



WOLVERHAMPTON  
**LGBT+**  
ALLIANCE

# LGBT HISTORY MONTH



Produced in association with  
Wolverhampton Homes and  
University of Wolverhampton





Welcome to the first-ever Wolverhampton LGBT History Month Magazine, brought to you by Wolverhampton LGBT+ Alliance. This magazine gives you an overview of all the excellent and exciting events that are being organised to celebrate this year's LGBT History Month.

LGBT History Month is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate the LGBT+ community and recognise the achievements of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bi or trans.

In celebrating their achievements, we also combat narratives that seek to minimise the contributions of LGBT+ people to society and provide role models that reassure people who are struggling with their sexual orientation or gender identity, that there's nothing they can't achieve. LGBT History Month is also an opportunity to explore the unique challenges that we still face, highlighting what still needs to be done to achieve LGBT Equality.

This magazine would not have been possible without the support of Wolverhampton Homes and the University of Wolverhampton, who were behind the production, design and printing of the magazine. Thank you also to all the organisations that have arranged events. We hope that their commitment to LGBT+ equality will serve as inspiration and encourage even more organisations to participate in future years.



This magazine is just the latest project of Wolverhampton LGBT+ Alliance. Established in May 2017, the Alliance brings together organisations, businesses and community groups from across the city. As one united network, we aim to raise the profile of the LGBT+ community and to make Wolverhampton a better place to live, work and visit for everyone.

We meet every couple of months, where we discuss our plans for the year ahead...

- **Raising awareness**
- **Coordinated communication and marketing**
- **Sharing ideas**
- **Celebrating key dates, like Wolves Pride**
- **Networking events**
- **Combating hate crime and suicide**
- **Training**
- **And more...**

Do you represent an organisation, business or community group? Are you committed to equality for the LGBT+ community? If so, why not join us? Get in touch by emailing [proudtobeme@wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk](mailto:proudtobeme@wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk) or visiting our Facebook page at

 [www.facebook.com/WolvesLGBTAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/WolvesLGBTAlliance)  [www.wolveslgbtalliance.org.uk](http://www.wolveslgbtalliance.org.uk)

**Ben Howley**

Chair of Wolverhampton LGBT+ Alliance

**INTRODUCTION**

# THIRTY YEARS AFTER SECTION 28

“In 2017, we celebrated fifty years since the legalisation of male homosexuality in England and Wales. It naturally inspired much reflection on how far we as a community have come in that time. The temptation is to see the movement towards LGBT+ Equality as a continuous process but that would miss the many setbacks that we as a community have experienced. 2018 will mark the thirtieth anniversary of one of the most infamous, the passing of **“Section 28”**”.



A rare example of an interesting amendment to local government regulations, Section 28 sought to ban local councils from “promoting” homosexuality. In particular, it was designed to stop schools teaching pupils to accept the possibility that same-sex couples could raise children, banning state schools from teaching “the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship”. It would not be fully repealed until 2003.

Although focused on changing the content of lessons and teaching materials, the poor drafting of what was originally a backbench motion, meant that its chilling effect on the discussion of sexuality within schools went much further. When I came out to a teacher in 2000, their response was that they weren’t sure whether it would be legal for them to help me. Worse, there were instances of local authorities using it as a rationale to deny council homes to same-sex couples.

The silver lining was that it would have a galvanising impact on our community, with public figures such as Ian McKellen coming out to campaign against the measure, and Stonewall being founded to advocate for change. Such activism would ensure that Section 28 would prove to be only a temporary setback, but the fact that it was ever introduced underlines the need for continued vigilance.”

**Will Cooling, Head of Equality and Diversity**  
University of Wolverhampton

We hope you enjoy LGBT History Month and we'd love for you to get involved in forthcoming LGBT+ events in Wolverhampton and across the West Midlands.

**International Trans Day of Visibility > Saturday 31st March 2018**

**International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia >**

**Thursday 17th May 2018**

**Birmingham Pride > Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May 2018**

**Coventry Pride > Saturday 9th June and Sunday 10th June 2018**

**Walsall Pride > Saturday 25th August 2018**

**Bi-Visibility Day > Sunday 23rd September 2018**

**Shropshire Rainbow Film Festival 2018 > Friday 5th October – Sunday 7th October 2018**

**National Coming Out Day > Thursday 11th October 2018**

**Wolves Pride > Saturday 13th October 2018**

**Trans Day of Remembrance > Tuesday 20th November 2018**

**LGBT History Month > February 2019**

Wolverhampton LGBT+ Alliance marks each of these dates. If you have an idea for an event or would like to get involved, please get in touch.

There are other Equality and Diversity festivals that you may want to get involved in. We are looking to organise events to highlight how sexual orientation and gender identity intersects with other identities and experiences.

**International Women's Day > Thursday 8th March 2018**

**Mental Health Awareness Week > Monday 14th – Sunday 20th May 2018**

**Asian History Month > May 2018**

**Black History Month > October 2018**

**World Aids Day > Saturday 1st December 2018**

**Disability History Month > Thursday 22 November –  
Saturday 22 December 2018**



**KEY DATES FOR THE  
FORTHCOMING YEAR**



Supporting and nurturing the people of tomorrow

x2y is a youth group for young lesbian, gay, bi and trans people in the Wolverhampton area. We are a charity (number 1162589) and our aims are to:

- promote social inclusion of, and to preserve the physical and mental health of, LGBTQ young people;
- and promote equality and challenge discrimination, particularly on the grounds of age, gender identity and sexual orientation.

We run an open access youth group for LGBTQ young people every Saturday from 12noon to 3pm in the city centre. This provides an opportunity for LGBTQ young people to meet, socialise and support each other.

We provide information, advice and emotional support and aim to raise awareness of all aspects of discrimination through publications, training, events and social media. We can also provide advice, guidance and training to schools and others working with young people.

[www.x2y.org.uk](http://www.x2y.org.uk) X2Y LGBT Youth [info@x2y.org.uk](mailto:info@x2y.org.uk) 07847 421795



### A landlord you can trust

Wolverhampton Homes is Wolverhampton's biggest landlord. We manage over 23,000 council homes on behalf of City of Wolverhampton Council.

We have a close relationship with our tenants, some of whom sit on our Board, and we know just how diverse Wolverhampton is. We truly believe diversity is something to be embraced and celebrated.



Our **Proud To Be Me (PTBM)** network is an LGBT staff network made up of staff volunteers from across the organisation, both LGBT+ and otherwise. The PTBM network champions LGBT matters on behalf of colleagues and our customers, with a view to providing a safe, secure and happy environment for people to live and work.

We're a Stonewall Diversity Champion and in 2017, we were ranked 63rd in Stonewall's Top 100 Employer's list.

We're about so much more than just housing.

Find out more at [www.wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk](http://www.wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk)

[WolvesHomes](#)



Wolverhampton LGBT+ Alliance launches its first LGBT+ Quiz Night during LGBT History Month, on 21st February.

It's a fantastic opportunity to put your LGBT knowledge to the test and win some fabulous prizes, including a meal for two at the Prince Albert on Railway Street.

It's also a great chance for you to meet and socialise with members of the local LGBT+ community and speak with some of the Alliance's key member organisations.

We look forward to seeing you there...



WOLVERHAMPTON  
**LGBT+**  
ALLIANCE

# LGBT QUIZTORY NIGHT

**WEDNESDAY 21ST  
FEBRUARY 2018**

**PRINCE ALBERT**  
RAILWAY STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV1 1LG  
**ARRIVE FOR 7PM, QUIZ STARTS AT 7.30PM**

**£5 per team (max five people)**  
PRIZES AVAILABLE AND RAFFLE

Please register your team  
on **Eventbrite.co.uk**  
Search for **LGBT Quiztory**



*Inspiring Healthy Choices*

 [www.facebook.com/WolvesLGBTAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/WolvesLGBTAlliance)  
 [www.twitter.com/LGBT\\_Wolves](http://www.twitter.com/LGBT_Wolves)





UNIVERSITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON

## LGBT History Month Reception

Wednesday 7th February 2018, 2.30pm to 4.30pm  
University of Wolverhampton, Wulfruna St,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1LY (room to be confirmed)

The University of Wolverhampton LGBT Staff Network and LGBT+ Student Society invites you to a reception to celebrate LGBT History Month and the university entering Stonewall's Top 100 Employers list for the first time. The reception will feature talks about the work the university is doing to further LGBT Equality and discussions about what future events people would like to see organised.

The event is free for everyone to attend. To avoid disappointment please reserve your place by emailing  [w.cooling@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:w.cooling@wlv.ac.uk).




## Trans and Non-Binary Visibility Conference

Wednesday 21st  
March 2018  
12:30pm to 5:30pm  
University of  
Wolverhampton,  
Wulfruna St,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1LY (room to  
be confirmed)

To mark the forthcoming International Trans Day of Visibility, the University of Wolverhampton will host a special conference to celebrate the achievements and explore the unique experiences of trans and non-binary people. We will be joined by Caroline Paige, author of True Colours that outlines her experiences of being the first person to transition whilst serving in the British armed forces. We will also be joined by activists and acclaimed documentary makers Fox and Owl, who famously defended their non-binary gender identity during heated exchanges with Piers Morgan on Good Morning Britain.

**Time: 12.30pm – 5.30pm**

**Cost: The event is free for everyone to attend.** To avoid disappointment please register through Eventbrite – just search University of Wolverhampton Trans and Non-Binary Visibility Conference, or email  [w.cooling@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:w.cooling@wlv.ac.uk).

UNIVERSITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON EVENTS



# ARENA THEATRE WOLVERHAMPTON

The Arena Theatre is a unique venue in the heart of Wolverhampton that presents a wide range of theatre, music, dance and comedy. It is a strong supporter of LGBT Equality and will be presenting two events in February to mark LGBT History Month.



Thursday 8th February 2018  
– 7:30pm

## **Wilde Without the Boy / The Ballad of Reading Gaol**

“Wilde Without the Boy” is a dramatisation of “De Profundis”, the letter Oscar Wilde wrote from his prison cell in Reading gaol to his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, after Wilde had been

imprisoned for acts of gross indecency with other males. Brilliant, loving, witty and passionate, “Wilde Without the Boy” is a glimpse into the humbled, bruised, loving soul of one of the greatest geniuses ever to have lived.

Written by Oscar Wilde after his release from prison, The Ballad of Reading Gaol is a poem narrating the execution of Charles Thomas Wooldridge, convicted of murdering his wife.



Friday 16th February 2018  
– 7:30pm

## **Lefty Scum - Josie Long / Grace Petrie / Jonny & the Baptists**

Music! Comedy! Revolutionary socialism! Join us for a riotous evening with three of the UK's most joyfully rabble-rousing acts. Featuring Grace Petrie, an openly LGBT folk singer-songwriter who has quickly risen to prominence, and outspoken supporters of LGBT Equality, Josie Long and Jonny & the Baptist.

**Cost: £12 full price / £10 concessions.**

Tickets can be booked at [www.arena.wlv.ac.uk](http://www.arena.wlv.ac.uk), by calling **01902 321 321** or by visiting the box office **Arena Theatre, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SB.**

# ARENA THEATRE

# PUBLIC LECTURE ON LGBT PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Lecture on LGBT Public Health  
Thursday 15th February 2018, 4pm to 5pm  
University of Wolverhampton, Wulfruna St, Wolverhampton WV1 1LY,  
(Room TBC)

The University of Wolverhampton's Faculty for Health, Education and Wellbeing welcomes Dr Joanna Semlyen from the University of East Anglia. A registered Health Psychologist and specialist on issues related to mental health, she will provide an overview of recent research carried out in the UK exploring health disparities experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans\* people, presenting findings from quantitative and qualitative studies and weaving together a compelling argument for increased interventions, research and data monitoring for this group.

**Cost:** This is a free event open to anyone interested in public health but places will be limited so please reserve your place by emailing [FEHWEvents@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:FEHWEvents@wlv.ac.uk) with your name and details. Refreshments will be provided at the event.



The University of Wolverhampton's Faculty of Arts is organising a series of free LGBT History Month Events at the University's Walsall Campus, which are open to staff, students and the general public from across the Black Country.

# LGBT HISTORY MONTH EVENTS IN WALSALL

Friday 9TH February 2018 – 2pm to 4pm

## **LGBT Writers' Forum**

Room WH 226, The Performance Hub, Gorway Road, Walsall, WS1 3BD

An opportunity for writers to bring any musicals, plays, films or stories in development for workshopping and/or discussion.

Thursday 22nd February 2018 – 7pm to 9pm

## **Over The Rainbow**

The Black Box, The Performance Hub, Gorway Road, Walsall, WS1 3BD

A lecture-concert on LGBT representations in musical theatre by the Performing Arts LGBT Research Group featuring songs by LGBT songwriters.

Friday 23rd February 2018 – 2pm to 4pm

## **Next Steps Workshop**

Room WH 226, The Performance Hub,  
Gorway Road, Walsall, WS1 3BD

Open meeting of the Performing Arts LGBT Research Group to discuss focus for 2018/2019

# LIGHT HOUSE

Light House, a registered charity, is the Black Country's only independent cinema, plus galleries and a café bar, set within the Victorian architecture of The Chubb Buildings, Wolverhampton. In March, it will work with the University of Wolverhampton to present several films as part of a LGBT History Season.



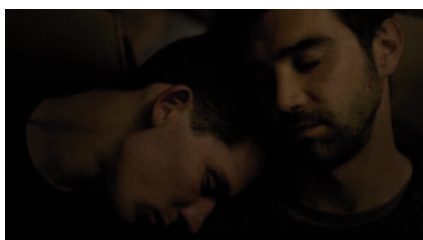
## Call Me By Your Name (15)

In 1983, the son of an American professor is enamored by the graduate student who comes to study and live with his family in their northern Italian home. Together they share an unforgettable summer full of music, food and romance that will forever change them. *Starring Armie Hammer, Timothee Chalamet & Michael Stuhlborg.*



## The Handmaiden (18)

Sook-hee the orphaned daughter of a thief and master pickpocket becomes a handmaiden for the beautiful but seclusive Hideko who lives with her domineering uncle. When Sook-hee & Hideko begin to develop emotional feelings for each other, their lives change forever. *Starring Min-hee Kim & Tae-ri Kim.*



## God's Own Country (15)

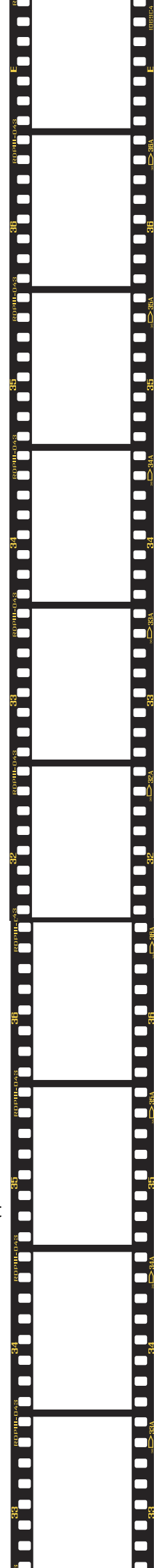
Spring. Yorkshire. Young farmer Johnny Saxby numbs his daily frustrations with binge drinking and casual sex, until the arrival of a Romanian migrant worker for lambing season ignites an intense relationship that sets Johnny on a new path. *Starring Josh O'Connor, Gemma Jones & Ian Hart.*

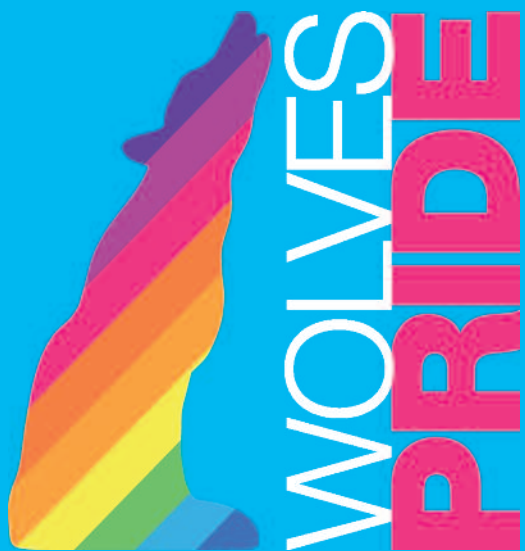


## A Fantastic Woman (TBC)

Marina is heartbroken by the sudden death of her older boyfriend Orlando. Marina is a trans woman and for most of Orlando's family her sexual identity is morally wrong. However, Marina has battled the same forces that she has spent a lifetime fighting just to become the woman she is – a complex, strong, forthright and fantastic woman. *Starring Daniella Vega and Francisco Reyes.*

**For more information on when these films will be screened, and what else is on at the Light House, please visit [www.light-house.co.uk/](http://www.light-house.co.uk/), call 01902 716055 or email [boxoffice@light-house.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@light-house.co.uk).**





Saturday 13th  
October 2018

Save the date for  
Wolves Pride 2018

For more information email:  
[proudtobeme@wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk](mailto:proudtobeme@wolverhamptonhomes.org.uk)

