



Sisterhood is complicated.



once a FURY



MORRIGAN HOUSE PRESENTS **ONCE A FURY** A FILM BY JACQUELINE RHODES FEATURING ARCHIVAL MATERIALS & INTERVIEWS WITH THE FURIES
 GINNY BERSON • RITA MAE BROWN • CHARLOTTE BUNCH • SHARON DEEVEY • HELAINE HARRIS • NANCY
 MYRON • COLETTA REID • NATASHA SINGER • JENNIFER WOODUL PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEB MUSIC BY JOHN RHODES

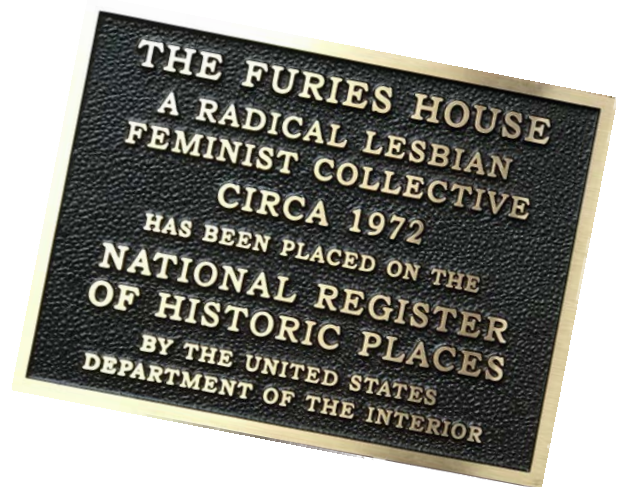
Short Synopsis

Documentary profiling former members of the Furies, a notorious 1970s lesbian separatist collective that published a national newspaper. Featuring interviews with 10 of the original 12 Furies and archival materials.

Long Synopsis

The Furies were a 1970s radical collective that developed a lesbian-feminist politic to correct what they called the "zig-zag and haphazard" thinking of the straight women's movement. The collective was thus formed in resistant counterpoint to the larger women's movement, much as that larger women's movement itself was formed in counterpoint to the male-dominated New Left of the 1960s. That is, just as activists in the women's movement experienced sexism in the New Left, lesbian activists experienced homophobia in the women's movement. Such activists formed collectives like the Furies.

The collective was intense and short-lived: twelve women began the group, worked together, and then broke up in under two years. In that short time, they wrote and published a widely read newspaper (*The Furies*) that advanced their ideology and still seems relevant half a century later. The newspaper lives on in libraries, in private collections, in archives, and on the web.



Over the last three years, I've traveled around the country to talk to the activists who formed the Furies collective in the early 1970s. I took my camera and recording equipment from Columbus, Ohio to Manhattan; from Washington, D.C. to Santa Fe; to Virginia; and three times to different parts of California. I interviewed, corresponded with, or talked on the phone with ten of the original twelve Furies. This documentary film has its origins in nineteen hours of recorded footage, two long letters, a couple of book chapters, an abundance of email, and several long off-the-record phone calls.

Credits

Producer/Director/Writer/Editor

JACQUELINE RHODES

Assistant Editor

PETER JOHNSTON

Cameras

Still Photography of Furies: JEB (JOAN E. BIREN)

Photos of NHR Ceremony: PATSY LYNCH

Photo of Furies Costume Party: ANDI BIREN

Additional Photos: GINNY BERSON, SHARON DEEVEY

Additional Cinematography: SHEWONDA LEGER, DAWN OPEL, AMELIE ZURN-GALINSKY

Head Production Assistant

JESSI WRIGHT

Production Assistants

CAROLINE CARAMAGNO

RACHEL DAVIS

Titles/Art Direction

MARGARET LOOS

Music Director

JOHN RHODES

Song Credits

“HUSH 2.0” (theme)

John Rhodes (2020)

“GIMME BACK MY YA YA”

Dan Lebowitz (2018)

YouTube Studio CC BY

“VIEW FROM A GAY HEAD”

Alix Dobkin (1974)

Lavender Jane Loves Women

“COME GET WITH US”

TrackTribe (2019)

YouTube Studio CC BY

Special Thanks

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, for additional funding through HARP grant.

THE FURIES, for access to newspapers, notes, and personal photographs.

Thanks also for meals, coffee, the bottle of scotch, and feedback.

FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES who viewed and commented on drafts.

JUDY GRAHN, for the excerpt from “Edward the Dyke”

SALLIE BINGHAM CENTER FOR WOMEN’S HISTORY & CULTURE, Duke University Libraries (photos of *The Furies* 1.1 CC BY-NC-ND 4.0)

THE LESBIAN HERSTORY ARCHIVES, just for being there.

GETTY IMAGES





Director's Statement

Soon after I came out in 1984, my lover presented me with a box of Furies newspapers and told me I should read them. It was my introduction to lesbian feminist culture. The newspapers were 12 years old at the time but still resonated with me. The Furies showed me, a small-town working-class teenager from Montana, how the politics of class and sexuality would always be an important part of me. The Furies would influence me greatly at both 19 years old and decades later. My experience is not unique. At its height, The Furies newspaper had a national

run and 5000 subscribers, and the ideology presented there was key to discussions of lesbian-feminist politics in the United States for the next 50 years.

Over the last three years, I've traveled around the country to talk to the activists who formed the Furies collective. I took my camera and recording equipment from Columbus, Ohio to Manhattan; from Washington, D.C. to Santa Fe; to Virginia; and three times to different parts of California. I interviewed, corresponded with, or talked on the phone with ten of the original twelve Furies. This film has its origins in nineteen hours of recorded footage, two long letters, a couple of book chapters, an abundance of email, and several long off-the-record phone calls.

Details

Genre: Documentary feature

Running Time: 82 minutes

Release Year: 2021

Production Company: Morrigan House

Language: English

Website: onceafury.com

Contact: Jacqueline Rhodes, jrwrrhodes@gmail.com

Production Crew



Jacqueline Rhodes (Producer/Director/Writer/Editor) is Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures at Michigan State University, where she focuses her work on intersections of rhetoric, materiality, and technology. *Techné*, a book-length multimedia project co-created with Jonathan Alexander, won the 2016 CCCC Lavender Rhetorics Award for Excellence in Queer Scholarship. Her co-edited collection, *Sexual Rhetorics* (Routledge, 2017), won the same award in 2017.



Peter Johnston (Assistant Editor) is the Digital Media/Film Production Manager in the Film Studies Program at Michigan State University and holds a B.F.A. in Photography from Alma College and an M.A. in Digital Media Technology from MSU. Peter has directed, produced, filmed and/or edited a variety of short fiction, documentary and experimental films, including *What Happens to a Dream Deferred*, *Walking For Ded: A Short Film About Sanctuary*, *Ka-dy Comes Home*, *Hmong Memory at the Crossroads*, *Migrations of Islam*, *Within*, *On the Open Road*, and *Mr. Henderson*.



Jessi Wright (Head Production Assistant) is a graduate student in the Digital Rhetoric and Professional Writing program at Michigan State University. She earned her B.A. in English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Miami University of Ohio before moving to MSU, where she has worked as a technical communications manager, multimedia writing consultant, and a teacher of first-year writing. Her scholarship focuses on the intersections of media/technology and identity.



John Rhodes (Music Director) lives near Charleston, South Carolina, where he works as a computer network manager to support his musician habit. He has been playing bass and lead guitar for over 35 years. Playing bass in two cover bands and a jazz trio, John composes and arranges music at his home recording studio, surrounded by entirely too much gear.



Margaret Loos (Titles/Art Direction) is a graphic designer and typographer living in northern California. In addition to her freelance work for clients across the Northwest, Margaret taught for a number of years in Cabrillo College's program in Digital Media Production.

Contact

JACQUELINE RHODES
jrwrhodes@gmail.com



once a
FURY