



July 13, 2009 [OutcomeBuffalo](http://OutcomeBuffalo.com) > News



**Swimming with Lesbians**  
Sunday, July 26th 7:00 p.m.  
Buffalo United Artist Theatre  
119 Chippewa Street \$25  
[www.swimmingwithlesbians.com](http://www.swimmingwithlesbians.com)

**Documentary Brings Buffalo GLBT  
Archive To Life**

***Premier To Give Audience A Peek Into Buffalo***

## *Gay Histories*

BUFFALO — Gay and lesbian people in Western New York have a long and diverse history that is unknown to many, refused by some and has long been kept only in the memories of those who participated in it's creation. A new documentary film entites Swimming With Lesbians comes from film maker David Marshall. the film will make its premier Sunday July 26, 2009 at the new Buffalo United Artists Theater in a special benefit presentation.

Swimming with Lesbians follows Madeline Davis as she struggles to build an historical Archive of the glbt community of Buffalo, New York. She describes the building of Western New York's glbt Archive as "the last big project of my life." It already overflows two rooms of her suburban Buffalo home.

This Archive is more than just documentary proof that the raw material of history exists. It is for many, an important acknowledgement of a struggle to be seen; acknowledged, known. For Madeline, it is a story of passion and power, for out of the individual stories found in the Archive, the past takes shape and forms the history of gay life in the United States and the fight for glbt civil rights.

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The film allows Madeline to introduce two Buffalo area residents who lived pioneering and honest lives. The late Peggy Ames, who had been born a man in 1927, completed her transition with surgery in 1975. We meet Tangarra shortly before her 2007 death. Tangarra was a true Buffalo legend who began performing on the vaudeville stages of Buffalo and continued to amaze audiences into her nineties. Both Tangarra and Peggy Ames left the Archives much of their invaluable collection of letters and ephemera.

As in many older American cities, the social changes that made gay rights possible were not always welcomed in Buffalo. Swimming with Lesbians asks the viewer to consider that much credit is due to people like Madeline and others in the film -- people in places like Buffalo, New York -- who moved Gay rights out of the Castro and the Village and onto the Main Street of mid-sized American cities and small towns. Without them, today

might look much different. Swimming with Lesbians observes Madeline and others grapple with passing on their legacy – not only the logistics of gathering the records and creating the Archive, but their struggle to define to others why it is important. How do we look back on the last half century, make sense of it, order, and understand it? —*Staff*

***Advance ticket sales only. To purchase tickets call 716/983-9212 or 716/525-3962 or mail payment to embraceWNY, P.O. Box 454, Buffalo NY, 14205.***

***This community event is sponsored by embraceWNY and benefits The Madeline Davis GLBT Archives of Western NY and Blue Sky productions***



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