

Michael Derry

Artist Profile

Part of West Hollywood's One City One Pride Queer Arts Festival

Name: Michael Derry

City of Residence: Los Angeles

Age: 44



Michael Derry

1) **Who are you, where do you live, and what kind of art do you make?:**

Michael Derry. I live in Los Angeles, and I make animated films, illustrations, and comics.

2) **How old were you when you come out, and what is your coming out story?** I came out when I was 24. I was raised Catholic in Rockford IL and was teen in the mid to late 80's. HIV/AIDS was death sentence at the time, and that on top of being raised Catholic... Well, being gay was not an option! I knew pretty early on that I was attracted to men, but thought I could just stifle it. I tried very hard for a very long time to be straight. I was with a very great girl for a few years, but by the time I graduated

college, I just couldn't take it any more. I had seen a therapist for about a year, and eventually came to the realization that if I didn't admit to myself who I was, I would self-destruct. I finally just admitted it one night to my then girl friend and later my family. The transition was pretty hard and occasionally painful. My girl friend was pretty broken up about it and I felt guilty for having lied all those years, but it was like a huge weight had been lifted. When I finally came out, my real life was able to begin.

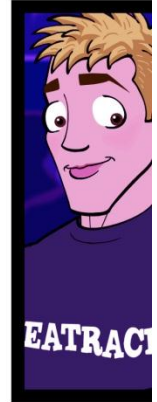
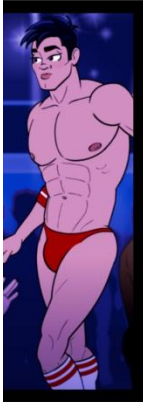
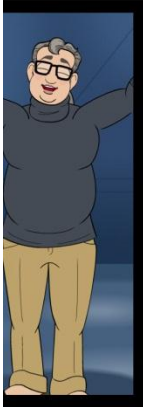
- 3) **How does being queer affect your artwork?** I wrote a gay comic for fourteen years, and then developed that as an animated short, so being queer is pretty much an integral part of my work. Being gay affects the way I see the world, and art is an expression of how I see the world.
- 4) **In your mind, what is gay pride and how do you celebrate it?** Gay Pride is all about tossing off society's judgments and preconceived notions of gender and gender roles and just going out and being your most true, authentic self. Whether that means running down the street in drag, a g-string, leather chaps, a polo, tank top, whatever. Just going out and being exactly whoever you choose to be.
- 5) Where can we see your artwork during the One City One Pride LGBT Arts Festival this year?
 - a) Name of event: CMG Short Film Festival
 - b) Date of event: June 15 & 16, 2013
 - c) Time: TBD
 - d) Location: City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069
 - e) Admission charge, if any: yes, TBD
 - f) For more info please visit www.weho.org/pride or www.thecmg.org/film or <http://troycomics.com>



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TROY



AN ANIMATED COMIC BY MICHAEL DERRY
 EURIAMS LOSADA BEN PATRICK JOHNSON JOHN TAYLOR MAURICE JAMAL
 TOBY MASSENBURG JASON BOEGH ANTHONY DELA CRUZ PAUL BRADLEY MICHAEL HENNESSEY
 WITH DOUG SPEARMAN JOHN DURAN & BRUCE VILANCH
 PRODUCED BY MICHAEL DERRY BEN PATRICK JOHNSON & TOBY MASSENBURG
 "THE SHOWER BLOCK TANGO" COMPOSER & LYRICIST PAUL BRADLEY
 STUDIO PRODUCTION FRANK YANNO & BPJ STUDIOS VIDEO & SOUND EDITING JAKE DEMPSEY
 ADDITIONAL SOUND EFFECTS & MUSIC MJ LALLO, MJ PRODUCTIONS
 WRITTEN DIRECTED & ANIMATED BY MICHAEL DERRY BASED ON HIS COMIC STRIP "TROY"



