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New Queer Cinema: Fighting Censorship with Independent Film

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NEW QUEER CINEMA

fighting censorship with independent film
by Rowan Leary

since the creation of cinema, queer people have been censored.

In 1934, the Hays Code was established,

MOVIES CANNOT:

- lower the moral standards of viewers
- depict incorrect standards of life
- create sympathy for lawbreakers

Bill Hays

This stopped humanizing queer representation in movies.

We're either villains or non-existent

In 1967, The Hays Code was dissolved, but queer representation was still censored.

one form of censorship was movie ratings

R

NC-17

• nudity

• man masturbating in trailer

AMERICAN PIE

American Pie (1999) Paul Weitz

+ two scenes were cut to achieve an R-rating

IM A CHEERLEADER

• woman masturbating

• no nudity

But I'm a Cheerleader (2000) Jamie Babbit

unfair treatment & homophobia caused big production companies not to fund queer movies

So, un constrained by big production companies, filmmakers were able to fully express themselves.

NEW QUEER CINEMA

With small budgets, these "underground" filmmakers created movies centering queer experiences.

Despite little mainstream attention, this movement produced extremely innovative, beloved and unapologetically queer films.

DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

CHERYL DUNYE

• The Watermelon Woman (1997)

• Stranger Inside (2001)

GREGG ARAKI

• THE LIVING END (1992)

• Totally F*CKED UP (1993)

• NOWHERE (1997)

ROSE TROCHE

• go Fish (1994)

• Bedrooms & Hallways (1998)