

LGBT

READING & WATCHLIST



GAY MAN'S COACHING

LGBT READING & WATCHLIST

LGBT people are one of the few minorities that do not share that minority with their parents. As such, a lot of people struggle to come to terms with their identity because they have no firm understanding of their history or people to relate to. It is my firm belief that for us to understand ourselves better we need to understand our past and our culture.

This list a compilation of LGBT, with particular focus on the G, works that you can watch, read, listen to and, ultimately learn from so that you can further understand the past, the struggle of our LGBT brothers and sisters for the rights and privileges we all enjoy now and some people to relate to. Whether they be real or fictitious.

This list is NOT extensive. There are hundreds of films, series, books, plays and documentaries as well as podcasts and media online that you can watch.

Listed in this booklet are a few of the more popular and highly applauded works. Some you will like, some you won't. That's ok.

There is no right or wrong. This list, as well as the entire Geducation section of the lab is to empower you, to educate and most of all, show you that you are not alone and you are part of a diverse, gifted and extremely special community.

PLAYS

***Angels in America**

Focuses on the stories of two troubled couples, one gay and one straight. A complex and metaphorical examination of AIDS and homosexuality.

***Boys in the band**

Revolving around a group of gay men who gather for a birthday party in New York City.

Everybody's talking about Jamie

Following a 16 year old teenager as he overcomes prejudice and beats the bullies when he steps out of the darkness to become a drag queen.

Bare: A pop opera

Following a group of teens as they wrestle with their identities, sexuality and religion at a co-ed catholic boarding school.

The normal heart

Focusing on the rise of the HIV/AIDS crisis in New York City between 1981 and 1984.

Rent

Following the ups and downs of a year in the life of a group of impoverished, artistic friends living in Manhattan's East village.

READING (FICTION)

Call me by your name

A blossoming romantic relationship between an intellectually precocious and curious 17 year old American-Italian Jewish boy and a 24-year-old American Jewish scholar in 1980s Italy.

Tales of the city

Focusing on the people who live in a boarding house turned apartment complex owned by Anna Madrigal at 28 Barbary Lane, all of whom quickly become part of a 'logical family'. It is no longer a secret that Mrs Madrigal is transgender.

The line of beauty

Exploring tensions between Nick's intimate relationship with the Fedden family, whose parties and holidays he participates in. The realities of his sexuality and gay life are accepted by the Feddens' only if he never mentions it.

A single man

Set in 1962, just after the Cuban missile crisis. Describing the last day in the life of George Falconer, a 58-year-old expat Englishman who is living in Santa Monica and teaching at a university in LA.

The city and the pillar

The story of a young man who is coming of age and discovers his own homosexuality. (The first post-world-war II novel whose gay protagonist is portrayed in a sympathetic manner and not killed off).

Giovanni's room

Focusing on the events of an American man living in Paris. His feelings and frustrations with his relationship with other men in his life, particularly an Italian bartender named Giovanni.

City of night

Based in part of his own experiences as an itinerant male prostitute in the late 1950s. A powerful evocation of a nameless narrator's journey through the underside of America's urban wasteland.

On being different

What it means to be a homosexual – an essay by the writer Merle Miller published in the New York Times magazine two years after the Stonewall riots.

Boy erasing

A memoir by Garrard Conley recounting his childhood in a fundamentalist Arkansas family that enrolled him in conversion therapy.

Maurice

A tale of homosexual love in early 20th century England, following Maurice from his schooldays through university and beyond

READING (NON FICTION)

***Velvet rage**

Drawing on contemporary research, psychologist Alan Downs own struggle with shame and anger with stories from his patients. It passionately describes the stages of a gay man's journey.

***Straight jacket**

A revolutionary clarion call for gay men and the wider LGBT community. Part memoir and part ground-breaking polemic looking beneath the shiny façade of contemporary gay culture.

We are everywhere

Combining exhaustively researched narrative with meticulously curated photographs. The book traces queer activism from its roots in late nineteenth century Europe, before the Stonewall riots.

How to survive a plague

The untold story of the efforts that turned AIDS into a mostly manageable condition and the improbable group of young men and women who, with no scientific training infiltrated government agencies and the pharmaceutical industry, helping to identify promising new compounds.

***Good as you**

A story of Britain's brothers, cousins and sons. Sometimes fathers and husbands. Public outrage and personal loss, the not always legal highs and desperate lows.

The Stonewall reader

A collection of first accounts, diaries, periodic literature and articles from LGBT magazines/newspapers that documented the years leading up to the riots.

Queer intentions

Join Amelia Abraham crying at the first same sex marriage in Britain, losing herself in the world's biggest drag convention, marching at Pride and understanding the extremes of trans life today.

How we fight for our lives

A stunning coming of age memoir. A young, black gay man from the south fighting to carve a place for himself within his family, his country and his own hopes, desires and fears.

***Gypsy boy**

Born into a Romany Gypsy family and little being known about their way of life. After centuries of persecution, Gypsies are wary of outsiders and if you choose to leave you can never come back.

TV SERIES

***Queer as Folk (UK version)**

Follow the lives of three gay men living in Manchester's gay village around Canal Street.

Pose

While New York witnesses the evolution of the ball culture and the rise of the Trump-era and LGBT ball fixture, Bianca starts her own house and turns from mother to a gifted dancer and sex worker.

Cucumber

Delving into the 21st century gay life of Henry and boyfriend Lance.

Banana

An anthology that focuses on the lives of eight LGBT couples living in Manchester.

***It's a sin**

Richie, Colin and Roscoe leave home at 18 to begin new lives in 1981 London and find themselves tested by a virus most of the world ignores.

***Angels in America (HBO series)**

Adapted from the play about social, sexual and religious issues facing 1980s America as the AIDS crisis gains momentum.

Glee

An optimistic high-school teacher tried to transform the school's new choir club by roping in a group of 'misfit' students to participate.

Will and Grace

A gay lawyer allows his best friend - an interior designer - to stay in his house for a temporary period after her marriage falls apart, but she ends up being his permanent room mate.

***Schitt's Creek**

A married couple suddenly go bankrupt and the only remaining asset they have is an ugly small-town named Schitt's Creek.

***Special**

A gay man with cerebral palsy who decides to do away with his identity as an accident victim and go after a life that he wants.

Queer eye

A fab five set out to Atlanta to help some of the city's people refine their wardrobes, grooming, diet, cultural pursuits and home décor.

DOCUMENTARIES

***Paris is burning**

Drag queens living in New York City and their 'house' culture, providing a sense of community and support for the flamboyant and often socially shunned performers.

***In bed with Madonna**

Chronicles Madonna's controversial 1990 "Blonde Ambition" tour. Behind the scenes looks at relationships with dancers, crew, her then boyfriend, friends and family.

How to survive a plague

About the early years of the AIDS epidemic and the efforts of activist groups ACT UP and TAG.

Gay chorus deep south

The San Francisco gey men's chorus embarks on a tour of America's deep south.

Gaycation

Ellen Page heads out with best friend Ian on a journey to explore various LGBT cultures around the world.

Gay and under attack

How young, black and Asian gays and transexuals meet hostility from their own communities.

***Welcome to Chechnya: The gay purge**

Laying bare the Russian federation republic's war against gay citizens. Countless killed and hundreds missing. The LGBT community living in fear and secrecy.

MOVIES

An early frost

A successful lawyer is gay, but he has always hidden this part of his life from his family. All that changes when he goes home to tell his family he has AIDS.

The normal heart

Focusing on the rise of the HIV/AIDS crisis in New York City between 1981 and 1984.

Soft lad

A young man involved in a love affair that will change his life forever. Wrestling with demons and coming to terms with sexuality which leaves lives destroyed in the wake.

***Pride**

Realising they share common foes in Margaret Thatcher, the police and the conservative press, London based gay and lesbian activists lend their support to striking miners in 1984 Wales.

Get real

Steven spends his school days longing for all-star-athlete John. John has a gorgeous girlfriend and Steven is still in the closet about being gay.

***Beautiful thing**

Shy Jamie and athletic Ste are teen boys who live near each other in the London projects. Both boys think they could be gay and finally explore their feelings after an incident leads Ste to stay at Jamie's place.

Gods own country

A young farmer numbs his frustrations with drinking and casual sex until a Romanian migrant worker sets him on a new path.

Brokeback mountain

Enns and Jack are two shepherds who develop a sexual and emotional relationship. Their relationship becomes complicated when both get married to their respective girlfriends.

Trick

It is lust at first sight when Gabriel, a song writer with Broadway ambitions runs into Mark - a hot go-go dancer at a local gay club. They head to Gabriel's place to seal the deal but are thwarted when Gabriel's roommate Rich arrives with opposing plans.

MOVIES

My beautiful laundrette

During a street fight Omar bumps into his former lover Johnny. The two rekindle the romance between them and manage Omar's uncle's laundrette, but various social issues stand in their way of success.

In from the side

Two men in a gay rugby men's club must conceal an adulterous affair they unwittingly fall into before it leads to the collapse of the delicate social and political fabric of the club.

***Milk**

An American activist, faces several difficulties while fighting for gay rights and becomes California's first openly gay official to be elected to public office.

Birdcage

Armand and Albert have built their perfect life for themselves tending to their gaudy Miami nightclub. Their pastel harmony is shaken when Armand's son decides to marry Senator Keele's daughter.

***Moonlight**

Chiron, a young African American boy, finds guidance in Juan, a drug dealer who teaches him to carve his own path. As he grows up in Miami, Juan's advice leaves a lasting impression on him.

Call me by your name

Summer of 1983 and a precocious 17-year-old Elio is spending the days with his family at their 17th century villa in Lombardy. He soon meets Oliver, a handsome doctoral student working as an intern for Elio's father. They discover the heady beauty of awakening desire that alters their life forever.

