

THE WHISTLE

A STORY OF 1970s & 80s LESBIAN YOUTH IN ALBUQUERQUE



THE WHISTLE

Documentary

57 Minutes

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/whatdowewantfilms/thewhistle-trailer>

Website: <http://www.dykewhistle.com>

Review:

Articles:



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Logline: A 45 year old Xicane trans man returns to his hometown, Albuquerque, New Mexico in search of the origin of a secret code he learned when he identified as a young dyke in the 1980s.



Synopsis: THE WHISTLE tells the story of a secret code created by and shared among young lesbians in 1970s & 80s Albuquerque, New Mexico as a means of self-identification and finding community.

In the 1970s & 80s, a group of lesbian high school youth in Albuquerque had a particular way of finding each other and others like themselves. They created a special whistle that was both hard to learn and easy to go unnoticed by unsuspecting bystanders. It would go on to be known by their peers and by those who came up and out after them as the “dyke whistle.” The dyke whistle was a right of passage taught to newly out dykes by their peers. It was used to find friends in a crowd, to find out if other young women were also lesbians, as a friendly nod to groups of lesbians passing by at the mall or at the State Fair. Most importantly, it was a lifeline to community for many young lesbians coming up and out during that time. The dyke whistle was a safe way to identify oneself to fellow lesbians in public – without anyone else knowing and compromising one’s safety.

Director StormMiguel Florez is a queer Xicane trans man who came out and identified as a dyke in 1987 during his freshman year at Del Norte High School in Albuquerque. When Florez came out at the age of 15, a group of his lesbian peers took him under their wing and taught him how to navigate the stresses and the joys of being a young dyke in Albuquerque in the mid 1980s. They took Florez to house parties, introduced him to dykes from other high schools, cruised the parking lots of gay bars that they were too young to get into, and taught him slang like “wrecked” (the process of coming out as a dyke) and “1-4-3” (code for “I love you”). And they taught him the dyke whistle.

In THE WHISTLE, Florez interviews his peers who were also out in the 80s and his elders who were out in the 70s. These interviews explore what lesbian identity formation was like for Albuquerque youth in the 1970s & 80s, how participants came out, found each other, and built community with other young dykes, and how they navigated and survived discrimination from their families of origin, public schools, and straight classmates.

The Whistle documents and reveals both humorous and heartbreaking stories, often told by participants in the same breath.

The director sought out to uncover the origin of the dyke whistle and found so much more in this important slice of New Mexico LGBTQ history.

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Screenings/Festivals:

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Borderless Film Festival - April 6, 2021
Melbourne Queer Film Festival, Melbourne, VIC, Australia - March 11, 2021
Outshine Film Festival, Fort Lauderdale, FL - December 3, 2020
Image+Nation LGBTQ Film Festival, Montréal, QC, Canada - November 19, 2020
qFLIX Philadelphia Film Festival, Philadelphia, PA - November 18, 2020
YoFiFest, Yonkers, NY - November 7, 2020 - **Audience Choice - Honorable Mention**
Trans Stellar Film Festival, Detroit, MI - November 6
Seattle Queer Film Festival, Seattle, WA - October 15, 2020
Way Out West, Albuquerque, NM - October 11, 2020
Canal Catorce (Mexican Public Television) - October 7, 2020
Out On Film, Atlanta, GA - October 3, 2020
Inside Out Film Festival, Toronto, ON, Canada - October 1, 2020
Way Out West, Albuquerque, NM - October 1, 2020 - **Special Screening**
MicGénero, Mexico City, Mexico - September 29, 2020
Reeling - Chicago LGBTQ+ Film Festival, Chicago, IL - September 27, 2020
Fargo-Moorhead LGBT Film Festival, Fargo ND - September 13, 2020
SOMA Film Festival, Maplewood, NJ - September 10, 2020
NH Docs Film Festival, New Haven, CT - August 18, 2020
Wicked Queer Film Festival, Boston, MA - July 24, 2020
Kashish Mumbai International Queer Film Festival, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India - July 22, 2020
LesFlicks Film Festival, London, UK - July 24, 2020
Queer Women of Color Film Festival (QWOCCMAP), San Francisco, CA - June 13, 2020
Las Cruces International Film Festival, Las Cruces, NM - March 4, 2020
South Texas Underground Film Festival, Corpus Christi, TX - January 25, 2020 - **Best of Fest - Feature Documentary**
The Guild Cinema, Albuquerque, NM - December 28-29 - **Special Screening**
San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, San Francisco, CA - November 8, 2019
Gilbert Baker Film Festival, Parsons, KS - October 4, 2019 - **Winner Best Documentary, Winner Best In Festival**
KiMo Theater, Albuquerque, NM - September 20, 2019 - **World Premiere**