



LGBT: SAN FRANCISCO
THE DANIEL NICOLETTA PHOTOGRAPHS

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FOREWORD BY GUS VAN SANT
INTRODUCTION BY CHUCK MOBLEY

“Danny’s photos are a treasured artistic record of the people who initiated a movement from within their own neighborhood and this work links that exuberant time to the larger history of LGBT people. This book is a very welcome addition to our enduring collective memory.” – GUS VAN SANT



LGBT: SAN FRANCISCO is the first book dedicated to photographer Daniel Nicoletta’s archive of powerful images from the burgeoning lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender mecca that was San Francisco in the 1970s through its ongoing journey to the present. Nicoletta has been a leading chronicler of the LGBT civil rights movement over the last 40 years. His images are a vivid and intimate record of the people who came together to change the world: queens, dykes, transgender people, activists, celebrities, politicians, artists and their allies.

In 1975, 20-year-old Nicoletta worked at Harvey Milk’s camera store in the Castro District, one of the first gay neighbourhoods in the United States. Nicoletta is perhaps best known for his iconic images of Milk, the persuasive, charismatic human rights leader who became one of the first openly gay elected officials in the world. Unapologetic and outspoken, Milk fostered hope for a better world at a time when the rise of LGBT visibility was met with widespread hostility and systematic discrimination. Milk himself was killed in his City Hall office in 1978, only a year after he was elected. From the loss of Harvey Milk, through the unfolding tragedy of the AIDS epidemic, Nicoletta remained steadfast in his commitment as a vessel for the telling of the story of the LGBT movement.

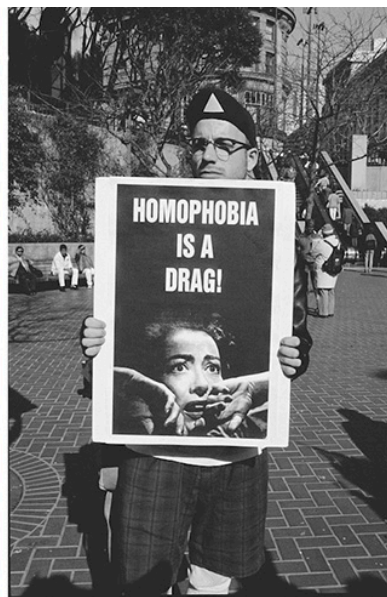
“Perhaps it is helpful to remember that the majority of the people depicted in Nicoletta’s photographs—especially in the years prior to the digital deluge—did not necessarily grow up surrounded by the kind of imagery found in this book,” writes Chuck Mobley in his introduction. “Everything that they were experiencing—the politics, the love, the parties, their activism, their artistic endeavors, and the community they were creating—was entirely new. They were making it up as they went along; they weren’t simply mimicking what they had grown up seeing in films and photographs. All the while, Nicoletta was there alongside them, quietly building a sustained practice out of what was essentially a collective enterprise: the life and times around him.”



This breathtaking volume of photography captures the chaos of the San Francisco streets at this seminal moment in time. Nicoletta captured the excitement of the alternative theater scene, the dazzling drag queens and kings, the rise of AIDS activism, and the unfailing bravery of the marriage equality movement. In 2008 Nicoletta was invited to serve as actor, consultant and set photographer for the on-location production of Gus Van Sant's feature film *Milk* and it is there that he produced some of his most striking work, also featured in this Reel Art Press edition.

Today, Nicoletta continues to document the reverberations of *Milk*'s legacy, serving as a key point person for LGBT civil rights and *Milk*-related research. In 2014, one of Nicoletta's photographs was used on the Harvey Milk Forever US postage stamp.

As Chuck Mobley writes, "The value [of Daniel Nicoletta's work] lies in its inerrant service to the history of the LGBT movement in twentieth century America; forming an invaluable chronicle of a specific time and place. And, most especially: the people who created it." **LGBT: SAN FRANCISCO** is an essential history and a stunning photographic work that is not to be missed.





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DANIEL NICOLETTA IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

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