

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### “Queer Mythologies: Untangling Sex and Gender Myths”

An area of multiple panels for the *Film & History* Conference on “Film and Myth”

September 26-30, 2012

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

[www.filmandhistory.org](http://www.filmandhistory.org)

**Deadline: June 1, 2012**

Movies and television are one important way that many of us learn about gender and sexuality. The stories we see played out on the large or small screen tell us – explicitly or implicitly – what it means to be male or female, what it means to be in love, what the narrative possibilities are for constructing a life and forming relationships with other people. Too often in film history, gay and lesbian lives have been mythologized – in films from *Cruising* to *Boys Don't Cry* to *Brokeback Mountain* – as lonely, desperate, and destined for a bad end, a trajectory famously catalogued by Vito Russo in *The Celluloid Closet*. Queer lives are often positioned as opposite “normal,” heterosexual lives. Yet other – queer – mythologies are possible: from Hedwig’s re-imagining of the origin of love myth in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, to Omar and Johnny happily splashing each other at the end of *My Beautiful Laundrette*—certain films find ways to re-construct dominant mythologies and perhaps define new ones. How do films, TV, and online media perpetuate, subvert, or otherwise engage with these and other myths concerning sexuality and gender?

This area, comprising multiple panels, will treat all aspects of myths concerning sexuality, gender, and queerness in film, television, and on-line media. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Coming Out Stories

Romantic Mythologies

Classical Mythology Queered

Politics and Sex: From Myth to Public Policy

The “Gay Gene”: Science and Gender

“It Gets Better”: On-line Mythologizing

Mythologies of the Closet

Either/Or: The Myth of Gay *or* Straight

Proposals for complete panels (three related presentations) are also welcome, but they must include an abstract and contact information, including an e-mail address, for each presenter. Please e-mail your 200-word proposal by June 1, 2012:

Pamela Demory, Area Chair, 2012 *Film & History* Conference

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