



Director Robert L. Camina & Regina Adams join Upstairs Inferno Documentary Fundraiser @ Four Seasons in Metairie, Louisiana raising \$2,060.75 for the project

## World Premiere of Emotional New Documentary, *Upstairs Inferno* June 24 @ Prytania Theater

Camina Entertainment, Inc. is thrilled to announce the World Premiere of the eagerly awaited documentary, *Upstairs Inferno*, a full length film about the largest gay mass murder in U.S. history. The 95 minute film is written and directed by Robert L. Camina. The World Premiere will be held in New Orleans on the anniversary of the fire, June 24, 2015 at 7:30pm at the historic Prytania Theater, located in the Garden District (5339 Prytania St.). Only street parking is available, so guests are advised to allow plenty of time for parking. A Q&A featuring writer/director Robert L. Camina and many special guests will follow the screening. Tickets for the World Premiere are NOW on sale at [www.UpstairsInferno.com](http://www.UpstairsInferno.com).

Camina is also proud to announce that New Orleans' own *New York Times* best-selling author, Christopher Rice will narrate the emotionally charged film!

On June 24, 1973, an arsonist set fire to the Up Stairs Lounge, a gay bar located on the edge of the French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana. The result was the largest gay mass murder in U.S. history. Despite the staggering historical significance, few people know about the tragedy. Thirty-two people were killed and some bodies were never identified. One-third of the New Orleans chapter of the Metropolitan Community Church were killed in the blaze, including two clergy. No one was ever charged with the crime. The tragedy did not stop at the loss of lives. There were also the delayed injuries: lost jobs, fear, public ridicule and severed families. The devastation was compounded by the homophobic reactions and utter lack of concern by the general public, government and religious leaders. The fire permanently altered lives and was the root of many lifelong

struggles.

*Upstairs Inferno* is poised to be the most comprehensive and authoritative film about the fire and its aftermath. However, *Upstairs Inferno* isn't simply a stagnant exposition of facts. *Upstairs Inferno* brings humanity to the headlines by shining a light on the very painful effect the tragedy had on survivors, witnesses and loved ones. Their interviews have been gut wrenching, yet insightful. Some of the people interviewed in the film haven't publicly discussed the fire until now, especially on camera. Many granted the production exclusive on-camera interviews. Featuring over 20 powerful interviews, it's specifically noteworthy to mention that the film includes a rare, heart-breaking interview of a survivor who lost her lover, Reggie Adams in the blaze. As part of her long healing process, she legally changed her name to "Regina Adams" in

honor of her "one true love". In addition, the film includes Ricky Everett and Francis Dufrene (two survivors who barely escaped the inferno), a son of one of the victims, Reverend Elder Troy Perry (Founder of the Metropolitan Community Church), Johnny Townsend (Author, "Let the Faggots Burn"), Clayton-Delery Edwards (Author, "The Up Stairs Arson"), Clancy DuBos and Ronnie LeBouef (Two former employees of the *Times-Picayune* newspaper) and many more.

*Upstairs Inferno* is different than any other project the public has ever seen about the fire! *Upstairs Inferno* reveals facts audiences have never heard and it uncovers long lost artifacts, interviews and archival footage few people have ever seen.

Learn more about the film at [www.UpstairsInferno.com](http://www.UpstairsInferno.com).

The official trailer is available at <https://vimeo.com/94900386> and [www.UpstairsInferno.com](http://www.UpstairsInferno.com).

Christopher Rice (narrator) is a *New York Times* best selling author. His debut, "A Density of Souls", was an overnight best seller, and was greeted with a landslide of media attention, much of it due to the fact that Christopher is the son of legendary vampire chronicler, Anne Rice. Much of his writing is heavily influenced by the years he and his Mom lived in New Orleans. Rice considers New Orleans his "hometown". Christopher currently co-hosts his own

Internet radio show, *The Dinner Party Show*, with fellow *New York Times* best selling novelist, Eric Shaw Quinn. Rice recently published the novel, "The Vines", which is set in the outskirts of New Orleans. Christopher Rice also wrote the adapted screenplay for Anne Rice's novel, "The Tale of the Body Thief", which was acquired by Universal Pictures in November 2014, according to *Variety Magazine*.

Robert L. Camina (director) wrote, directed and produced several short films before premiering his first full length documentary, *Raid of the Rainbow Lounge* (2012) to sold out audiences, rave reviews and a media frenzy. *Raid of the Rainbow Lounge* recounts the widely publicized and controversial June 28, 2009 police raid of a Fort Worth, Texas gay bar that resulted in multiple arrests and serious injuries. The raid occurred on the 40th Anniversary of the Stonewall Inn raid. The film, narrated by TV icon Meredith Baxter, screened during 33 mainstream and LGBT film festivals across the United States, Mexico and Canada. The film won several awards including 5 "Best" Film and 3 "Audience Choice" Awards. The film also received attention from the Office of the White House, Department of Justice and a division of the U.S. State Department. At their invitation, the Library of Congress hosted a screening in September 2014. ([www.RaidoftheRainbowLounge.com](http://www.RaidoftheRainbowLounge.com))



## moments in gay new orleans history

by Professor Frank Perez

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## "Southern Decadence XLIV Already Makes History"

History was made at Oz on April 30, 2015, at the Southern Decadence Grand Marshal Announcement Party when SDGMs XL Chad Boutte, Aubrey Synclaire, and Reba Douglas named their successors. For the first time in Southern Decadence history, there will be five Grand Marshals. SDGMs XLI are Rip and Marsha Naquin-Delain, Steven Mora, Misti Ates, and Frankie Fierce.

The new Grand Marshals also made history when they recently announced that Southern Decadence XLIV will benefit three charities. In selecting the charities, the Grand Marshals chose a "Past, Present, Future" theme. The official charities for Southern Decadence 2015 are: the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana (representing the past), the Louisiana Equality Foundation (representing the present), and PFLAG New Orleans Scholarship Fund (representing the future).

The LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana traces its roots to the summer of 2013, when a handful of people interested in local gay history began meeting to discuss the need to preserve LGBT history and ways in which such an endeavor might be undertaken. It was decided early on that an organization was needed to provide information and resources to those interested in local gay history.

After several months of information gathering, the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana adopted the following Mission Statement: The mission of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana is to promote and encourage the protection and preservation of materials that chronicle the culture and history of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community in Louisiana. To achieve this mission, it contemplates these objectives: (1) educate the community on the importance of ensuring that LGBT historical materials are archived and made available for future generations to access, research, and study; (2) promote the proper maintenance and preservation

of historical LGBT materials; (3) provide an informational directory of archival resources where LGBT historical materials may be deposited or accessed for research and study; (4) index, publish, and maintain a current list of locations of archived historical LGBT materials; (5) develop financial resources to assist in the preservation and availability of certain LGBT collections

The Archives Project aims to educate the public about the importance of historical preservation and how individuals can safely entrust local archives with the care of the historical treasures they possess. The project also plans to help make these materials more accessible to researchers and the public at large by maintaining a catalog of LGBT+-related collections in archives around the state. It is important to note that this project does not contemplate setting up an archive of its own. Rather, it aims to educate the public about the resources and attributes of existing archives in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Equality Foundation

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