

2SLGBTQ Reading & Screening List

Novels and Memoirs

The Sleeping Car Porter by Suzanne Mayr

Winner of the 2022 Scotia Giller Prize

Mayr portrays a black gay man living at a time where he is invisible in two ways.

The Queer Evangelist: A Socialist Clergy's

Radically Honest Tale by Cheri DiNovo

This is a book chronicling Rev. DiNovo's path from living on the street at a teenager to becoming an ordained United Church Minister to becoming an NDP MPP. Rev. DiNovo performed the first legalized same-sex marriage registered in Canada in 2001 and helped pass pro-LGBTQ2 legislation during her time as an MPP.

A Dream of a Woman by Casey Plett

A collection of short stories revolving around transgender women who are looking for stability.

Red X by David Demchuk

Toronto author writes this novel about men disappearing from the gay village in Toronto. He explores how the scariest monsters in his community aren't imaginary but they are all too real.

The Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall

First published in Britain 1928 and was caught up in a legal battle where it was judged to be obscene because it defended "unnatural practices between women". There were also court challenges in the U.S. It is a book which has over the decades inspired discussion and heated debate.

All the Rage - a memoir by Canadian playwright Brad Fraser

The memoir is frank and witty but explores his unsettled childhood, experiencing prejudice around his gender identity and his life as an acclaimed but also controversial playwright.

Johnny Appleseed by Joshua Whitehead

Winner of Canada Reads in 2021. The book follows the life of a young two-spirit/Indigiqueer who becomes a cybersex worker to make a living.

Be a Triangle by Lilly Singh

The former late night TV host explores how to create inner peace in the midst of adversity. She explores her own struggles with identity, success and self-doubt. It's described as an uplifting guide to befriending yourself.

Funny Boy by Shyam Selvadurai

A boy's bittersweet passage to maturity and sexual awakening is set against escalating political tensions in Sri Lanka, during the seven years leading up to the 1983 riots.

Poetry

Umbilical Cord by Hasan Damir

A collection of free-verse poems which chronicle Hasan's journey to fatherhood.

Untranslatable by Roxanna Bennett

Bennett explores being a queer poet living with a disability. It was shortlisted for the *2021 Governor General's Library Award* for poetry.

Sulphurtongue by Rebecca Salazar

The collection explores how we create our identities and how they collide with complicate each other. Sulphurtongue was shortlisted for the *2021 Governor General's Library Award* for poetry.

Plenitude by Daniel Sarah Karasik

A poetry collection which contemplates how we might dream of and build a future without police, bosses, prisons and gender regulation.

Swollening by Jason Purcell

Purcell writes poems explores living in a homophobic world as a queer person and the intersection of queerness and illness.

Beast at Every Threshold by Natalie Wee

Natalie's poems look at otherness, queerness, diaspora and loss.

Queer Pocket Wisdom: Inspirational Quotes and Wise Words from Queer Heroes Who Changed the World

Free To Be Me: An LGBTQ+ Journal of Love, Pride and Finding Your Inner Rainbow

Children's Books:

All Kinds of Families by Suzanne Lang

Angus All Aglow by Heather Smith and Alice Carter

Be Who You Are by Todd Parr

Jacob's Room to Choose by Ian and Sarah Hoffman

I'm a Girl by Yasmeen Ismail

Radio and TV

RADIO

Frontburner: CBC radio podcast

Matt Ashcroft, a conversion therapy survivor shares his story.
<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1569291843642>

Interview on CBC radio Sunday Morning with Joshua Whitehead about his first book Johnny Appleseed and the personal trauma he had to relive to discuss his book.
<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-57-the-sunday-magazine/clip/15933259-joshuawhitehead-wants-rethink-talk-artists-trauma>

TV SHOWS & EPISODES

Dopesick on The Disney Channel

It's the story of a small town doctor (played by Michael Keaton) in Virginia and some of his patients and how they get addicted to opioids. One of his patients is a young woman who comes out to her very religious parents. It's not the main story but it is woven in to the fabric of the story about opioids.

Umbrella Academy starring Elliot Page on Netflix Season 3
The superhero siblings respond to Vanya's revelation of being transgender.

Schitt's Creek comedy series which explores LGBTQ relationships on Netflix and CBC Gem

Happiest Season on Netflix 2020 (starring Dan Levy)
Abby runs into problems when her partner reveals her family has no idea she is gay. How do you reveal this secret during a family Christmas get together? Find out!

DOCUMENTARIES

How to Survive a Plague on HBO

This documents the early years of the AIDS epidemic including community activism to get the FDA to allow the use of experimental drugs to fight the virus.

A Secret Love on Netflix

Two women who ran an interior decorating service together and kept their relationship a secret from their families for over seven decades.

Paris is Burning on HBO

It was filmed in the late 80's in New York City capturing an underground culture coping with AIDS, racism, homophobia, transphobia and poverty.

The Andy Warhol Diaries on Netflix

The diaries reveal throughout the series the secrets behind this very iconic artist.

The Schitt's Creek Best Wishes, Warmest Regards

on Netflix 2020 44 min

This doc takes an inside look at the final season of the much acclaimed comedy series "Schitt's Creek"

Disclosure on Netflix

Leading trans thinkers and creative people share very thoughtful perspectives about Hollywood's impact on the trans community.

Pray Away on Netflix

Former leaders and a survivor of "conversion therapy" document the harm this movement has done to the LGBTQ+ community. Very emotional and powerful pulling the curtain back on a devastating practice which is still being used today.

Welcome to Chechnya on HBO

Shot in secret it focuses on the network of brave activists who helped queer Chechen refugees escape during the country's anti-gay purges.

The Times of Harvey Milk on HBO

This documentary uses archival footage, previously unreleased footage, news reports and interviews to chart Milk's life from activist to serving on the San Francisco's board of supervisors and his assassination and the following trial.

The Dreamlife of Georgie Stone on Netflix, 30 min, 2022
Georgie Stone shares her journey from child to teen activist championing transgender rights in Australia.

All in my Family on Netflix 40 min 2019

A gay filmmaker documents his very traditional Chinese's family's evolution towards acceptance of his new family.

