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Homophobic Instagram Censors Remove Queer History Documentary for Third Time

Independent filmmakers behind soon-to-be-released historical documentary about queer kink as critical form of AIDS Activism have been repeatedly de-platformed by Instagram

February 14, 2021 – Russian River, CA: Two independent filmmakers, Ryan A White and Alex Clausen, have had the social media account for their upcoming documentary feature RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO! repeatedly removed by Instagram censors. The film tells the story of Bay Area fetish studio Palm Drive Video (established by iconic leatherman Jack Fritscher and his husband Mark Henry), and examines adult filmmaking and queer fetish as an important form of AIDS activism in the 1980s and 1990s – an often overlooked, but critical piece of LGBTQIA+ history. The documentary will premiere this Spring. Despite multiple attempts to appeal their repeated removals from the popular social media platform, the filmmakers have heard no response from Instagram, nor have they been provided any explanation about what warranted their removal or been given any options for recourse. They have lost thousands of fans and followers right before the release of the documentary, which has taken five years to produce.

“We’re certainly not alone in being the target of Instagram’s unfair removal policies – this has happened to many of our friends and colleagues who also work on creative sex-positive projects,” RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO!’s co-director Ryan A White says. “Instagram recently changed their policies on Community Standards and they’ve proceeded to kick off a number of marginalized artists and institutions who address LGBTQIA+ sexualities in their work. The Community Guidelines are vague, and seemingly open to interpretation, but it’s apparent that queer artists are disproportionately targeted for removal. We’re independent filmmakers documenting an under-represented chapter in queer history. We used our Instagram account to build a community of thousands of fans who have supported our project over the years. We understand that the subject of our film is not for everyone – and after losing our first account, we were very careful to avoid posting any overly sensitive content. But, in December, Instagram took down our account again without any forewarning or explanation. Then, when they suddenly removed our third account, after only nine days and five non-explicit posts, it became pretty obvious that we are the target of homophobic censoring. It doesn’t matter what we post, Instagram has made it clear that we’re not welcome on the platform. As a private entity that’s their prerogative, but when you consider all the overtly sexual heterosexual content they allow, it’s pretty obvious that Instagram is operated by homophobes and bigots,” White concluded.

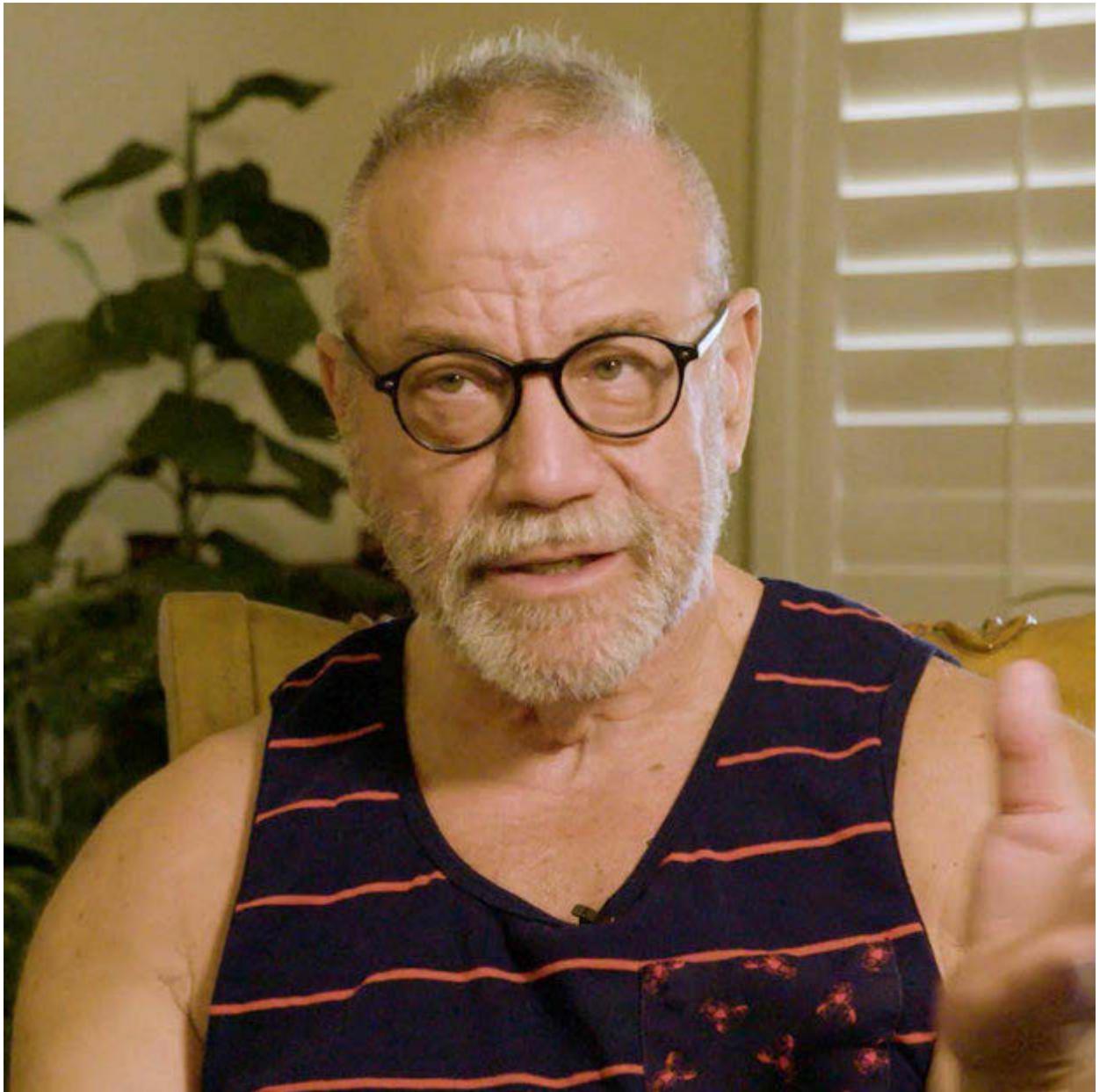
The five photos that got RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO! kicked off Instagram most recently are included below. For more information about the documentary visit: www.rawuncutvideo.com

RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO! Instagram profile/bio:

“A love story about fetish... a documentary about Palm Drive and how a loving gay couple helped battle the AIDS crisis with kinky sex.”



CAPTION: Jake Barns and Bobby Stumps in 1988 still image from a Palm Drive Video shoot



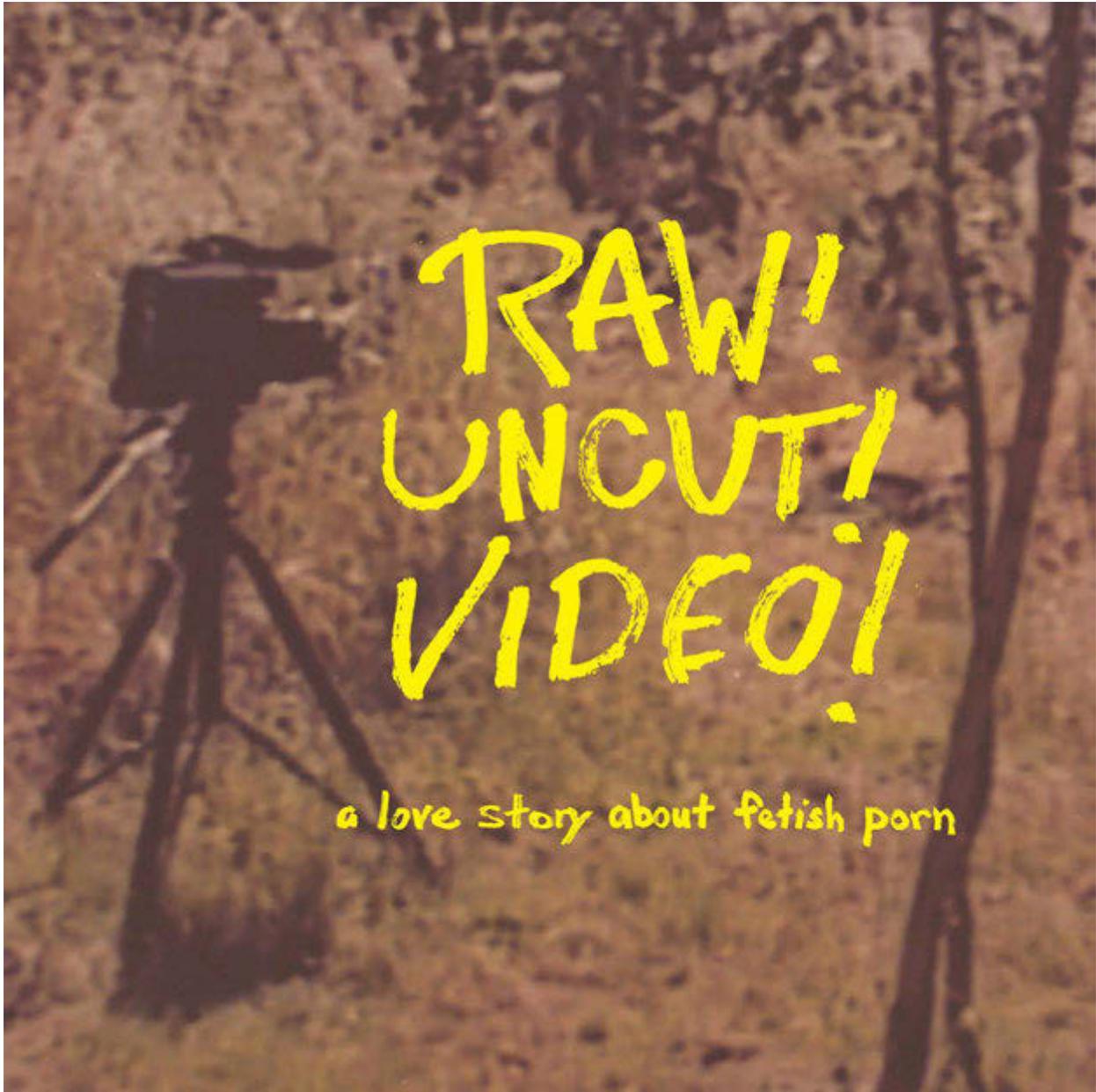
CAPTION: Adult film legend Mickey Squires being interviewed for RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO!



CAPTION: Behind-the-scenes with porn star Donnie Russo and Ryan A White



CAPTION: Jack Fritscher films pro-bodybuilder Chris Duffy in his first gay adult film, Palm Drive Video's SUNSET BULL (1995)



CAPTION: Poster art for the documentary RAW! UNCUT! VIDEO!