

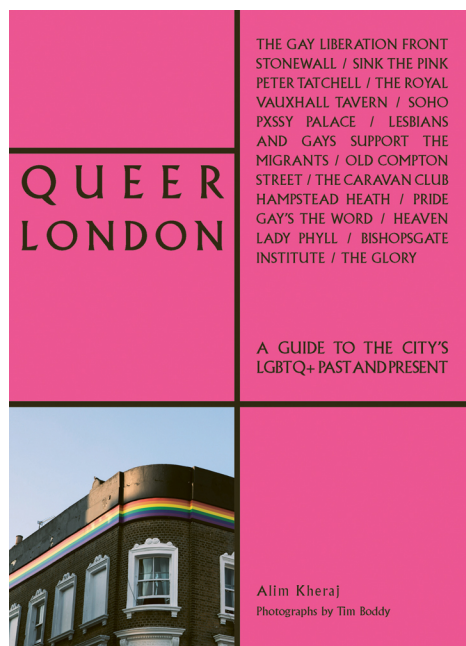


www.accartbooks.com

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Queer London – A Guide to the City's LGBTQ+ Past and Present



Queer London – A Guide to the City's LGBTQ+ Past and Present by journalist and writer Alim Kheraj with photographs by Tim Boddy takes a tour through London's vibrant and colourful LGBTQ+ scene and queer culture.

Divided into different sections, the book explores various elements of the city's LGBTQ+ life, encompassing its history, geography and landmarks while also celebrating the strength and fortitude of the people, both past and present, who claimed these spaces as their own in an ever-changing landscape.

Alongside the capital's numerous nightspots, its Pride events, shops, charities, community organisations, saunas and sex shops are all presented across the book's 176 pages.

Kheraj's tour kicks off in Central London where well-established clubs and events such as G-A-Y, Heaven and Sink The Pink feature alongside newcomers like Circa The Club on Victoria Embankment. Legendary pubs range from the City of Quebec, allegedly London's oldest LGBTQ+ venue;

to Soho's The Admiral Duncan, where the writer recounts its tragic bombing at the start of the Bank Holiday weekend in 1999. A section on the Potted History of Soho explores the area's place in queer activity stretching back to the start of the 17th century.

Elsewhere, *Queer London* explores other must-visit pubs, clubs and destinations across the capital, including North London's The Underground Club, touted as the capital's longest running Men Only club; Dalston Superstore in the East, "a liberated, hedonistic and decadent nightlife spot"; the changing fortunes of Earl's Court's Gay Village; and Vauxhall's The Royal Tavern, arguably London's most beloved LGBTQ+ venue.

The book's rollcall of the current crop of influential and prominent queer Londoners ranges from Olly Alexander, star of Russell T Davies's hugely successful Channel 4 drama *It's A Sin* and Years & Years frontman; transgender campaigner and former face of L'Oréal, Munroe Bergdorf; and human rights and LGBTQ+ rights, Peter Tatchell. Other eminent figures include Jonny Woo, backbone of London's drag, cabaret and theatre scene; Jim MacSweeney of Gay's The Word bookshop; and Charlie Craggs founder of Nail Transphobia and author of *To My Trans Sisters*.

Alim's own life has shaped the unique guide's content, within which he reveals his own experiences as a young gay man in the city of his birth. "Growing up in the '90s under the vice of Section 28 (a Thatcherite law prohibiting the 'promotion of homosexuality'), Soho held an unknowable allure whenever I visited its higgledy-piggledy streets. It maintained that magic as I became a teenager: Soho was where, aged 14, I went alone to my first Pride, only to bump into my Biology teacher on Greek Street. I remember the nervous excitement that hummed through me as I walked with the crowd, soaking up the fact that there was so many LGBTQ+ people in London."

Written during the global coronavirus pandemic, the author believes that researching the capital's queer history, its people and places revealed the community's particular strength and forbearance. He said: "I've only been able to maintain some semblance of normality because of the lessons this book taught me; that 'Queer London' has battled fiercer foes. It has been, and will always be, resilient."

Queer London – A Guide to the City's LGBTQ+ Past and Present is available from 22nd March 2021, published in paperback/softback by ACC Art Books, RRP £15. ISBN 9781788841023. See more of the book here: <https://www.accartbooks.com/uk/book/queer-london/>

ENDS

Find a selection of low-res images from *Queer London* here <http://bit.ly/QueerLondonPix>
All pictures should be credited: Tim Boddy

For author interviews and all press enquiries please contact either:

Richard Ginger – richard.ginger@accartbooks.com

Dan Pattison – dan.pattison@accartbooks.com

About the Author

Alim Kheraj has been a freelance journalist and editor since 2013. During that time, he has written broadly for a number of publications, including the *Guardian*, the *Observer*, the *Telegraph*, the *Independent*, the *i Paper*, *i-D*, *GQ*, *American GQ*, *Vice*, *Refinery29*, *Dazed and Confused* and *Time Out*. An article of his won a grassroots, community organisation funding to start a LGBTQ+ community centre in London. Born and raised in London, Kheraj has witnessed the LGBTQ+ scene evolve into a true community.

About the Photographer

Tim Boddy is a London-based photographer whose work centres around the LGBTQ+ community. He has worked with the BBC, *The Guardian*, *Universal Music*, *The Independent*, *City AM The Magazine*, *MacDonald's*, *Channel 5*, *The 405*, *The British Journal of Photography*, *The Gay Times* and many more. His exhibitions include *Walls in Online Places*, Vol. 2, UAL (Online, 2020), *Visible Justice*, London College of Communication, UK (2019) and *Trace Collective: Plenty Queer*, Brighton, UK (2018).

About ACC Art Books - www.accartbooks.com

ACC Art Books is one of the world's leading publishers and distributors of books on the arts and visual culture.

Our own publications represent more than 50 years of innovation, including collaborations with some of the world's foremost artists, fashion designers, architects and photographers.

We also represent nearly 100 fine publishers from the UK, Europe, USA, China, India and Thailand. Our range includes important monographs and exhibition catalogues from galleries and museums such as the Royal Academy, Ashmolean and National Galleries of Scotland; beautiful art, design, gift and lifestyle books from 5 Continents, Abbeville Press, Arnoldsche, Beta Plus, E/P/A, Gallimard, Glitterati, Hoxton Mini Press, Images, Lannoo, Pointed Leaf Press, Scala and Scheidegger & Spiess; and superb guides to world travel from Emons and Luster.

Explore our latest catalogues here www.accartbooks.com/uk/our-books/our-catalogue/

Follow us:

Twitter - [@ACCArtBooks](https://twitter.com/ACCArtBooks)

Instagram - [@accartbooks](https://www.instagram.com/accartbooks)