

# Queercore

## How to Punk a Revolution: An Oral History

**Editors: Liam Warfield, Walter Crasshole, and Yony Leyser**

**Introduction: Anna Joy Springer and Lynn Breedlove**

*Queercore: How to Punk a Revolution: An Oral History* is the very first comprehensive overview of a movement that defied both the music underground and the LGBT mainstream community.

*Queercore* traces the history of a scene originally “fabricated” in the bedrooms and coffee shops of Toronto and San Francisco by a few young, queer punks to its emergence as a relevant and real revolution, through exclusive interviews with protagonists like Bruce LaBruce, G.B. Jones, Jayne County, Kathleen Hanna of Bikini Kill and Le Tigre, film director and author John Waters, Lynn Breedlove of Tribe 8, Jon Ginoli of Pansy Division, and many more. *Queercore* is a down-to-details firsthand account of the movement explored by the people that lived it—from punk’s early queer elements, to the moment that Toronto kids decided they needed to create a scene that didn’t exist, to Pansy Division’s infiltration of the mainstream, and the emergence of riot grrrl—as well as the clothes, zines, art, film, and music that made this movement an exciting middle finger to complacent gay and straight society. Containing a treasure trove of never-before-seen photographs and reprinted zines from the time, *Queercore* will stand as both a testament to radically gay politics and culture and an important reference for those who wish to better understand this explosive movement.

### ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Liam Warfield** is a writer, editor, and educator living in Chicago.

**Walter Crasshole** is a journalist in Berlin and English-language editor for the city’s 40-year running queer magazine *Siegessäule*. He is also a regular contributor and columnist for *Exberliner*, Berlin’s English-language magazine, covering queer and cultural topics. He occasionally translates books from German to English, having just finished his third book translation for punk performance artist Wolfgang Müller.

**Yony Leyser** grew up in Chicago and relocated to Berlin in 2010. He is the writer and director of three award-winning feature films *William S. Burroughs: A Man Within*; *Desire Will Set You Free*; and *Queercore: How to Punk a Revolution*. He has received critical acclaim in publications including the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, *Sight and Sound*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

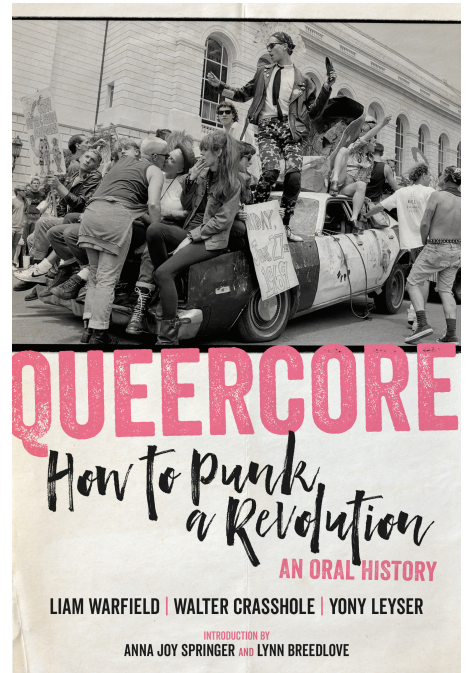
**Anna Joy Springer** is the author of *The Vicious Red Relic, Love* (Jaded Ibis, 2011), an illustrated fabulist memoir with soundscape (*Your Metaforest Guidebook*), and *The Birdwisher, A Murder Mystery for Very Old Young Adults* (Birds of Lace, 2009). Her work appears in zines, journals, anthologies, and recordings. An Associate Professor of Literature at UC San Diego, she teaches experimental writing, feminist literature and graphic texts. She’s performed in punk and queercore bands Blatz, The Gr’ups, and Cypher in the Snow and toured the U.S. with the writers of Sister Spit. She lives in Los Angeles.

**Lynn Breedlove** is a writer, performer, musician, entrepreneur and community activist born and raised in the SF Bay Area. He’s toured comedy solo shows and with bands Tribe8 and The Homobiles. He is the founder and CEO of Homobiles the ride service. Author of *Godspeed* and *Lynnee Breedlove’s One Freak Show*.

### ACCOLADES

“Finally, a book that centers on the wild, innovative, and fearless contributions queers made to punk rock, creating a punker-than-punk subculture beneath the subculture, *Queercore*. Gossipy and inspiring, a historical document and a call to arms during a time when the entire planet could use a dose of queer, creative rage.”

—Michelle Tea, author of *Valencia*



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