

PRESS RELEASE: for immediate release 19 April 2019



Luminate Festival – celebrating creativity as we age
Return to the Closet?

Luminate and LGBT Health & Wellbeing have collaborated with filmmaker Glenda Rome and with older community members, to produce a short community-led film exploring issues around care for older LGBT+ people. *'Return to the Closet?'* will be screened on the opening day of the Luminate Festival, 1st May, at the Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) in Glasgow. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion.

The film is the culmination of an eight month project in which members of LGBT Health and Wellbeing's Age Project reflected on their knowledge and experiences of the care sector. In the film, they discuss their feelings around ageing and needing more support from care providers – in particular, will more engagement with services in later life mean having to *'Return to the Closet?'* Glenda Rome collaborated with the group in the making of their film, including teaching filmmaking skills from interview techniques to editing.

Having lived through less liberal times which involved hiding their identity in different spheres of life, the film captures the ways in which a shared history of stigma and discrimination and the perception of non-LGBT+ inclusive care settings come together to give older LGBT+ people grave concerns about what care will look like for them.

Derek Anderson, who appears in the film, said: "We want this film to raise awareness about the care needs of older LGBT+ people, and to open up the conversations which will help our care needs be met. The idea of going into care can be daunting for anyone. We've lived through much less understanding times and we carry the impact of that with us. If we don't feel welcomed as our authentic selves, this can be a real barrier to health. It's so important that care providers deliver inclusive services where *all* older people can be their full selves and live healthy lives."

Anne Gallacher, Director of Luminate, said: "Luminate's creative work gives voice to older people's views, hopes and dreams. Our collaboration with LGBT Health & Wellbeing has supported older LGBT+ people to share their experience as part of a creative project, and to learn a range of documentary-making skills along the way. The group's film is a thought-provoking exploration of their hopes and concerns for the future. I hope *'Return to the Closet?'* will prompt discussion of the issues around care that the film raises, as it is

important that our care services meet the needs of all older people.”The complete Luminate Festival brochure can be download at www.luminatescotland.org.
@luminatescot #LuminateFestival19

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**The Baring
Foundation**



Notes to Editors

Return to the Closet? will premiere at 7pm on Wednesday 1st May at the Contemporary Arts Centre in Glasgow. Find the film listing here:

<https://www.luminatescotland.org/events/return-closet>

Luminate is Scotland’s creative ageing organisation, which was established in 2012 and aims to ensure that older people in Scotland have the opportunity to take part in high quality arts and creative activities, whatever their background and circumstances and wherever they live. The organisation supports older people as artists, participants and audiences; nurtures skills development in artists of all ages who wish to work with older people; researches, develops and tests new models of creative practice; and challenges stereotypes of ageing.

LGBT Health & Wellbeing is a community organisation that works to improve the health, wellbeing and equality of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) people and communities in Scotland. It does this through a combination of direct service delivery, community learning development, capacity building and influencing work. It offers an LGBT inclusive programme of support, including mental health support, social events and resources that respond to community needs, strengthen the resilience of LGBT people and reduce isolation. **LGBT Age** is a project run by LGBT Health and Wellbeing for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people aged 50 and over in Greater Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Lothians. The project aims to promote health and wellbeing and create social opportunities for the older LGBT+ community.

Glenda Rome, filmmaker, graduated from Napier University with a BA in Photography, Film and Television, and works as a freelance filmmaker based in Edinburgh. Over the past 15 years Glenda’s work has extended to educational and community contexts; she teaches at the Film Academy, Edinburgh, and has worked on educational projects for a range of organisations including Women’s Aid, Polmont Young Offenders Institution, the Fruitmarket Gallery and the National Museums of Scotland. She is passionate about projects that give a voice to people who may be disempowered or not being heard and has been inspired to teach and share her skills alongside her own professional filmmaking projects.

