CINEMA ST. LOUIS PRESENTS

QFEST ST. LOUIS
THE 15TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF QUEER CINEMA AND ART

APRIL 29 - MAY 5 2022
GALLERIA 6 CINEMAS
FREE EVENTS STARTING 4/22
SELECT VIRTUAL PROGRAMS DURING THE FEST

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
CINEMASTLOUIS.ORG
FOLLOW @QFESTSTL ON FB/TW/IG

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For those fighting the battle with cancer, you are not alone. This community is here for you.

Always remember that you are braver and stronger than you seem and loved more than you know. You can overcome this.

Wishing you a speedy recovery.
- Bob Pohrer & Donnie Engle

In Loving Memory of Jeanne Pohrer & Joseph Pauly Pohrer, Jr.

1 in 3 people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. If you’ve been recently diagnosed, or know someone who has, we’re here with answers, guidance, and support.

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AARP in St. Louis is proud to sponsor the 15th Annual QFest Film Festival. We understand the importance of celebrating LGBTQ stories in film, as well as supporting our community here in St. Louis.

Connect with us at aarp.org/stlouis

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Our community needs local journalism that listens as intently as it informs, that uplifts voices and builds a more engaged, empathetic, and empowered society. For audiences across our region, understanding starts with the news and programs they hear on St. Louis Public Radio.
QFest St. Louis uses the art of contemporary gay cinema to spotlight the lives of LGBTQ people and to celebrate queer culture. The event will excite, entertain, and enlighten audiences of all identities.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of QFest. The fest, which largely features films that would not otherwise screen in St. Louis, is presented by Cinema St. Louis (CSL), organizers of the St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF). This year’s QFest features 35 films from 13 countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, India, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Spain, U.K., and U.S.), including 9 narrative features, 6 documentary features, 17 narrative shorts, and 2 documentary shorts.

QFest will be presented in person at the Galleria 6 Cinemas, and a half-dozen programs will be offered virtually. CSL is partnering with Eventive to handle our ticketing and to present the virtual portion of the festival.

**VENUE**

Galleria 6 Cinemas, Brentwood and Clayton roads in Richmond Heights. The theater is next to the food court on the lower level. The quickest route is to enter the mall through the doors next to the Cheesecake Factory on ground level. Abundant parking is available both in the garage and on the lot.

**TICKETS**

Individual tickets are $15 for general admission, $12 for Cinema St. Louis members and students with valid and current photo IDs. To obtain a student discount code, contact Brian Spath (brian@cinemastlouis.org) and provide an image of a currently valid student ID.

**PASSES**

- Five-Film Passes are available for $65, $50 for CSL members.
- All-Access Passes are available for $200, $150 for CSL members.

Passes offer great value: A Five-Film Pass represents a savings of $10, and an All-Access Pass provides a $55 discount on the 17 film programs.

**COVID-19 POLICY**

The safety of our patrons, filmmakers, and volunteers is Cinema St. Louis’ top priority. To ensure everyone is protected, QFest has instituted a number of policies, which will be strictly enforced for the protection of everyone. Guests must follow the instructions of Cinema St. Louis staff members and volunteers. QFest reserves the right to deny admission or dismiss any customer for noncompliance. The following policies will apply:

- Proof of full vaccination (at least two weeks after the final dose) of any FDA-approved vaccine or a negative PCR test within 72 hours of attendance is required.
- Methods of confirming proof of full vaccination or negative PCR test are:
  - CDC Vaccine Card and valid photo ID.
  - A photo of a CDC Vaccine Card and valid photo ID.
  - Email results of negative PCR test.

**VIRTUAL FESTIVAL BASICS**

- All 4 shorts programs and 2 feature films — “Two Eyes” and “The Unabridged Mrs. Vera’s Daybook” — will also be available to view on demand anytime from April 29-May 5.
- Access to programs is limited to Missouri and Illinois except “Two Eyes,” which is available throughout the U.S.
- Once a ticket-holder begins watching a program, access to it remains available for 48 hours.
- Full information on access, including system requirements, is found in the Virtual Fest FAQ.
- Help with playing films on a TV (through HDMI, casting/airplay, or apps) is found here.

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

If you’d like to “Gay It Forward,” helping ensure that CSL can continue to offer free screenings during QFest in the future, you’ll have the option of making a contribution when ordering tickets, or by scanning the QR code below. Click here for more ways to support QFest and Cinema St. Louis.

**MORE INFO**

314-289-4152, cinemastlouis.org

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Rebel Dykes
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**Harvey Milk Film Festival**

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY, APRIL 22-23**

In partnership with Opera Theatre St. Louis (OTSL), the Webster University Film Series, and the St. Louis LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce, QFest co-presents a weekend mini-festival as a complement to OTSL's opera “Harvey Milk,” which runs in repertory from June 11-25. Harvey Milk's glorious and complicated life and political career were tragically cut short by a bullet in 1978. Two Oscar-winning films offer different perspectives of Milk's story, and a panel discussion addresses how storytelling can help us honor history while shaping a new narrative. The events are free, but registration is required. Visit OTSL's website to register. Film introductions by QFest co-programmer Joshua Ray.

- **The Times of Harvey Milk** (Friday, April 22, 7:30 PM, Webster U's Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., Free):
  Robert Epstein's “The Times of Harvey Milk” (1984, 90 min.) — which won the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature — offers a vivid portrait of San Francisco's historic Castro District in the '70s and serves as a moving testament to the legacy of a political visionary.

- **Milk with panel discussion Sanctification of an Icon Through the Arts: Harvey Milk** (Saturday, April 23, 6 PM for panel and 7:30 PM for film, Webster U's Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., Free):
  A pre-film panel discussion will explore whether storytelling about real figures can accurately portray history. QFest co-programmer and podcast host Joshua Ray will lead a discussion with OTSL artistic director James Robinson, Broadway and film star Ken Page, and a representative from Left Bank Books. The panel is followed by Gus Van Zant's star-studded biopic “Milk” (2008, 128 min.), which won Oscars for Best Actor (Sean Penn) and Best Original Screenplay (gay screenwriter Dustin Lance Black).

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**PLAYTIME: POISON, A QFEST ST. LOUIS PARTY**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 7 PM-2 AM**

HandleBar, 4127 Manchester Rd., Free (ages 21 and older only)

DJ Tilda_Sweatin and HandleBar are celebrating QFest St. Louis and the 30th anniversary of New Queer Cinema with a special edition of PLAYTIME, St. Louis' monthly queer dance party. Tilda_Sweatin and opener DJ BuKu will be spinning tracks that moved all the club kids back in the day and today’s music inspired by them. Come to The Grove decked out in your '90s queer gear, commune with QFest St. Louis programmers and fans, and maybe even win a prize or two.
PROJECT PURPOSE

In January 2022, school districts near and far banned copies of The Bluest Eye, by Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, from school libraries along with: All Boys Aren’t Blue, Heavy, Fun Home, and Maus.

In response to the banning of these important books, Left Bank Books Foundation- the nonprofit partner to Left Bank Books bookstore- launched the Literacy & Justice Project to provide free banned books to anyone who wants them.

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• Donate to support the donation of a book
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ONE PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND OUTS.

We salute Cinema Saint Louis for shining a light on films that entertain and enlighten audiences of all identities.
Films

Films in other languages will feature English subtitles.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 6:30 PM

**Queer Shorts 1: Sublime Journeys**  
92 min.

Also available virtually April 29-May 5

Living Our Lives (David Luis Perez, Argentina/Bermuda/Canada/France/Portugal/Spain, 2022, 33 min., Arabic, English, French, Italian, Portuguese & Spanish, documentary): A unique journey across the world to discover the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ people.


Sapphire (Leanne Hanley, Australia, 2021, 14 min., narrative): With the help of a therapist, Ethan attempts to transition from a crippling obsession to a freedom that can only be found by becoming Sapphire.

Two Sides (Steph Borklund, U.S., 2022, 15 min., narrative): In this classic LGBTQ+ coming-out story — full of denial, confusion, regret, and acceptance — Casey and her father reflect on a turning point in their relationship.

When the Oracles Leave (Joss Barton, U.S., 2020, 14 min., experimental): The holy rites of queer revolution, trans rebirth, and the healing power of disco music are examined by an oracle along the banks of a rural Missouri river.  
With directors Barton and Borklund.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 9 PM

**Poison**


This year’s Q Classic is the second feature directed by Todd Haynes, the Oscar-nominated filmmaker of “Far from Heaven” and “Carol.” A groundbreaking American indie — winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 1991 Sundance Film Festival — “Poison” was one of the most fervently debated films of the early 1990s and served as a landmark of the New Queer Cinema. A work of immense visual invention, Haynes’ spectacular follow-up to his legendary “Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story” is audacious, disturbing and thrillingly cinematic. Inspired by the writings of Jean Genet, “Poison” deftly interweaves a trio of transgressive tales: “Hero,” shot in mock TV-documentary style, tells a bizarre story of suburban patricide and a miraculous flight from justice; “Horror,” filmed like a delirious ’50s B-movie melodrama, is a gothic tale of a mad sex experiment that unleashes a disfiguring plague; and “Homo” explores the obsessive sexual relationship between two prison inmates.
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 1:15 PM
Two Eyes
Travis Fine, U.S., 2019, 107 min., narrative
Also available virtually April 29-May 5
“Two Eyes” — whose title references some Indigenous peoples’ beliefs about multifaceted gender expression — explores passion, gender, art, and the found families queer people often find themselves forming. Three timelines are interwoven into a cinematic triptych: In 1868, a young artist travels to Montana to paint the wild, untamed land to chase a new “muse.” In 1979, a young photographer is forever changed when a bold foreign-exchange student alters his perception of the world. And in 2020, a young trans musician tries to take his life in a moment of utter despair and hopelessness before connecting with an inspiring trans non-binary therapist.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 3:30 PM
Mama Bears
Daresha Kyi, U.S., 2022, 90 min., documentary
Spread across the country but connected through private Facebook groups, more than 30,000 conservative, Christian mothers call themselves “mama bears” because of how ferociously they fight for the civil rights of their children and the entire LGBTQ+ community. The film explores the journeys of two mama bears and a young lesbian whose struggle for self-acceptance exemplifies why the mama-bears movement is vitally important. Shot in a poetic, deeply intimate style, “Mama Bears” uses social-media posts, home movies, photographs, interviews, and cinéma vérité footage to explore the complex intersections of politics, religion, faith, and true, unconditional love.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 6:15 PM
Sirens
Rita Baghdadi, Lebanon, 2021, 78 min., Arabic & English, documentary
Headstrong 23-year-old guitarist Lilas Mayassi lives with her mom and younger brother on the outskirts of Beirut. By day, Lilas teaches music to kids. By night, she’s trying to keep her thrash-metal band Slave to Sirens together. She’s also secretly falling for a young woman living across the border in Syria. Growing up in the shadow of their parents’ civil war, Lilas and her bandmates — Shery, Maya, Alma, and Tatiana — have big dreams but few opportunities, until they’re invited to play Glastonbury, the world’s largest music festival. “Sirens” is a vibrant portrait of a young woman struggling to define herself in Lebanon, a region of the Middle East as complex as each of the Sirens themselves.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 8:30 PM
Cut! (¡Corten!)
Marc Ferrer, Spain, 2021, 79 min., Spanish, narrative
Like a lost early Pedro Almodóvar remake of Dario Argento’s “Tenebrae,” “Cut!” follows Marcos, an unsuccessful film director immersed in the shooting of his new giallo, as a black-gloved killer begins to wreak grisly havoc around his production. Clues lead the bumbling Barcelona police to believe it might be Marcos who’s busy slashing away at more than just his reels of film. The director must race to finish his latest and find the real killer, who could be any member of his motley queer crew, including his mordantly funny producer, a mysterious male ingénue, and several singing drag queens. With a tongue planted firmly in cheek, this deadpan meta-comedy knowingly and lovingly parodies conventions of gialli with a cast of bawdy performers that might make even John Waters envious.
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 12:15 PM

**The Therapy**

Zvi Landsman, Israel, 2021, 85 min., English & Hebrew, documentary

Lev, a 54-year-old divorced Orthodox Jewish father, attends LGBTQ+ conversion therapy. Trying to diminish his unwanted “attractions” and hoping to be remarried to a woman, he attempts both one-on-one and group therapy sessions. Ben, a 23-year-old social-work student, is already seven years into his own treatment when he sets out on a research quest to discover the truth about the potential harm caused during the process. He learns that the way out can be far more painful than he originally thought. “The Therapy” is an urgent, no-holds-barred look inside at not just conversion therapy but also the people who enter these practices initially unaware of their dangerous effects.

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2:30 PM

**The Unabridged Mrs. Vera’s Daybook**

Robert James, U.S., 2021, 81 min., documentary

Also available virtually April 29-May 5

“Mrs. Vera’s Daybook” tells a story of historic activism and community art through the works of two San Francisco artists and long-term AIDS survivors. During one of the darkest periods in U.S. history, two men decide to bring joy and color to a broken community for which an entire movement has emerged. Supporters, fellow activists, and members of the queer art community help paint a vivid portrait of perseverance, compassion, and outrageous dime-store fashion. Director Robert James, who hails from Decatur, Ill., will attend this “hometown premiere.”

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 5:15 PM

**Great Freedom (Grosse Freiheit)**

Sebastian Meise, Germany, 2021, 116 min., German, narrative

In postwar Germany, Hans is imprisoned again and again for being homosexual. Due to the infamous anti-gay legal ruling called Paragraph 175, his desire for literal and sexual freedom is systematically being destroyed along with his mind. The one steady relationship in his life becomes his longtime cellmate, Viktor, who is a convicted murderer. What starts in revulsion grows to something called love. Director Sebastian Meisel was the winner of the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival. The Hollywood Reporter writes: “Built around a moving characterization of defiant resilience conveyed with great restraint by Franz Rogowski, who continues to impress after ‘Victoria’ and his work with Christian Petzold in ‘Transit’ and ‘Undine’, Meise’s film should elevate the stock of both the actor and the Austrian director.”

Sponsored by Ted Wight

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 7:30 PM

**Anaïs in Love**

Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet, France, 2021, 98 min., French, narrative

Also screens at 8:15 PM Tuesday, May 3

Flighty, impulsive, and carefree to a fault, Anais struggles to pay her rent, hold down a job, and finally finish a thesis that’s months overdue. Her irresistible charm barely keeps her afloat as she flees from one version of love or lust to another. Traditional monogamy with boyfriend Raoul doesn’t suit her. Her brief love affair with Daniel, a married man as old as her father, is lukewarm at best (but his home is at least a place to land for the time being).
These relationships feel more like hobbies than commitments until Anais discovers Daniel’s effortlessly beautiful wife, Emilie. Immediately enamored by Emilie’s captivating aura of mature elegance, Anais rearranges every part of her already-haphazard life just to be near her. Intrigued by Anais’ forward advances, Emilie finds herself cautiously yearning for desires she thought she’d outgrown.

**Sponsored by Cindy Walker**

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**MONDAY, MAY 2, 6 PM**

**Rebel Dykes**

Harri Shanahan & Siân A. Williams, U.K., 2021, 89 min., documentary

“Rebel Dykes” is a rabble-rousing documentary set in 1980s post-punk London in all its ass-kicking, leather-wearing glory. The film follows a tight-knit group of friends who met at Greenham Common peace camp and went on to become artists, performers, musicians, and activists in London. A heady mash-up of animation, archive footage, and interviews tells the story of a radical scene: squatters, BDSM nightclubs, anti-Thatcher rallies, protests demanding action around AIDS, and the fierce ties of chosen families. This is an extraordinarily privileged glimpse into a bygone world by those who lived out their politics with heartfelt conviction.

**Sponsored by John Stroup**

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**MONDAY, MAY 2, 8:15 PM**

**The Depths**

Ryūsuke Hamaguchi, Japan/South Korea, 2010, 121 min., Japanese & Korean, narrative

Before he was a critical darling for “Happy Hour,” “Asako I & II,” and “Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy” and Oscar-nominated four times over for his breakout hit “Drive My Car,” Ryūsuke Hamaguchi made “The Depths,” a sexy queer thriller of intimate proportions. Bae-hwan is a famous Korean fashion photographer visiting Japan to take pictures of his friend Gil-su’s wedding. When the bride dashes off, Bae-hwan ends up filling in for her at Gil-su’s photo studio, where he shoots Ryu, a male sex worker. The photographer is attracted to his subject’s devil-may-care attitude and striking beauty, eventually finding himself in way over his head as he enters the criminal underworld that surrounds Ryu. QFest St. Louis is proud to present the St. Louis theatrical premiere of this rarely seen early work by the ascendant Japanese master.

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**TUESDAY, MAY 3, 6 PM**

**Queer Shorts 2: Outside the Comfort Zone**

89 min.

**Also available virtually April 29-May 5**

**Lego Harry Potter and the Transgender Witch, Episode 1**

(Logan Ellis, U.S., 2022, 12 min., narrative): Quincy Blueburger is an 11-year-old Muggleborn Lego who has been admitted to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry as the first out transgender student.

**Lucy** (Emma Sofia Fazzuoli, U.S., 2022, 13 min., narrative): When Brad orders takeout after his Grindr hookup, he gets more than he bargained for when Lucy, a food-delivery robot, drops off a baby instead.


**Out of This World** (Elia Petridis, U.S., 2021, 17 min., narrative): Nebby, a rambunctious teenage alien, meets Ariana, a former singer turned waitress.

**Pierce Me.** (John e. Kilberg, U.S., 2022, 10 min., narrative): One evening, Tommy meets with Vela to get his ears pierced.

**Placenta Pâté** (Tia Salisbury, U.K., 2022, 13 min., narrative): New mother Libby has breastfeeding woes, but when her wife suggests a traditional placenta remedy is the answer, underlying tensions rear their head, and it’s not just the kitchen getting messy.

**The Test** (Jessica Smith, Australia, 2020, 8 min., narrative): Hoping to take the next big step in their life together, two women await the results of a test that could not only put an end to their plans but perhaps even their relationship.
The Window (Sarah Kaskas, Lebanon, 2021, 16 min., Arabic, narrative): A year after Beirut’s port explosion, Basma and Mariam reunite in their old bedroom and attempt to resolve their shared trauma and broken relationship.

Let's Do This Again Sometime (Petrus van Staden, South Africa, 2021, 13 min., narrative): A man’s search for connection is thrown off course during an uncomfortable encounter with an old flame.

Misnomer (Aella Jordan-Edge, U.K., 2022, 12 min., narrative): During a dinner with friends, Lily accidentally calls her transgender partner by the wrong name.

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 8:15 PM
Anaïs in Love
See description under Sunday, May 1, 7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 8:15 PM
We’re All Going to the World’s Fair
Jane Schoenbrun, U.S., 2021, 86 min., narrative
Late on a cold night somewhere in the U.S., teenage Casey sits alone in her attic bedroom, scrolling the internet under the glow-in-the-dark stars and black-light posters that blanket the ceiling. She has finally decided to take the World’s Fair challenge, an online role-playing horror game, and embrace the uncertainty it promises. After the initiation, she documents the changes that may or may not be happening to her, adding her experiences to the shuffle of online clips available for the world to see. As she begins to lose herself between dream and reality, a mysterious figure reaches out, claiming to see something special in her uploads.

Wednesday, May 4, 6 PM
Queer Shorts 3: Personal Connections
99 min.
Become the Wounded (Amir Zargara, Canada, 2021, 35 min., narrative): A couple tries to mend old wounds, but realize it's not about fixing things – it's about true empathy.

Hear My Voice (Charles Meunier, U.K., 2021, 13 min., narrative): Mike moved to London hoping to find love and the dream part that would launch his opera career, but four years later his journal is now his best friend.

I Should Feed My Cat (Abram Cerda, Belgium, 2022, 16 min., French & Spanish, narrative): In Brussels, a Chilean man looks for connection, but fear of intimacy may lead him astray.

Kiss Me (David Barba, Mexico, 2022, 10 min., Spanish, narrative): A mischievous teen explores an empty beach house until he gets caught by the object of his desire.
**Thursday, May 5, 6 PM**

**Queer Shorts 4: Family Matters**

79 min.

Also available virtually April 29-May 5

**Early Retirement** (Michelle Bossy, U.S., 2021, 13 min., narrative): A thirtysomething man, on the heels of a breakup with his boyfriend, moves in with his parents, who live in a 55-plus adult community.

**Make Me a King** (Sofia Olins, U.K., 2021, 16 min., narrative): Ari performs as a Jewish drag king, much to the confusion of their family.

**Mumu Shelley** (Batul Mukhtiar, India, 2021, 50 min., Bengali, English & Hindi, narrative): Shelley arrives early at the home of Mumu, the cousin of her girlfriend Mishti, to begin the process of coming out to family, but Mishti never shows up.

**Thursday, May 5, 8:15 PM**

**The Swimmer** *(HaSahyan)*

Adam Kalderon, Israel, 2021, 83 min., Hebrew, narrative

Erez, a rising star in the Israeli swimming scene, arrives at a godforsaken training camp held in a boarding school, where the winner of the competition gets a ticket to the Olympics. There he meets the beautiful and talented Nevo, who awakens subconscious desires in him. However, their swimming coach does not believe in friendship between competitors. Warned to stay away from Nevo, Erez is still too attracted to him. In between practices, he attempts to act on his feelings and understands that winning a medal is less important than winning Nevo’s heart.

Lead actor Omer Perelman Striks won the Best Actor Award at the 2021 Jerusalem Film Festival.

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Your membership contribution provides filmmakers with year-round platforms to share their unique stories through film with audiences of all ages in our community.

Plus you’ll receive the best access to St. Louis’ most exciting film events, including discounts off admission and passes to Cinema St. Louis film festivals.

2022 Festivals & Events

- Golden Anniversaries: Films of 1972 | April-October
- QFest St. Louis Film Festival | April 29-May 5
- I Love Movies Trivia Night | May 27
- St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase Film Festival | July 15-21
- Classic French Film Festival | Aug. 5-21
- St. Louis International Film Festival (SLIFF) | Nov. 3-13

Standard Member Benefits

- Discounts on film fest tickets & passes
- Advance screenings of major studio films throughout the year*  
- Weekly Cinescoop e-newsletter on St. Louis-area film events
- Silver Linings: quarterly e-newsletter, exclusive to members

Your contribution can help CSL shine a light on even more local, national, and global filmmakers while educating the filmmakers of tomorrow.

Membership Levels**

** Membership Levels

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* Dependent on Covid-19 restrictions
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**Text Talk to 741741**  
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**The Trevor Project**  
Phone, chat, and text support for LGBTQ+ youth  
thetrevorproject.org/get-help/

**Trans Lifeline**  
1-877-565-8860

**SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline**  
1-877-360-LGBT (5428)