

Iconic is a season of events, accompanying the *Gay Icons* exhibition, which explores fantasy, desire, melancholy, beauty, sexuality, joy and ambiguity through queer performance, film, music, literature, walks and talks.

Programmed by Jonathan Keane with the National Portrait Gallery.

GAY ICONS

SELECTED BY

**WAHEED ALLI / ALAN HOLLINGHURST / ELTON JOHN /
JACKIE KAY / BILLIE JEAN KING / IAN MCKELLEN / CHRIS SMITH /
BEN SUMMERSKILL / SANDI TOKSVIG / SARAH WATERS**

Gay Icons explores gay social and cultural history through the unique personal insights of ten high-profile gay figures who have selected their historical and modern icons.

The chosen icons, who may or may not be gay themselves, have all been important to each selector, their stories having influenced or inspired them. Spanning the worlds of entertainment, art, music, literature, sport and politics they include Francis Bacon, Martina Navratilova, Virginia Woolf, Ellen DeGeneres, Harvey Milk and k.d. lang.

Their fascinating stories are illustrated by sixty photographic portraits including works by Andy Warhol, Linda McCartney and Cecil Beaton.

A fully illustrated book, with an introduction by Sandi Toksvig and an essay by Richard Dyer, accompanies the exhibition. (RRP £25 hardback)

Book now at www.npg.org.uk
(transaction fee applies)

Open 10.00-18.00
Thursdays and Fridays until 21.00

Win a weekend in Berlin

The Gallery has joined together with the German National Tourist Office and www.Lufthansa.com to offer you the opportunity to win a trip for two to Germany's gay capital, Berlin. For more information and to enter, visit www.npg.org.uk/gayicons

Special Saturday Lates

Saturday 4 July until 21.00
The exhibition will be open late as part of the Pride London festival. Relax with Jazz and a drink at the Rosé d'Anjou bar. £1 from every ticket sold on the evening will be donated to Pride.

Saturday 17 October until 21.00
Last chance to see the *Gay Icons* exhibition.

 LEICESTER SQUARE

Sponsored by Rose d'Anjou



National
Portrait
Gallery

ICONIC

ICONIC

July

Queer Perspectives

Gallery tour MH
Thursday 2, 19.00–20.00

Artist Sadie Lee and a special guest offer their personal response to portraits in the Collection on this regular, hugely popular Thursday night Gallery tour. Free – ticket required as spaces limited. Tickets available on day from 17.00.

George Always: Portraits of George Melly

Lecture
Thursday 9, 13.15–14.00

'George often makes a grand appearance in my dreams. I still hear him laugh, tell jokes and sing. From wherever he may be...' Maggi Hambling and George Melly were the closest of friends and this talk by the artist Maggi Hambling explores their friendship and her art. Free

I Shot Andy Warhol and Bird la Bird

Film and performance
Sunday 12, 15.00–17.00

Both lesbian icon and an iconoclastic feminist voice, Valerie Solanas refused to be silenced and sidelined by Warhol's factory machine. She also shot the man. Mary Harron's *I Shot Andy Warhol* is a stylish account of Valerie's life and the birth of SCUM (Society for the Cutting Up of Men) and provides a unique insight into Warhol's New York. Prior to the screening, Queer performer Bird la Bird from London's Bird Club will reinterpret the SCUM manifesto with 'Up Your Art' – a new manifesto for a new century. Dir. Mary Harron, USA/UK 1996, 106mins Cert 18 £5/£4

Quentin Crisp: The Transformation of Denis Pratt

Lecture 
Thursday 16, 13.15–14.00

Writer and broadcaster Paul Bailey knew Quentin Crisp for 30 years. This talk explores Quentin's surprising rise to fame and his dramatic change of character in his final years. Free

An evening with Sandi and Richard...

Talk and performance
Thursday 23, 19.00–20.00

Spend an evening in the company of Sandi Toksvig in conversation with Professor Richard Dyer as they discuss gay icons in this talk, performance and visual event ranging from the personal to the political. £10/£8.50

Under the Skin

Performance
Sunday 26, 15.00–16.30

Beneath all the ordinariness and that fatal touch of glamour of sainthood and sin lies a visceral need: something under the skin. A performance event bringing together for the first time renowned queer artists whose work delves into the world of iconography through theatre, performance and body art: fragments from their work, iconic moments that together reveal the pulse, breath, blood and the desire to know, escape and belong. Join Neil Bartlett, Dominic Johnson, Bette Bourne and David Hoyle in a series of iconic resurrections alongside film clips, readings and a violin. Cert 18 £8/£6

August

Screened Memories with Jeffrey Hinton

Performance MH
Friday 7, 18.30–20.00

London DJ Jeffrey Hinton screens his unseen footage of 1980s and 90s London queer subculture featuring the likes of Leigh Bowery, Michael Clark, John Maybury and club nights Kinky Gerlinky and Taboo to a soundtrack of original music produced for these events, and underground anthems. Free

Icon-i-coustic: Beverley Knight

Performance
Friday 7, 19.00–20.00

Prior to the release of her new album, British queen of soul – Beverley Knight, brings her iconic voice for an intimate, acoustic performance. Widely hailed as Britain's greatest soul singer, she is best known for her singles *Greatest Day*, *Get Up* and *Shoulda Woulda Coulda* and is a winner of three MOBO awards. She is also an active campaigner against homophobic lyrics in urban music and for The Terrence Higgins Trust and Stop AIDS campaign. Her live performances are always an iconic experience to savor. £20/£15

Fade to Black

Film and talk
Sunday 9, 15.00–17.15

Campbell X, writer, curator, critic and filmmaker goes boldly in search of invisible Black, Asian and minority female icons with biographer Andrea Stewart, filmmaker Pratibha Parmar and singer Maria Rosa Young. This song, visual and talk event is followed by a screening of Cheryl Dunye's *Watermelon Woman* in which a young LA dyke, played by Dunye, goes off in search of a fictionalised old Hollywood Black film star. Dir. Cheryl Dunye, USA 1997, 90mins, PG £5/£4

F to Elvis

Film and performance
Thursday 13, 18.30–20.30

When trans female to males take the plunge to transition and butch lesbians look for role models who are the icons they desire to become? In this celebration of female to male masculinity, performer, comic and curator Jason Barker immerses us in the world of F to Elvis with words, song and performance followed by a screening of *Jailhouse Rock*. Come dressed as Elvis or your own male icon. Dir. Richard Thorpe, USA 1957, 97mins. £5/£4 incl. £2 off entry to Bird Club *In association with Diva Magazine.*

Icon-i-coustic: Patrick Wolf

Performance
Thursday 27, 19.00–20.30

Innovative, radical, creative and spirited, the young, talented and brilliant Patrick Wolf plays an intimate unique acoustic gig. Patrick has four albums to draw on for this gig and has always worked with iconic musical material, drawing inspiration from Kate Bush, Marianne Faithful and Tilda Swinton. A member of queer experimental art music outfit Minty from the tender age of 14, come and see an icon in the making. £15/£10

September

Justin Does Tragedy

Performance
Thursday 3, 19.00–20.30

Join New York cabaret star and new queer icon, Justin Bond for a brand new show especially devised for *Iconic*. Inspired by Vivien Leigh, Scarlett O'Hara and Blanche Dubois, *Justin Does Tragedy* will be a collage of music, poetry, mental illness, desperation and nymphomania. He has wowed Broadway with *Kiki and Herb*, shone in *Shortbus* and arrives in London to shower the Gallery with his unique touch of East Village bedazzlement. £15/£10

What is an Icon?

Walking tour
Saturday 5, 10.30–13.30 or 14.30–17.30

Explore the complexities of this question through meeting numerous 'iconic' men and women who have lived, worked, played and loved in the local area. Blue Badge Guide David Thompson leads you on this walking tour devised specifically in response to the inspirational figures in the *Gay Icons* exhibition, from the obvious to beyond. £15/£10 includes exhibition ticket

Little Joe

Film
Sunday 6, 15.00–17.00

The 'Little Joe' of Lou Reed's 'Walk on the Wild Side.' The Valentino of the Underground. The original gay Lonesome Cowboy. Special preview screening of a revealing biographical portrait of Joe Dallesandro – unprecedented access to Andy Warhol's muse. Produced by the actor and his family. Dir. Nicole Haeusser, USA 2009, 90mins Cert. 18 £10/£8

Iconography Late

Friday 11, 18.00–22.00

Dress as your favourite icon, prepare for a surprise encounter with performers around gallery corners, be indulged with films in the theatre, flirt and pert to iconic DJs and discover how all the world is truly your stage. An inspirational line up is promised. Check website for further details. *In association with GT Magazine.*

Oscar Wilde: The Creation of Celebrity

Lecture
Thursday 17, 13.15–14.00

Was there such thing as celebrity culture during the height of the Victorian Era? Art historian Lucinda Hawksley explores how Oscar Wilde invented himself, the fame he enjoyed and the impact of his trial. Free

Poetic Licence

Performance
Thursday 17, 19.00–20.30

Can words be iconic? Join award-winning novelists and spoken-word poets as they bring literature to life as well as offering their own interpretations of their work. With Alan Hollinghurst, Dean Atta, Neil Bartlett, Bette Bourne, Jay Bernard and Paul Burston. £8/£6

Stealing Beauty

Talk 
Sunday 20, 15.00–16.00

Artist, DJ and performer Sadie Lee; *Diva* magazine Editor Jane Czynszelska; photographer and curator Ajamu X and fashion historian and cultural critic Elizabeth Wilson explore the promiscuity of iconography and how queer culture, like a magpie, borrows, steals, scavenges and subverts images and words to make sense of our world. From Christine Keeler's chair to James Dean's quiff. Free

Capital Gays

Lecture
Thursday 24, 13.15–14.00

Explore London's gay male subcultures of the late 19th and 20th century with Matt Cook. Drawing on court cases, press scandals, literature, theatre, film, and oral history testimonies, Matt argues that there has never been a homogenous gay scene or a singular queer 'type' in the city. Instead London has accommodated and fostered diverse expressions of queer desire. Dr Matt Cook is a cultural historian at Birkbeck College, London. Free

Icon-i-coustic: The Raincoats

Performance
Friday 25, 19.00–20.30

Seminal punk band and 'Godmothers of Grunge' The Raincoats follow on their successful event at the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival with this unique gig for *Iconic*. The band that brought you the queer version of the Kinks 'Lola' have inspired generations of musicians from Beth Ditto to Peaches and Patrick Wolf to Chicks on Speed. Their continuing relevance and fresh, contemporary sound ensure that this will be a rare and special music event. £20/£15

October

What is an Icon?

Walking tour
Sunday 4, 10.30–13.30 or 14.30–17.30

For details see Saturday 5 September. £15/£10 includes exhibition ticket

From Carrying an Umbrella to Changing the Weather: Making difference matter in 21st Century Britain

Lecture
Thursday 15, 13.15–14.00

Ben Summerskill, Chief Executive of Stonewall, the largest lesbian, gay and bisexual equality body in Europe, discusses the LGB movement in Britain and his 'Gay Icons' choice for the exhibition.

How to book

– www.npg.org.uk/events
(transaction fee applies)
– call 020 7306 0055
– visit the Gallery in person

No booking required for free events unless otherwise stated.

All events take place at the National Portrait Gallery in the Ondaatje Wing Theatre (capacity 150) unless otherwise stated.

Full details at www.npg.org.uk/gayicons

MH = Ondaatje Wing Main Hall
Details correct at time of print and subject to change

Beyond the Gallery

The Killing of Sister George and Club des Femmes

Sunday 5 July

Screening of dykesploitation classic *The Killing of Sister George* at the Curzon Soho. Club des Femmes and special guests share memories of the iconic *Gateways* venue featured in the film. www.curzoncinemas.com

BFI Southbank's Out at the Pictures season

Rebel Without a Cause
Friday 11 and Sunday 20 September

Walk on the Wild Side
Tuesday 15 and Friday 18 September
www.bfi.org.uk