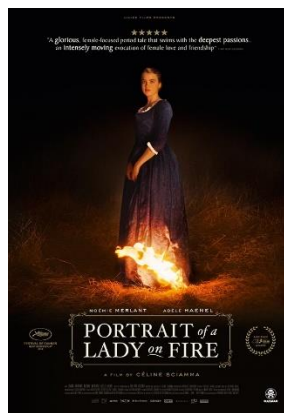


Top 10 Must-Watch LGBTQ+ Movies by Aditi Anvita

So far, in the previous articles of the series, we discussed the LGBTQ+ community, their struggles, their prospects, and upcoming challenges. This composition explores the world of entertainment and brings in front the must-watch outstanding creations of the community and its ally.

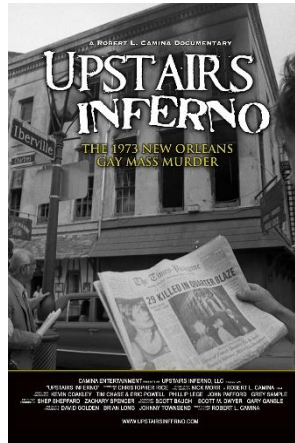
1. **Portrait of a Lady on Fire (2019)** is a mind-blowing historical French drama, written and directed by Céline Sciamma. It has splendid ratings of 8.1 by IMDb and 97% on rotten tomatoes, making it a must-watch. Comprising both pain and romance, it's an underrated movie that deserves one's time. It narrates the secret romance between Noémie Merlant and Adèle Haenel enacting as lead roles of painters that takes them towards their collapse.



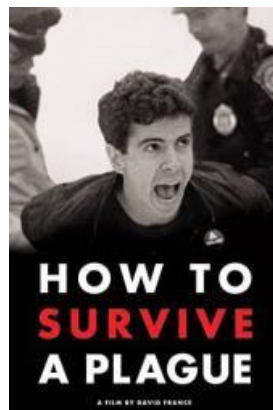
2. **Love, Simon (2018)** is regarded as the paramount film focussing on a gay teen romance. It is one the topmost rom-coms on lists of most movie lovers, starring Nick Robinson. It's another movie with impressive ratings of 7.5 by IMDb and 92% on rotten tomatoes, making it a must-watch. It is heart-warming and a perfect watch for celebrating pride at home. It is the story of Simon Spier who covers his sexual orientation from his family. But things turn upside down when a blackmailer menaces to disclose it.



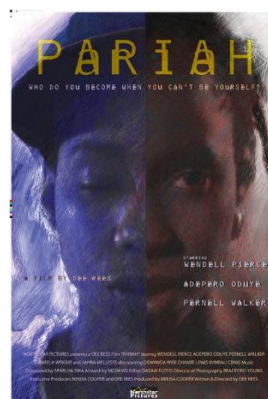
3. **Upstairs Inferno (2015)** represents the devastating fire at New Orleans gay bar UpStairs Lounge on June 24, 1973, in which 29 people lost their lives. The creator, Robert L. Camina mirrors the lost lives, the reasons behind the incident, and the city's lacking empathy towards the community. The film is tear-jerking but, an important creation in the history of the LGBTQ+ community.



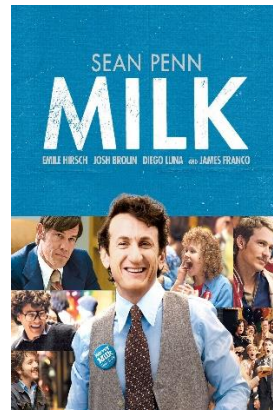
4. **How to Survive a Plague (2012)** advocates the necessity of societal change before time sweeps. Reporter David France has elegantly narrated the LGBTQ community's fight against prejudiced healthcare services.



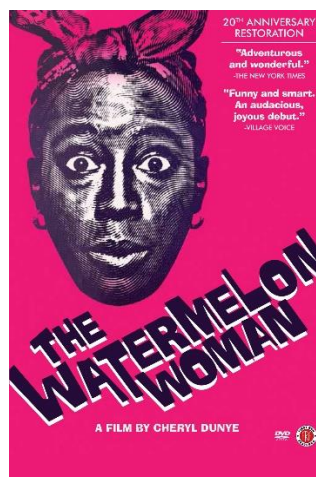
5. **Pariah (2011)**, directed by Adepero Oduye is a story of a 17-year-old Black woman Pariah. It features her journey of identifying herself as a lesbian and resolving her sexual orientation with her family.



6. **Milk (2008)** is a biopic of activist and politician Harvey Milk, directed by Gus Van Sant and starring Sean Penn. Milk was the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California. He played an impressive role in advocating for the rights of LGBTQ Americans.



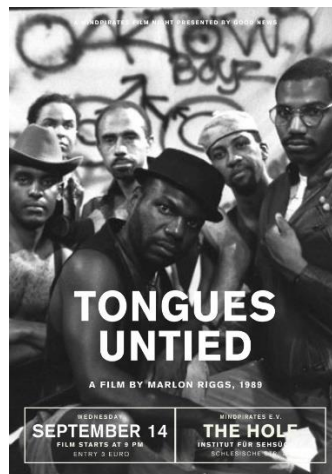
7. **The Watermelon Woman (1996)**- An openly lesbian Black woman, Cheryl Dunye directed this romantic comedy. She enacts her pseudo-autobiographical version and praises the unidentified Black actors and filmmakers who came into the industry before her.



8. **Paris Is Burning (1990)**, directed by Jennie Livingston portrays the Drag culture of New York with 80s style, elegance, and intellect. Rated with 8.1 on IMDb and 98% on rotten tomatoes, it's indeed a perfect watch. It features interviews with renowned drag queens like Willi Ninja, Pepper LaBeija, and Dorian Corey. It's an intense reflection of wealth discrepancy, racism, and stigma faced by the LGBTQ community.



9. **Tongues Untied (1989)** is an experimental film created by Artist Marlon Riggs'. It focuses on the assault of Black gay men through racism and homophobia in the USA for years. It is a 55-minute movie featuring impactful intersectional LGBTQ+ activism.



10. **Before Stonewall (1984)**- Greta Schiller and Robert Rosenberg created this pivotal documentary featuring the struggles of the LGBTQ+ community for their rights. The work educates people about the journey of the community and entertains them with bits of humour. It explores perceptions (police conflicts and censorship) of the nation on homosexuality before the event. conflicts with. It also interviews activists and scholars and reflects the opinions of the popular writer Allen Ginsberg.

