

PRIDE 2021: MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS - (full list)



Available through the U of A Library:

[Battle of the Sexes](#) (2017)

“Biopic about Billie Jean King (tennis player) and her famous tennis match against a man to put the battle of the sexes to bed.”

[Bohemian Rhapsody](#) (2018)

“Biopic about the late, great, Freddy Mercury, lead singer of the rock band Queen and unwilling poster boy for the AIDS epidemic of the 1990’s.”

[Boy Erased](#) (2018)

“Deals with conversion therapy and is based on a true story. I liked (well, like as in I found it compelling) because it depicted what it would be like to be humiliated for something you can't change, and in the case of the main character, to have your relationship with your family depend on the outcome of the 'therapy'.”

[Boys](#) (2014)

“It's a beautiful and simple coming-of-age story that ends happy and hopeful :)”

[But I'm a Cheerleader](#) (1999)

“It's light-hearted, campy, and the writer and director are members of the LGBTQ2S+ community and provide the queer gaze that is often missing from films about queer characters. Some of the jokes don't hold up in 2021, but if watched with the understanding that it is a more than 20-year-old satirical film, it can be a real delight to

watch.”

“Clea Duvall from "But I'm a Cheerleader" is the director of "Happiest Season", and she is a lesbian in real life. They hired lesbian actors for the movie and several other actors were gay, lesbian, or bisexual.”

[C.R.A.Z.Y.](#) (2005)

“A great film with an amazing soundtrack. It's Canadian-made, in French, set in the Montreal suburbs in the 60s & 70s.”

[Call Me By Your Name](#) (2017)

- It's the summer of 1983, and precocious 17-year-old Elio Perlman is spending the days with his family at their 17th-century villa in Lombardy, Italy. He soon meets Oliver, a handsome doctoral student who's working as an intern for Elio's father. Amid the sun-drenched splendor of their surroundings, Elio and Oliver discover the heady beauty of awakening desire over the course of a summer that will alter their lives forever. (Summary)

[The Celluloid Closet](#) (2001)

“A documentary, not a fiction film, but seems like a good overview of everything in film related to this topic.”

[Closet Monster](#) (2015)

- A fresh take on the coming-of-age story, this surreal tale follows the artistically driven Oscar, hovering on the brink of adulthood. Struggling to find his place in the world after a rough childhood and haunted by images of a tragic incident, Oscar dreams of escaping his small town. After he meets a mysterious and attractive new co-worker, Oscar follows the guidance of his pet hamster Buffy and faces his demons to find the life he wants. (Summary)

[Cloudburst](#) (2013)

“A senior lesbian breaks her partner of 30 years out of a seniors home so they can run away to Canada to get married. With Olympia Dukakis and it's Canadian. My favourite LGBTQ2S++ movie. You'll laugh, you'll cry. There's even some eye candy for the straight

ladies.”

[The Favourite](#) (2018)

- THE FAVOURITE is a bawdy, acerbic tale of royal intrigue, passion, envy and betrayal in the court of Queen Anne in early 18th century England. At the center of the story is the Queen herself (Olivia Colman), whose relationship with her confidante, adviser and clandestine lover Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough (Rachel Weisz) is turned upside down by the arrival of the Duchess's younger cousin Abigail (Emma Stone). Soon the balance of power shifts between the women as they jockey for influence with the Queen and the court. (Summary)

[The Handmaiden](#) (2018)

“It's an extremely creative adaptation, dark and engaging, cleverly structured, and it stuck with me for months.”

[Hedwig and the Angry Inch](#) (2001)

“A sympathetic and uplifting rock-opera about a trans singer from Berlin: what's not to love?”

[Kissing Jessica Stein](#) (2001)

- Fed up with her fruitless search for "Mr. Right" and tired of blind dates from hell, attractive journalist Jessica Stein whimsically responds to a classified ad-- from Helen! Making and breaking new rules of dating as they go, the two women muddle through an earnest but hilarious courtship that blurs the lines between friendship and romantic love. (Summary)

[Love, Simon](#) (2018)

- Everyone deserves a great love story, but for seventeen year old Simon Spier, it's a little more complicated. He hasn't told his family or friends that he's gay, and he doesn't know the identity of the anonymous classmate that he's fallen for online. Resolving both issues proves hilarious, terrifying and life changing. (Summary)

[Milk](#) (2008)

“Bio-pic about Harvey Milk, a hero of the queer community in 1970's San Francisco, who met a tragic end directly as a result of homophobia.”

[The Miseducation of Cameron Post](#) (2018)

- Based on the celebrated novel by Emily M. Danforth, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* follows the titular character (Chloe Grace Moretz) as she is sent to a gay conversion therapy center after getting caught with another girl in the back seat of a car on prom night. (Summary)

[Moonlight](#) (2016)

“A powerful look at toxic masculinity and the struggle to express identity within spheres of violence and fear, especially internalized ones.”

“This film is truly moving and powerful. I continually think about it and recommend it. I see it as a classic and that it will continue to be relevant for years to come.”

“Academy award winner, coming of age story in an urban environment featuring people of colour.”

[Paris is Burning](#) (1990)

“A fascinating look inside New York’s ‘drag ball’ culture, the birth of voguing, and perhaps even the birth of American drag culture as we know it today.”

[Portrait de la jeune fille en feu \(Portrait of a Lady on Fire\)](#) (2019)

“This film holds a precious place in my heart. Films featuring LGBTQ2S+ women are dominated by the heterosexual, masculine gaze and rarely provide genuine representation. This film, written and directed by lesbian filmmaker Céline Sciamma, depicts an authentic, devastating, and beautiful love story that provides the complexity and depth of character that is rarely found in films about queer women. Beyond that, this film, set on a remote island in 18th century Brittany, is breathtaking to watch. As I write this recommendation now and spend a moment remembering this movie, I am finding that my heart aches and my cheeks are wet with tears. I really couldn't recommend it enough.”

[Pride](#) (2014)

“Great and very entertaining based on true events British comedy! Film follows a story of a group of LGBT activists raising money to help families affected by the 1984 British miners' strike through the Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners campaign.”

“Intersectional approach to the issues of gender and class.”

[Rocketman](#) (2019)

- A musical fantasy about the uncensored human story of Elton John's breakthrough years. (Summary)

[The Watermelon Woman](#) (1997)

- A film about a filmmaker named Cheryl who, while making a documentary about Fae Richards, a 1930's black film actress known as "The Watermelon Woman", experiences upheaval in her personal life and in her interactions with the black and lesbian communities. (Summary)

[When Night Is Falling](#) (1995)

- Camille, a classical mythology professor at a Christian college, must choose between her fiancé, Martin, a fellow theologian, and her new love, Petra, a flamboyant and daring circus performer. (Summary)

[Wild Nights with Emily](#) (2019)

“It is so great!”

Other films to look for (outside NEOS library system):

[The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert](#) (1994)

[Alex Strangelove](#) (2018)

[Ammonite](#) (2020)

[La Cage Aux Folles](#) (1978) and the American remake, [The Birdcage](#) (1996)

[The Boys In the Band](#) (2020)

[The Danish Girl](#) (2015)

[Even Cowgirls Get the Blues](#) (1993)

“A love letter to feminists, lesbians, and queer culture in general. Super campy and fun in a way only 90’s movies were. Plus the sound track features K.D. Lang!”

[Happiest Season](#) (2020)

“What would happen if you made a Romantic Christmas Movie about a lesbian couple. This is a fun exploration of a Christmas movie focussed on a lesbian couple and how their relationship impacts family and friends”

[Jonas / I am Jonas](#) (2018)

[The Kids Are Alright](#) (2010)

[I Shot Andy Warhol](#) (1996)

[Mapplethorpe](#) (2018)

[Philadelphia](#) (1993)

“An early film to deal with the AIDS crisis and homophobia.”

[The Prom](#) (2020)

“This is a fun musical about a lesbian girl who just wants to go to Prom!”

[Saving Face](#) (2004)

“This is an excellent movie about an Asian doctor coming out to her family and friends that she is a lesbian. It is funny and poignant, and an excellent portrayal about how Chinese culture can be very rigid and uncompromising, particularly for the women in the

community.”

[Uncle Frank](#) (2020)

“In the 1960's a young girl finds out her favorite Uncle Frank is gay and the movie explores why he was in the closet to his family, and what happens when the family finds out. It is a very well done drama with excellent acting.”

[Wilde](#) (1997)

“Stephen Fry's wonderful performance as Oscar Wilde was for me (a cis het guy) the first time I felt I could get gay male desire.”