

American Queer Cinema

“From Sissies, Killer Queens, and Queer”

*The transgressive history of fictional queer films
From the Silent era to Gus Van Sant's Milk*

The Silent Era

The “Sissy”



The Dickson Sound Experiment
(1894)

Charlie Chaplin's “A Woman”
(1916)



The Sound Era

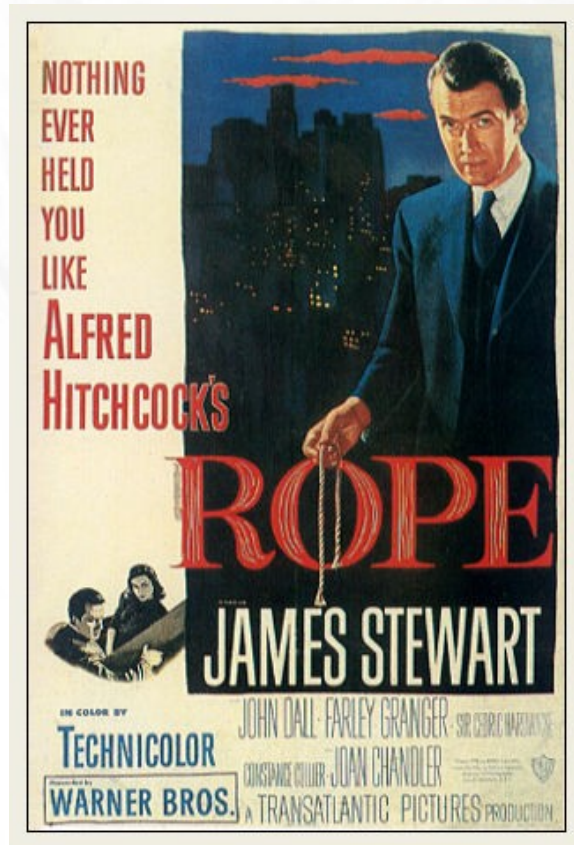


The "Seal of Approval" was initially shown full-screen before the credits. Within a year the MPPDA emblem and certificate # were made smaller and displayed at the bottom of the screen listing the production crew's credits.

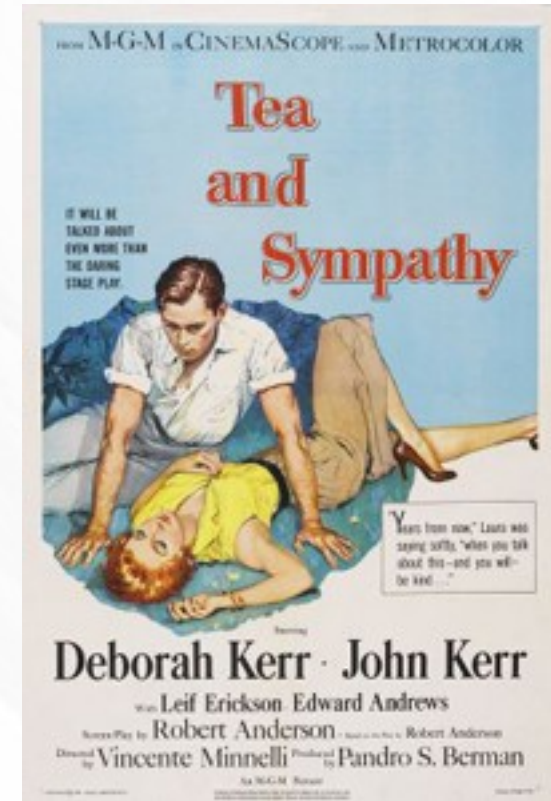
1930 Hays Production Code

40's & 50's

Killer Queens or the Suicidal Queer



Rope (1948)



Tea and Sympathy (1956)

Lack of a queer presence during the Production Code, when allowed always negative.

50's Cont'd

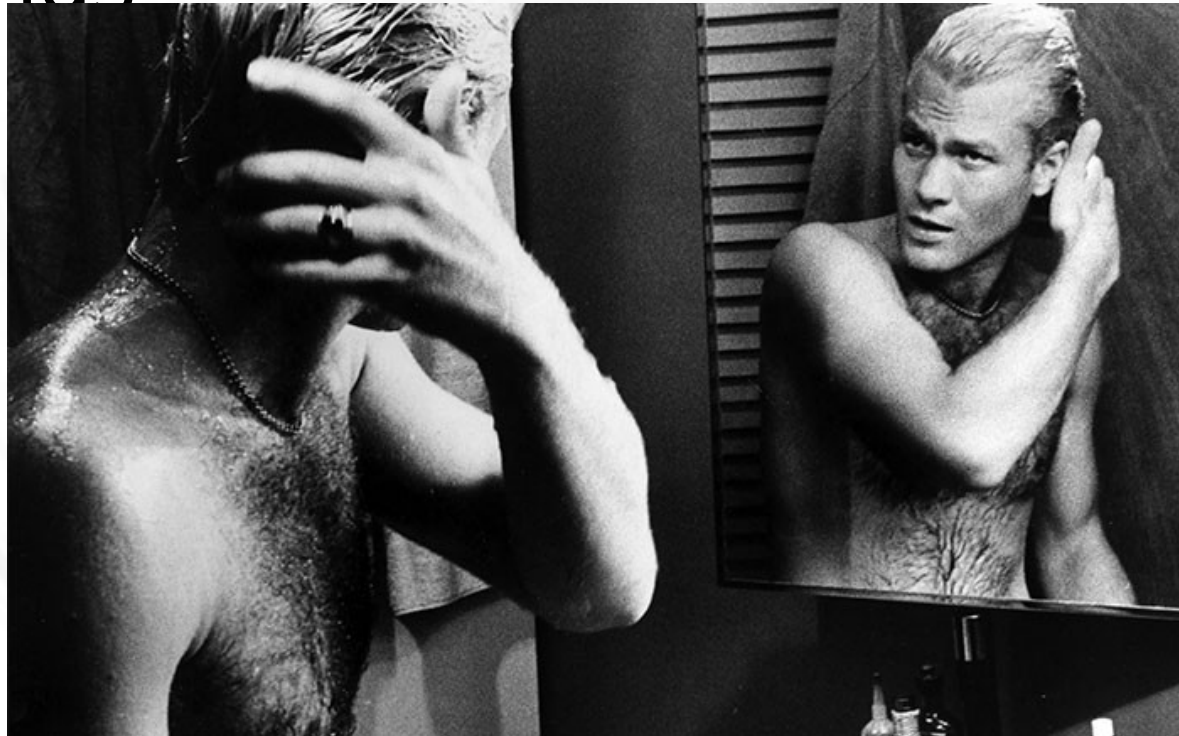


Suddenly Last Summer (1959)
First official gay role
Though censored to no screen time or to be heard.



Some Like It Hot
(1959)

1966 - Hays Production Code Ends



My Hustler by Andy Warhol (1965)

1969 Stonewall Riots



The 70's

70's brings better representation of gay and lesbians, however slowly

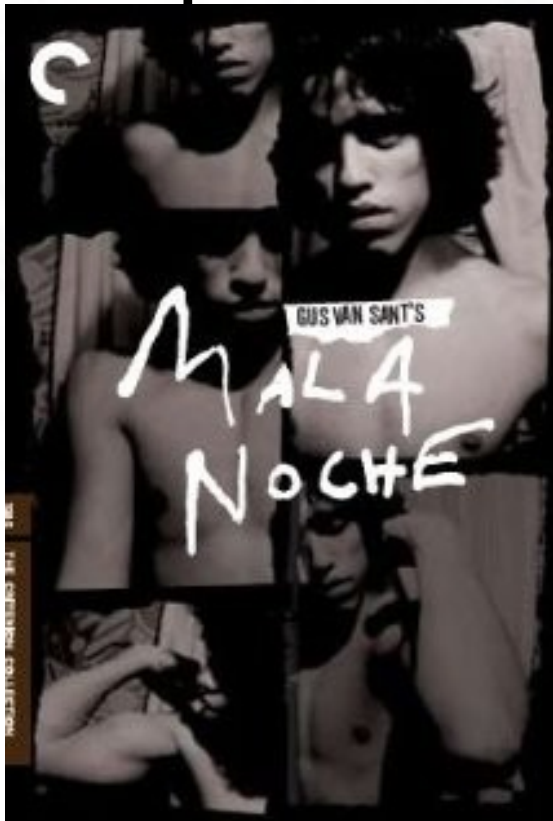


A Very Natural Thing
(1973)



The Rocky Horror Picture Show
(1975)

The 80's - The AIDS epidemic

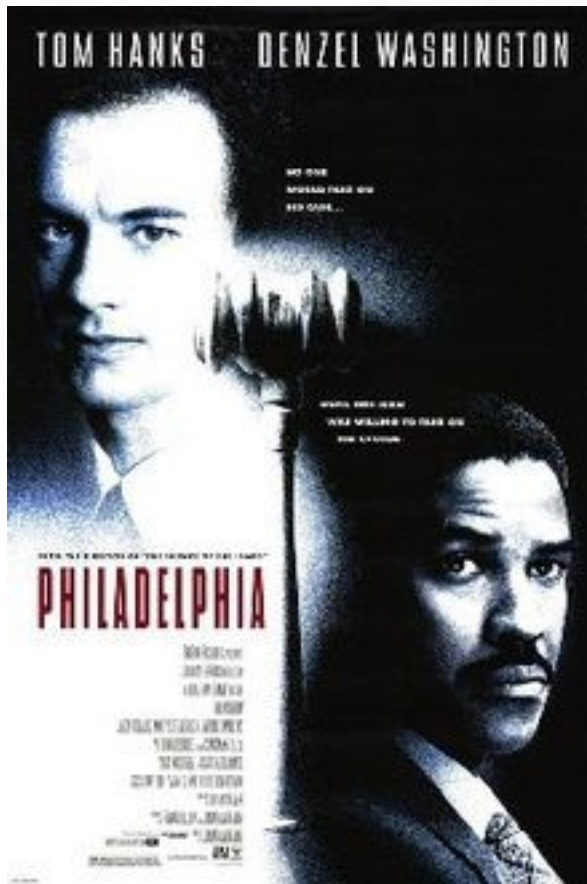


Mala Noche (1985)

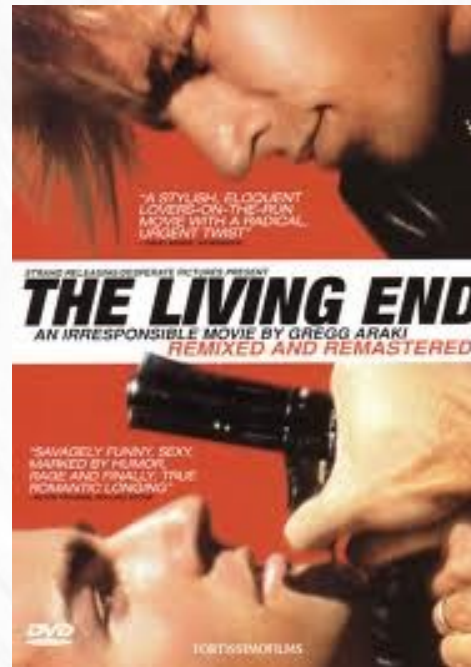


Buddies (1985)

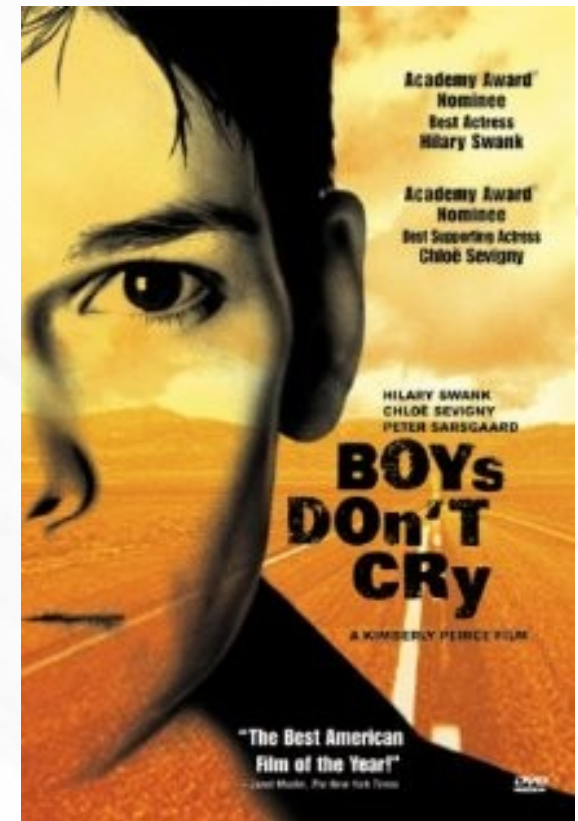
The 90's



Philadelphia (1993)



The Living End (1994)



Boys Don't Cry (1999)

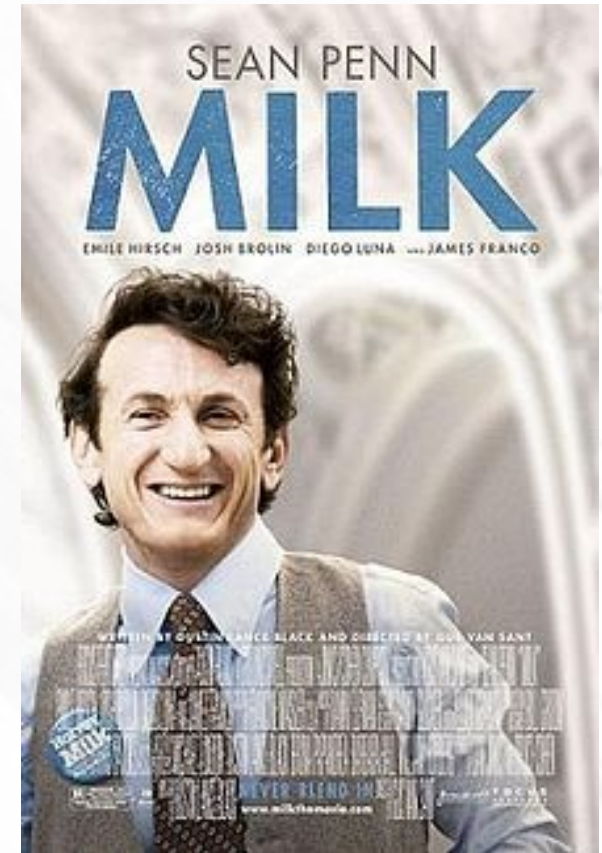
The 2000's to Gus Van Sant's *Milk*



Brokeback Mountain
(2005)



Transamerica (2005)



Milk (2008)