The Uses of Anger

November 20, 2015—January 17, 2016
Opening Reception: Thursday, November 20, 6 to 9 PM

The Bureau of General Services—Queer Division presents The Uses of Anger, an exhibition of contemporary and historical activist materials.

How do we use our rage? When confronted with injustice after injustice, what do we do with our anger? Audre Lorde, using an excerpt from one of her poems in her 1981 talk “The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism,” argues “everything can be used / except what is wasteful / (you will need / to remember this when you are accused of destruction.)”*

Lorde went on to say “Every woman has a well-stocked arsenal of anger potentially useful against those oppressions, personal and institutional, which brought that anger into being. Focused with precision it can become a powerful source of energy serving progress and change.”

The Uses of Anger is an exhibition of activist materials born of rage in response to a variety of injustices, including: physical and psychological violence against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender people, and others who do not conform to established gender conventions; police violence against people of color; efforts to deny women access to safe and legal abortions; the failures of governmental and medical institutions to adequately address the AIDS/HIV crisis. These posters, flyers, tee shirts, and other materials give voice to the anger that these injustices inspire. The Uses of Anger includes materials from the following groups:

Anonymous Queers • ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) • Black Lives Matter. NYC Shut It Down: The Grand Central Crew • Camp Out • Fierce Pussy • Gran Fury • Homocult • Lee Schy: Extended Family series • Lesbian Avengers • Occupy Wall Street • Queer Nation • WHAM! (Women's Health Action and Mobilization)


The Uses of Anger is organized by Charlie Welch and Greg Newton with help from Elsa Waithe.

Thanks to the following people for providing materials for the exhibition: Ed Ball, Andy Fair, Joe Ferrari, Avram Finkelstein, Lisa Guido, Elizabeth Meixell, Emily Nahmanson, and Elsa Waithe.

The Bureau will host the following events in conjunction with The Uses of Anger:

**Friday, November 27, 7 PM**

Affirmative Laughter is back and we’re reclaiming BLACK Friday. Each month host Elsa Waithe brings you a comedy show dedicated to hilarity and diversity. This month we are taking over the Bureau of General Services—Queer Division and featuring NY’s best QTPOC comics, plus special guests. Comics: Calvin Cato, Wanjiko Eke, Alex English, Gloria Shantae Butler. Special Guest/Affirmative Hire: Joel Palilla.

**Sunday, December 6, 6 PM**

Screening of United in Anger: A History of ACT UP and Q&A with Jim Hubbard and Sarah Schulman
Director Jim Hubbard and producer Sarah Schulman present their 2012 documentary film United in Anger: A History of ACT UP (93 minutes). Q&A with Hubbard and Schulman following the screening. This event is co-presented by The LGBT Community Center and the Bureau of General Services—Queer Division in room 301 of The Center.

**Thursday, January 7, 7 PM**


**Friday, January 15, 7 PM**


For press inquiries, please write to us at contact@bgsqd.com

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Hours — Wednesday-Sunday, 1-7 PM