



Above: A still from *Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch*

Left: Genesis P-Orridge in *The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye*



his way through his history as a thorn in the side of convention. A number of commentators flesh out this portrait, including Gus Van Sant and John Waters. Most amusing is filmmaker Harmony Korine, who captures something of La Bruce when he says, "His movies look and feel a lot like his personality. There's a lot of penises in them, and they're very kind of grungy."

Sunday opens on a more sober note with *Passionate Politics: The Life and Work of Charlotte Bunch*, produced and directed by Tami Gold (noon, June 5, USA, 57 min.) Bunch is perhaps best known for receiving the Eleanor

Roosevelt Award for Human Rights from President Clinton. But there's much more to her, as this fine documentary shows. Bunch's story parallels the emergence of progressive politics with the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War protests, and women's and gay liberation. The doc shows her evolution, starting life as the daughter of left-wing parents, getting married, protesting racism in the South, then awakening to her own lesbian identity when she met famed author Rita Mae Brown. Bunch's driving need to do the "good works" she learned about in childhood takes her to the far corners of the globe, from a Lima, Peru safe house for abused women to South Africa to fight for a family whose lesbian daughter was stoned to death to the United Nations to persuade them to incorporate women's rights as human rights. Bunch's charming personality and clear thinking on how to translate theory into action appears to reach everyone she touches, including women of color who are initially skeptical, asking, "Who is this white woman?" She laughs when told she seems "tireless" in her advocacy efforts, but the energy she pours into getting results does indeed seem to have earned her

the description.

Sunday's program includes a youth showcase (2 p.m.), from which only *Put This on the Map* (USA) was screened. The longest of the featured shorts at 32 minutes, this doc has the glitzy look of a public service announcement, but the sentiments expressed are far from the slickness or superficiality that implies. Twenty-six interviewees give a sharp group portrait of where young queer people are today in terms of gender issues, and it's a fascinating study. While some of the stories echo the difficulties of gay youth in past decades—bullying peers, unsupportive parents—it's encouraging to see how articulate and unafraid many of these kids are in deciding who they want to be, how they want to live and even what they want to be called: "Very gay," "an ally," "dating an FTM," "not straight, gay, bi, anything." Even looser labels don't always capture it; one teen calls himself "slightly gender queer," but another says, "I'm gender queer, but that in itself is limiting." Androgynous Nick both sums up his personal situation and presents a template worth reaching for: "Gender doesn't matter. You look at the person." This is a must-see for anyone interested in how contemporary youth are thinking.

Continuing with the fest's political action thread, Charlie Gage's *Inspired: Voices Against Prop 8* (4:30 p.m., USA, 92 min.) looks at the silver lining in the 2008 Prop 8 vote, in which big bucks from the Catholic and Mormon churches combined with the gay community's complacency to allow California voters to take away queer marriage rights. Moving briskly through these problems, the documentary examines how the event galvanized individuals, some of whom had never been activists, to create coalitions and mount protests across the state. Some of the dicier issues are explored in depth, including the problem of the "east-west" divide that has historically kept white, monied gay interests from joining forces with the less affluent, non-white queer communities in East and South Los Angeles. Most heartening are the personal stories of individuals who watched in awe as their phone calls asking a few friends to gather to protest

mushroomed into major marches. For those of us who were dispirited after the 2008 vote, this film offers a welcome tonic.

Wrapping up the fest is *Becoming Chaz* (7 p.m., USA, 88 min.), directed by the noted queer filmmaking team of Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, who gave us *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*. Profiling an "associational celeb" like Chaz Bono, offspring of Sonny and Cher, would seem to pose challenges. How to avoid turning it into just another superficial reality TV show? Fortunately, Bailey and Barbato delve deeply enough into the personalities of Chaz and his girlfriend, Jenny, to keep the viewer engaged. The film follows Chaz, born Chastity, through the process of gender reassignment, recording all the twists and turns. One of the most interesting twists is something rarely discussed in these stories: the effect on the partner of the loss of the person she was originally attracted to.

Chaz, says Jenny, was sweeter when she was a woman, which shows dramatically in scenes where it's clear the testosterone has ratcheted up the less savory sides of Chaz's new male personality. During some tense dinner preparation, Chaz hurls sexist insults at Jenny, something hard to reconcile with Chaz's previous incarnation. But the film doesn't shy away from such moments, and gains from this honesty. As with the other subjects in the fest, Chaz emerges an unlikely but ultimately credible hero as he transitions in more than one way: becoming a man and a trans advocate at the same time. Making the personal political is one of the themes of this effective documentary, and could serve as a fitting mantra for another excellent edition of QDoc.

QDoc runs June 2-5 at Clinton Street Theater, 2522 SE Clinton St. Festival passes are \$75 and include admission to all screenings and the opening night party. General admission tickets are \$9, \$7 for seniors 62+ and students with I.D. Admission to the Opening Night Film and Party is \$25 (\$20 for party only, pending availability). Free seats are available to youth ages 23 and under by emailing qdoyouth@gmail.com. Visit queerdofest.org for a complete schedule and more information.

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