

The equality forum's guide to

LGBTQ+
HISTORY

Influential Figures

JAMES BALDWIN

1924-1987

- Baldwin was one of the most influential authors of the 20th century
- Novels such as Giovanni's room and Another Country deal with racial tensions and queer dynamics in both the US and France



QUOTE:

"Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

Sylvia Rivera

1951-2002

- Rivera was a queer latina, who fought tirelessly for trans and non binary people's rights
- She was said to have thrown the first brick in the Stonewall riots!
- Alongside Marsha P Johnson, she provided homeless shelters for queer youth



QUOTE

"We have to be visible. We should not be ashamed of who we are."

Virginia Woolf

1882-1941

- Bisexual feminist author, Woolf was famed for her affair with writer Vita Sackville
- Woolf's writing was often discourse on social norms, as with her novel, *Orlando*; an exploration of sexuality and gender



QUOTE

“As long as she thinks of a man, no one objects to a woman thinking.”

Michael Dillon

1915-1962

- First trans man to undergo phalloplasty (bottom surgery) and testosterone therapy
- Dillon was a British doctor
- When the press found out he was trans, he escaped to India and became a Buddhist monk



AUDRE LORDE

1934 – 1992

- The self-described 'Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet'
- Lorde shocked people with her progressive theories on sexism, race and homophobia all stemming from an inability to respect difference



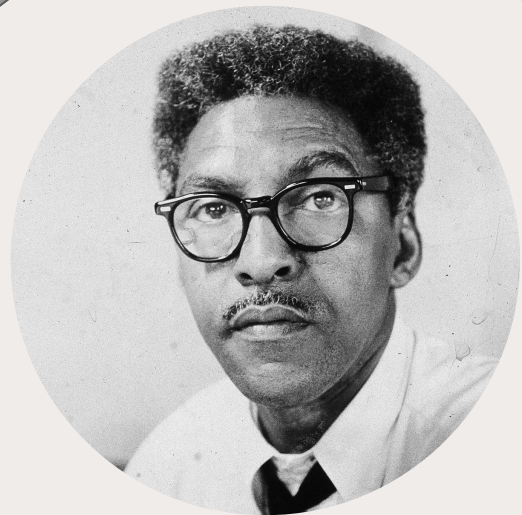
QUOTE

"If I didn't define myself, I would be crushed into other people's fantasies for me and be eaten alive"

Bayard Rustin

1912-1987

- Rustin was a close friend of MLK Jr and helped to organise the March on Washington
- As an openly gay civil rights activist, Rustin never received the credit for the role he played, lest his sexuality was used against the movement



QUOTE

“Let us be enraged by injustice, but let us not be destroyed by it.”

Laverne Cox

1972 - present day

- Laverne Cox is an American actress and advocate for LGBTQ+
- Cox is the first transgender person to be nominated for an acting Primetime Emmy Award and was awarded an honorary doctorate for her exemplary work in the fight for gender equality.



QUOTE

"As long as we are living in a culture where one has to prove their womanhood or manhood, we are not living in a free culture."