FILM IS NOT, AND NEVER HAS BEEN, about mere entertainment. Like the two modes of creation that the moving image stands between—the still image and the theatre—films are a product of lenses, makers, and collaborators working in a context that is always more than meets the eye. As performer, translator, drag artist, activist, and the coordinator of MediaQueer.ca, I argue this triply so for films made by and about LGBt Q2S+ people, whose social and political contexts was, for so long, inhospitable, despite our unrelenting ability to infiltrate systemic marking of production and visual languages that have left their mark on art history in Canada and around the world. The mission of the Queer Media Database Canada-Québec Project is to study, catalogue, and promote the exhibition potential of queer Canadian and Quebecois moving-image works both at home and abroad. We have worked with over twenty festivals and co-presenters to show little-known and canonized works by and about LGBt Q2S+ people. We do this out of a shared belief that there is something radically informative about the queer lens—both in its distortions and its representational precisions.

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Temporary, clocked in at over two hours and required an aesthetic whirlwind that is the “resting affect” of queer people—aesthetics that brought us Sergei Eisenstein and John Waters. Aesthetically wedged between Eurocentric traditions and American commercial giants, queer Canadian filmmakers have had the benefit of almost fifty years since the decriminalization of homosexuality, as well as sixty years of federal arts funding. Despite our unrelenting ability to infiltrate systemic markings of production and visual languages that have left their mark on art history in Canada and around the world, the history of queer Canadian and Quebecois moving-image works is complex, and continue to, excel. On the cusp of our year-long critical commemoration of the decriminalization of homosexuality and abortion in 2019, I have made it my mission to show these works in their complexity, their genre-busting, musical, eccentric, tragicomic, glitchy, vhs-to-digital glory. ¶