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# Turning the Page

Storytelling as Activism in Queer Film and Media

by David R. Coon

## DESCRIPTION

**First runner-up for the 2019 John Leo and Dana Heller Award from the Popular Culture Association**

Surprisingly, Hollywood is still clumsily grappling with its representation of sexual minorities, and LGBTQ filmmakers struggle to find a place in the mainstream movie industry. However, organizations outside the mainstream are making a difference, helping to produce and distribute authentic stories that are both by and for LGBTQ people.

*Turning the Page* introduces readers to three nonprofit organizations that, in very different ways, have each positively transformed the queer media landscape. David R. Coon takes readers inside In the Life Media, whose groundbreaking documentaries on the LGBTQ experience aired for over twenty years on public television stations nationwide. Coon reveals the successes of POWER UP, a nonprofit production company dedicated to mentoring filmmakers who can turn queer stories into fully realized features and short films. Finally, he turns to Three Dollar Bill Cinema, an organization whose film festivals help queer media find an audience and whose filmmaking camps for LGBTQ youth are nurturing the next generation of queer cinema.

Combining a close analysis of specific films and video programs with extensive interviews of industry professionals, *Turning the Page* demonstrates how queer storytelling in visual media has the potential to empower individuals, strengthen communities, and motivate social justice activism.

## AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

DAVID R. COON is an associate professor of media studies at the University of Washington Tacoma. He is the author of *Look Closer: Suburban Narratives and American Values in Film and Television* (Rutgers University Press).

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