Gay San Francisco: How the Boys in the Band Played On!

Eyewitness Fritscher, the lover of Robert Mapplethorpe, breaks the trance of received gay history. In this timeline archive of art, sex, obscenity, homophobia, and the gay mafia, 21st-century readers will get up to speed fast on the serious fun of who did what to whom when and why. Back in the heyday, Fritscher added erotic realism to the magical thinking of Drummer readers who wanted a magazine that made newly liberated sex seem possible and accessible. Based on internal evidence in Drummer, and in journals, diaries, letters, photographs, interviews, recordings, and newspapers, this ultimate insider's guide to the Rise and Fall of Castro and Folsom Streets is a risky ride that brings back what a thrill it was to pick up your first issue of Drummer. (During 24 years, millions read Drummer.)

Fritscher's frisson anchors San Francisco's wild Gay Lib history on the clear chronology of the legendary monthly Drummer. This is the most complete document of the "GLBT Magazine Publishing Movement" to date. Fritscher is the Ken Burns of Drummer history.

"Fritscher is the groundbreaking editor of Drummer." —PlanetOut.com

"Fritscher reads gloriously!" —San Francisco Chronicle

"Fritscher invented the South of Market prose style and its magazines which have not been the same without him." —John F. Karr, Bay Area Reporter

"Utterly unique, an invaluable testament...historically useful for decades to come. What a good thing Fritscher has done." —Mark Thompson, editor emeritus, The Advocate, author of Leatherfolk

"I invite you all to join us in this extraordinary walk down memory lane." —Jeanne Barney, First and Founding LA Editor in Chief of Drummer

"Those concerned with the preservation of GLBT history are very fortunate that Fritscher has such a remarkable memory for the people, places, and pivotal events he has witnessed. His long association with Drummer in San Francisco placed him at the center of the revolution. Gay San Francisco is filled with significant details from those years." —Catherine Johnson-Reich, The Kinsey Institute

Research author, book & gay history: JackFritscher.com

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