based on a combination of anatomy, hormones, chromosomes. It is important we don't simply use "sex" because of the vagueness of the definition of sex and its place in transphobia. Chromosomes are frequently used to determine sex from prenatal karyotyping (although not as often as genitalia). Chromosomes do not always determine genitalia, sex, or gender.

## GENDER-INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

Language is dynamic, and people create and change it.

Gender-inclusive language allows us to speak, read, and write about the full spectrum of gender and sexual identities. It means queer, non-binary, trans, and gender-nonconforming people's identities can be represented accurately and on their own terms.

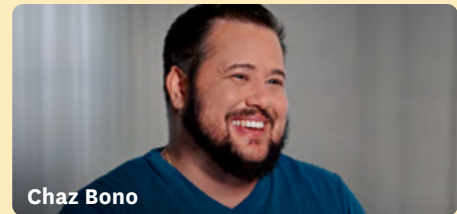
LGBTQ communities and activists have been creating and evolving language to be more inclusive for a long time. Eventually, these changes are absorbed and adopted more and more widely. In the last few years, for instance, conventional arbiters of English style such as Merriam-Webster's dictionary and the Associated Press stylebook have recognized the use of "they" as a pronoun for a person whose gender identity is non-binary. In Spanish, the last decades have seen an evolution from Latino to Latina/o to Latin@ to Latinx.

Keep in mind that grammatical gender is not the same in every language. Some languages assign genders to nouns and some don't. Some languages already have gender-neutral forms, and others are currently evolving them.

## FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Did *Disclosure* challenge your views or perceptions in any way? How so?
- Did *Disclosure* prompt you to re-think any film scenes you had previously watched?
- How does on-screen representation affect people's lives off screen?
- In the film, Laverne Cox says, "At this point we're talking really about unprecedented trans visibility, [and] trans people are being murdered disproportionately still." What do you make of this paradox of trans visibility?
- If you know more than one language, think about the differences in how words are and are not gendered in each.

Some of the people who appear in *Disclosure* include:



Chaz Bono



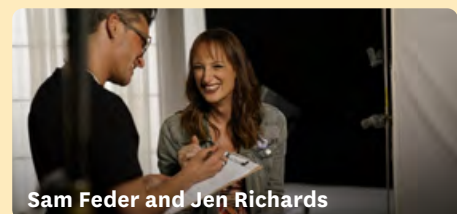
Jamie Clayton



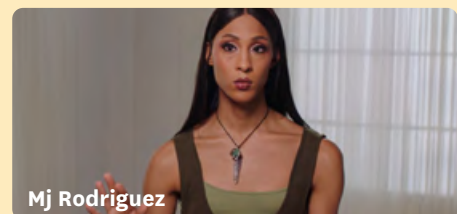
Laverne Cox



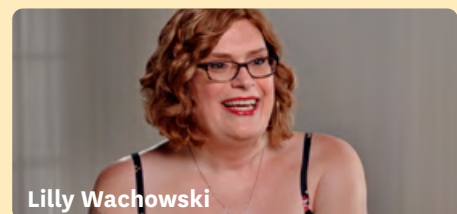
Yance Ford



Sam Feder and Jen Richards

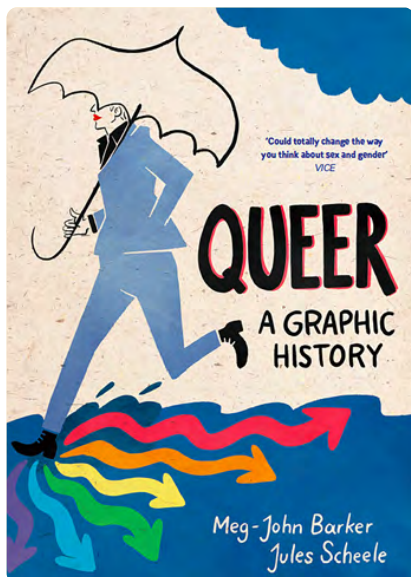
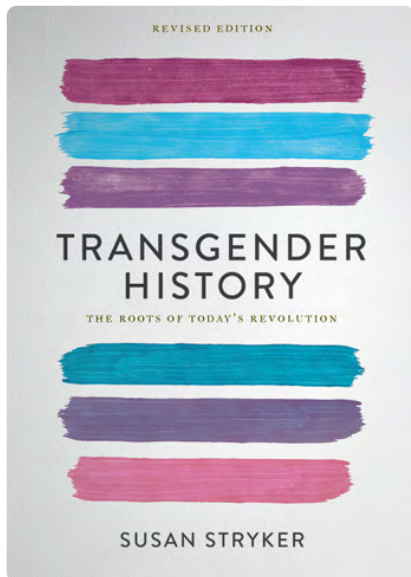
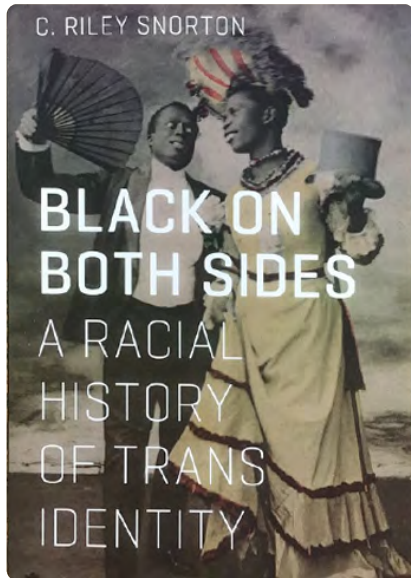


Mj Rodriguez



Lilly Wachowski

Photos: Disclosure Films



## IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- ◉ Transgender Media Portal [transgendermediaportal.org](https://transgendermediaportal.org)
- ◉ TransLash [translash.org](https://translash.org)
- ◉ TransLatin@ Coalition [translatinacoalition.org](https://translatinacoalition.org)
- ◉ Black Trans Femmes in the Arts on Instagram [@btfacecollective](https://www.instagram.com/btfacecollective)
- ◉ Excerpts from *Transgender History* by Susan Stryker  
[Prologue](#)  
[Chapter 1: An Introduction to Transgender Terms and Concepts](#)

## DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

HANNAH SCHILPEROORT of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this evening's event. Those with a call number (e.g., books) are physical items which you can find in our campus libraries. Those without a call number (e.g. e-books, journals, and databases) are electronic resources, which are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at [libraries.usc.edu](https://libraries.usc.edu) but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

### BOOKS

- ◉ C. Riley Snorton, *Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity* (Minnesota: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2017).
- ◉ Susan Stryker, *Transgender History* (Berkeley: Seal Press, 2008).
- ◉ Meg-John Barker and Julia Scheele, *Queer: A Graphic History* (London: Icon Books, 2017).
- ◉ Rebecca Louise Bell-Metereau, *Transgender Cinema* (New Brunswick: Rutgers Univ. Press, 2020).
- ◉ Judith Halberstam, *In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives* (New York: New York Univ. Press, 2005).

### DATABASES

- ◉ [LGBT Life with Fulltext](#)
- ◉ [GenderWatch](#)
- ◉ [JSTOR](#)
- ◉ [ProQuest Central](#)

### ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

- ◉ [ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives Collection](#)

### DIGITAL EXHIBITION

- ◉ [Safer at Home: Exploring the ONE Archives Collection](#)

### STREAMING VIDEO

- ◉ *Paris Is Burning*, directed by Jennie Livingston (Criterion Collection, 1990).
- ◉ *The Queen*, directed by Frank Simon (Kino Lorber, 1968).