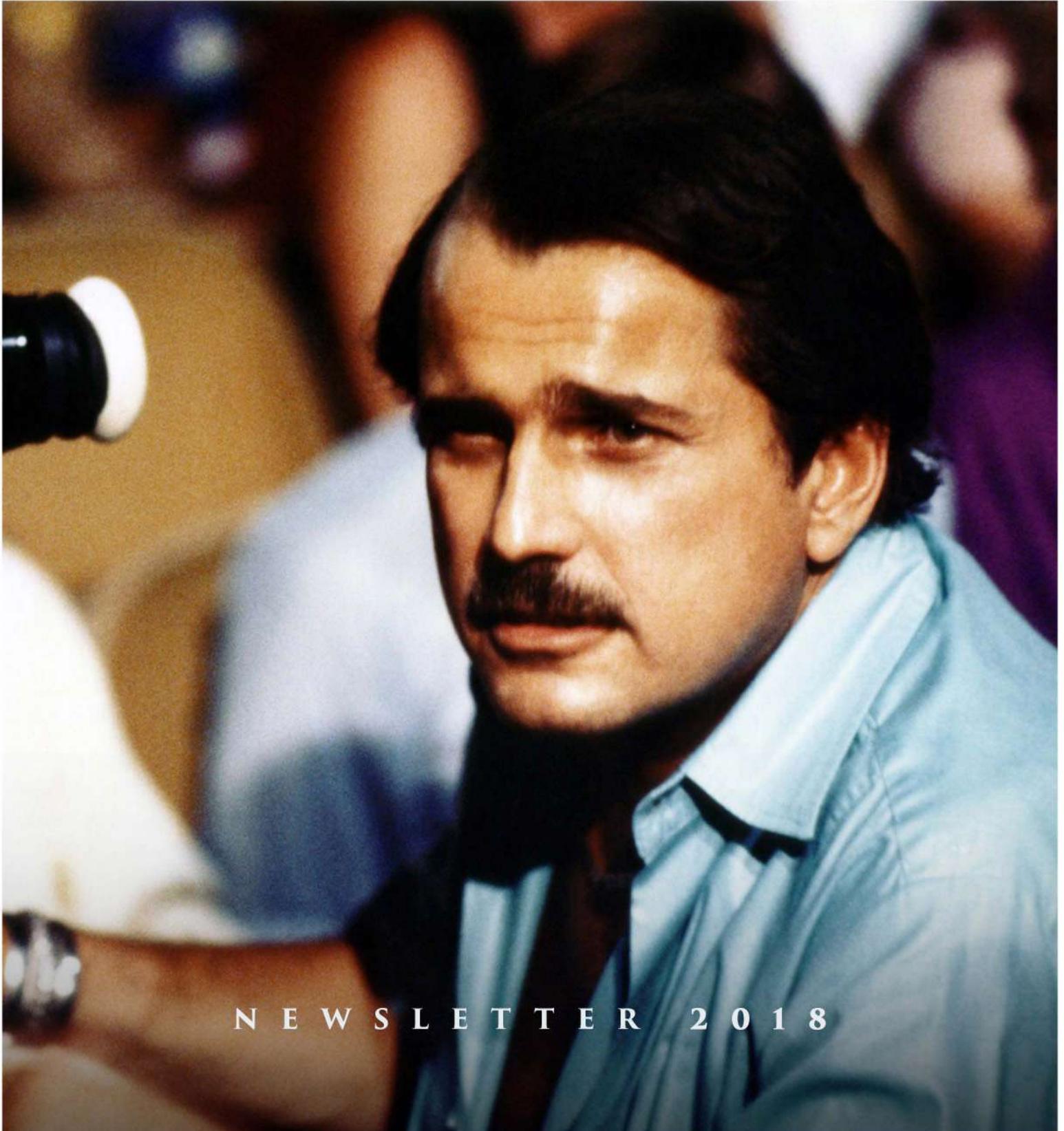


T H E A N D R E W J . K U E H N J R .

A J K

F O U N D A T I O N



N E W S L E T T E R 2 0 1 8

Dear Friends of Andy,

Andy Kuehn was a feminist and awake to bigotry in all its many forms. As he said so often, the war between the sexes was the first fissure in community and the vicious model for dominance and oppression in race, sexuality, religion, ethnicity, ability, etc., etc., ever since.

For all the insanity and setbacks of this surreal year in world history, in his absence we applaud the progress achieved by the "fairer sex" (our "better half") in resisting predation, asserting rights and achieving moral, political and cultural victories over the forces of reaction and fraud. We are nourished by such examples. The pendulum swings, but its fulcrum moves—often imperceptibly—toward the light.

With the grants made in 2018, the AJK Foundation affirms a better world and a fairer one in which we are respected for our humanity, judged by our character, lauded for our talent and rewarded according to our merit. We can do so much better! And we must demand it of our nation as we ask it of our students, our scholars and our creative visionaries. Today, Andy's legacy supports women and men, adults and children and the communities in which they live and grow, aspire and overcome. We're on the right side of history, where human capacity is nourished, enabled and inspired to create, solve and share the results.

At the institutions we support, the equality, value and creativity of persons—however they are sexed or choose to identify themselves—are assumed and celebrated! Consequently, the results are wondrous.

In British Columbia, a local theater trains high-schoolers and mounts quality productions for the region. In Orange County, one of the finest (and public) arts academies in the nation builds on past achievement to propel another class into higher education and professional opportunity. In Los Angeles, a monument to the Aids Epidemic honors those lost as well as the heroes who stepped forward to deliver care, hope and advocacy in the darkest days of the epidemic. (Need we mention that women were in the vanguard?) At Outfest, the programming of multiple yearly festivals comprises not only the work of women direc-

tors and producers, actors and production professionals, but spotlights issues of sexuality, identity and inequality that feminism and GLBTQ struggles helped us identify, analyze and fight. Over at UCLA, we're providing financial support for the next generation of producers of moving images (in every sense) and ensuring that the works of those GLBTQ filmmakers who midwived our era are preserved, shared and studied by generations to come.

We can't and won't take credit for all this creative foment. But we do loudly and publicly declare the achievement of our grantees and fan their flights of artistry, service, joy and love.

We are saddened to announce the passing of Andrevia Kuehn Holterhoff, Andy's elder sister, his during nearest relative, close friend and unwavering support and advocate his entire life and beyond. Andrevia, who died in August, after a brief illness, was a remarkable woman and a model of female autonomy, agency and authority. She is remembered as a devoted mother, doting sister, incomparable friend and a great dame! She pursued a career as a draftsman, married (three times), traveled the world, enjoyed life to its fullest and shared the voice, charisma and drive that characterized her little brother. She is survived by her daughter, Debbie Peterson. Andrevia was member of the AJK Foundation Board from its inception and is already sorely missed.



KELOWNA ACTORS STUDIO ACADEMY

The Kelowna Actors Studio Academy, in the Okanagan Valley, is a place where talented kids can learn and perform in a working theatre alongside professionals and adult students of Musical Theatre.

A logical outgrowth of The Kelowna Actors Studio, which has been presenting Musicals and Plays to regional audiences for 16 years, the Academy was formally opened in 2014 after years in which young students of theater arts formed first a Performance Troupe, then a Young Company, and finally enrolled in a full time, performing arts school for grades 10 to 12.

Graduates of the small, tight-knit and ambitious program have pursued post-secondary training at Sheridan College and the Randolph Academy of the Arts in Toronto, at the Canadian College of Performing Arts in Victoria and internationally.

In 2018, a grant from The Andrew J Kuehn Jr. Foundation financed workshops in Playwriting, Dance and Music taught by distinguished professionals. Academy students, middle-school members of the after-school Studio Kidz program and the Senior Performance Troupe worked with visiting artists as they tackled lead and supporting roles, rehearsed and then performed *Godspell* on the Main Stage last Spring. Grant proceeds also helped to defray production expenses.

Two Academy students [pictured below] who featured in that production graduated in June and are continuing their education at the Guilford Academy in London, England and New York University, respectively. Training at the Kelowna Actors Studio Academy enabled them to compete favorably with students from areas of extensive performing arts programming and performance opportunities.



AIDS MEMORIAL

STORIES: THE AIDS MONUMENT

In stories and sculpture, the AIDS Monument seeks to memorialize the AIDS Crisis and honor the courage of activists, caregivers and community leaders. Nearly 650,000 Americans have died since 1981, and while the losses have slowed, the epidemic endures.

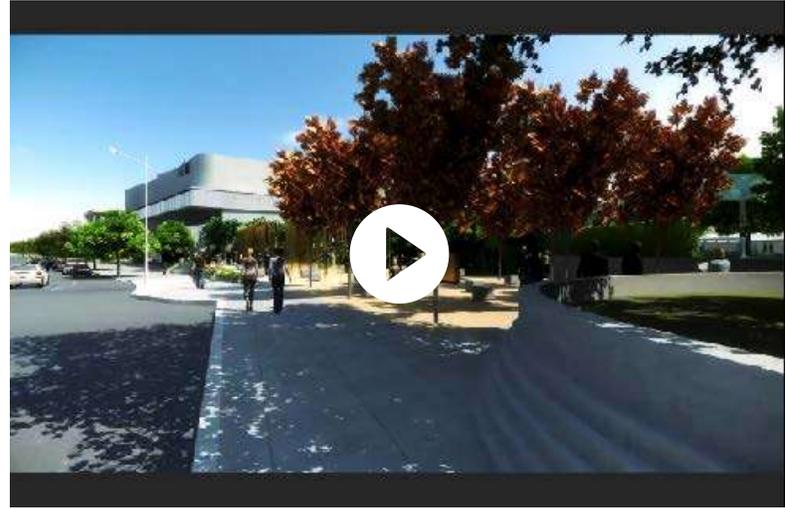
In recalling and retelling the stories of those who fought and those who died, the Aids Monument continues the work of raising awareness and money for research and treatment of persons living with AIDS/HIV.

Remember: a digital analogue to the physical Monument allows visitors to upload personal memorials, including stories, video and images of loved ones.

Honor: the Monument honors the caregivers, activists and community leaders who fought then and now for an end to HIV/AIDS.

Inform: the Monument provides HIV/AIDS prevention information while raising awareness of the history and current state of the disease. Knowledge is key to reducing infection, removing the stigma and minimizing politicization of the next health crisis.

In 2018, great progress was made in meeting the 2020 installation target, owing to generous contributions from The AJK Foundation and others. The Foundation AIDS Memorial, under the leadership of Tony Valenzuela, began developing a significant online presence, as well as community-based programming to engage Los Angeles County residents and beyond.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An outreach booth at Pride LA drew over 400 people who registered to learn about the AIDS Monument and its mission. New, deeply moving video content, including [this short documentary](#) about the history of the Cedars-Sinai AIDS unit, was added to the website at www.aidsmonument.org.

COLLABORATIONS WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Development staff secured a \$250,000 donation from the State of California. The City of West Hollywood demonstrated its active partnership in developing a significant work of public art and site of remembrance for millions to visit in coming years.

FUNDRAISING

With support from the Foundation, a further \$4.2 million in public and private monies has been pledged since last year.

OCSA

Founded in 1987, the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) provides a creative, challenging and nurturing environment for bright and talented students as well as an unparalleled preparation for higher education and professional attainment in the arts. OCSA consistently ranks among the top schools in the State of California.

The only specialized arts program of its kind in the region, OCSA offers tuition-free academic and arts instruction to students from Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. A non-profit, OCSA relies on private and corporate donations to finance its many arts conservatories.

Serving 2,000 students in grades 7-12 from over 100 cities across Southern California, OCSA places personal growth and educational achievement first. Excellence, innovation, professionalism and integrity are expected of every student.

The recipient of generous grants from the Andrew J Kuehn, Jr. Foundation since 2007, the OCSA Film & Television Conservatory (FTV) has purchased equipment to train students, produce film and tv and enrich educational experiences. This year, even more exciting adventures, projects and events were made possible.

SUMMER CAMBODIA DOCUMENTARY TRIP

In June, FTV students embarked on a 10-day filmmaking trip to Cambodia. Arriving in Phnom Penh, students made short films about Cambodia Living Arts, Khmer cuisine and recent history. They took a traditional dance lesson, toured the Royal Palace and made a sobering visit to the Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng prison.



In Siem Reap, they produced a film about Angkor Wat, alongside further documentation (and delectation) of Khmer cuisine. OCSA students met with their Cambodian pen pals, attended a Khmer cooking class, participated in a wheelchair building project and filmed in the local markets.



Conservatory students premiered working cuts of their films at the *Back to School Film Festival* in September prior to submitting them in December to *The Cambodian International Film Festival*.



FTV SENIOR FILM SHOWCASE

In September, FTV hosted a Senior Film Showcase at the Frida Cinema in Santa Ana. At this annual College Fair, representatives from national film schools were invited to meet seniors and watch their best work. At a reception afterward, students introduced themselves, handed out business cards and networked. You can watch two of the showcase films below:

“OLIVER’S GARDEN” (COMEDY)

A young horticulturalist treats his plants like friends.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n-n_vcqvN4



“WALKING ON WATER” (DOCUMENTARY)

A young dancer faces an uncertain future after an injury.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxB6Bpm5lRc>



Of course, OCSA students also presented their annual **Film Showcase** at Chapman University to deserved acclaim.



“An Empty Shell”



“Days of the Weak”

SOUND MIXING WORKSHOP

This October, FTV conducted its first ever sound mixing workshop in its newly finished Foley studio and mixing room. Grants from AJK helped purchase an audio mixer and microphones as well as soundproofing materials.

With its 2018 grant, FTV purchased ProTools audio mixing software and LED and Arri Light Kits. Resources were allocated for a new production studio equipped to broadcast live music shows to be built next year.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Once again, FTV students won filmmaking awards and honors too numerous to detail here, screened their works at film festivals across the country and were accepted to prestigious film programs including NYU, USC, Chapman and Emerson.

OUTFEST

In 1982, UCLA Students founded Outfest as a driver of LGBTQ equality. Through the creation, distribution and preservation of moving images, Outfest nourishes LGBTQ community by presenting filmed and videotaped stories from the lives of diverse populations. It preserves the past, celebrates the present and nurtures the future by enabling artistic expression of gender, sexuality, LGBTQ culture and its transformative social impact on the world. While inspiring visual storytellers, Outfest uses the power of movies to promote acceptance and equality for all LGBTQ people.

Over the past three decades, Outfest has showcased thousands of films from around the world, educated and mentored hundreds of emerging filmmakers, archived more than 38,000 LGBTQ films and videos and painstakingly restored 25 seminal films. Key programs include the annual Los Angeles LGBTQ [Film Festival](#), the largest such event in the world; [Outfest Fusion](#), a yearly festival of films by and about LGBTQ People of Color; [Outfest Forward](#), dedicated to educating and mentoring the next generation of film artists; and the UCLA [Legacy Project](#), the only program on earth dedicated to preserving and providing access to LGBTQ films for future generations.

A grant from the Andrew J Kuehn, Jr. Foundation supported many of the activities of the Outfest / UCLA Legacy Project in 2018. In March of 2018, the Project presented Our Story: The Outfest Legacy Project at the Cinematek in Belgium, a four-day program of films and restorations focused on the work of Cheryl Dunye. And, in collaboration with the UCLA Archive, Outfest presented four special screenings at The Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theater. These included *Little Darlings* (1980); *Die, Mommie, Die!* (2003); *Torch Song Trilogy* (1988); and *HALLELUJAH! Ron Athey, a Story of Deliverance* (1997). Looking forward, foundation funds will help restore *GAYUSA* (1977), directed by Arthur J. Bressan, Jr., a critically important film documenting the beginnings of the gay rights movement.



(left to right) Todd Wiener, Will Gorges, Brendan Lucas, Angela Robinson, Paul Malcolm at the screening of *Little Darlings* (1980).



(left to right) Zackary Drucker, Ron Athey, Catherine Gund at the screening of *HALLELUJAH! Ron Athey: A Story of Deliverance* (1997).



(left to right) Jeffrey Schwarz, Charles Busch, Dante Di Loreto at the screening of *Die, Mommie, Die!* (2003).

UCLA FILM & TELEVISION ARCHIVE

The UCLA Film & Television Archive is the second largest moving image archive in the United States and the world's largest university-owned repository of media materials. An unparalleled resource for UCLA's department of Theater, Film & TV, the Archive is a destination for visual storytellers, film historians, students of media and working professionals.

Combining gifts and acquisitions from all the major studios and television networks, leading producers and legendary figures from the history of broadcasting, the Archive prioritizes preservation and restoration. As the collection grows, iconic materials are continually returned to public view and made available for scholarly research. Screenings of rare and important art-house and archival works at

the Archive's [Billy Wilder Theater](#) make this superb, Westwood venue a global destination for film lovers.

During the grant period, July 2017 through June 2018, UCLA Film & Television Archive exhibited LGBT moving image media in concert with Outfest. A series of high-profile, topical and entertaining programs benefited from AJK Foundation support.

The series began with Mexican writer-director Arturo Ripstein's groundbreaking melodrama *El Lugar Sin Limites/The Place Without Limits* (1977), an exploration of transgender identity as well as the complexities and contradictions of machismo culture in rural Mexico. A 35MM print from the archives collection was screened.

In Spring, *Torch Song Trilogy* (1988), a landmark of LGBTQ cinema adapted to the screen by Harvey Fierstein from his Tony Award-winning play, was feted with a 30th anniversary screening.

In June, the Archive and Outfest debuted a screening series in which guest curators select titles from the collection significant to their own lives and careers. The series began with artist and trans-woman Zackary Drucker (*HALLELUJAH! Ron Athey: A Story of Deliverance*, 1997), who spoke and moderated afterward. Documentarian Jeffrey Schwarz appeared along with his selection, *Die, Mommie, Die!*, 2003; lastly, writer-director Angela Robinson concluded the year's program with a showing of *Little Darlings*, 1980. Curators Drucker and Schwarz were joined by distinguished guests: director Catherine Gund and performance artist Ron Athey; and writer-star Charles Busch and producer Dante Di Loreto.



Charles Busch greeting attendees at the screening of *Die, Mommie, Die!* (2003).



Zackary Drucker at the screening of *HALLELUJAH! Ron Athey: A Story of Deliverance* (1997).



Ron Athey at the screening of *HALLELUJAH! Ron Athey: A Story of Deliverance* (1997).



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, DEPARTMENT OF THEATER, FILM & TELEVISION ([TFT](#))

The world-renowned UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television is an interdisciplinary professional school that develops outstanding storytellers, industry leaders and scholars whose voices enlighten, engage and inspire the world. For its diverse mix of undergraduate and graduate students, TFT offers courses in acting, directing, writing, producing, animation, cinematography, digital arts, lighting design, set design, costume design, sound design and Moving Image Archive Studies.

The school confers BA, MA and PhD degrees in Theater and Performance Studies as well as in Cinema & Media Studies, educating gifted, creative and ambitious students in their pursuit of careers in theater, motion picture arts and digital media.

ANDREW J. KUEHN FOUNDATION AWARD FOR CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES

With the *Transforming Media* Conference on hiatus in 2018, the AJK Grant was used to fund the Andrew J. Kuehn Foundation Award for Cinema and Media Studies, honoring nine first-year Cinema and Media Studies PhD students with a research stipend for their hard work and creative promise. Recipients include Zama Dube, Kate Kennelly, Veronica Zavala Jacobo, Shaina Goel, Zizi Li, Tessa Smith, Nicole Antonia Spagnola and Slaveya Minkova.