

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
GAY AND LESBIAN ARCHIVES
GALA
JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2003**

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1. CONTEXT

Established in 1997, GALA is an independent project of the South African History Archives Trust (SAHA) which forms part of the Historical Papers collection based at the William Cullen Library at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. For SAHA this was a valuable extension of its existing collections that echoed SAHA's historic commitment to documenting human rights struggles in South Africa. GALA represents a unique resource of material relating to lesbian and gay experience in Southern Africa. It is appropriate that the only lesbian and gay archive on the continent should be located in South Africa, considering that this is the first country in the world to enshrine equality on the basis of sexual orientation in its constitution. In the light of the constitution making process and the ensuing legal reforms, South Africa has become a focus for international and local research attention.

The bulk of the collections are organisational records dating from the 1960s. These document the history of the lesbian and gay civil rights movement in South Africa. More personal records, including letters, scrapbooks and photograph albums complement these collections. There is also an extensive oral narrative collection of both historical and contemporary material.

Recognising that gay and lesbian communities in South Africa are not homogeneous, the Gay and Lesbian Archives strive to reflect that diversity in the collections and by devising appropriate strategies for making the collections more accessible to the public. GALA actively seeks to focus on the histories and experiences of those communities who have been marginalised, not only on the basis of sexual orientation, but also on grounds of race, class, gender or disability.

GALA was established as a community archive that aims to serve the needs of academic research, while maintaining its primary function as a repository of community histories, and cultural artefacts. This dual function is reflected in GALA's location as a community archive within an academic institution. GALA has attempted to integrate acquisition and outreach programmes in order to raise public awareness about the archives and to fulfil its role as a community archive. Theatre, video and film productions and innovative tours have complemented more traditional exhibitions as part of the archive's outreach strategy.

In terms of our location in the academy we also recognise that research is a critical function of a gay and lesbian archive in an African context. GALA has been at the forefront of stimulating new avenues of academic enquiry into sexuality in South Africa. Providing both the source material and undertaking research projects that further enhance knowledge and teaching in the sphere of gender and sexuality studies. The research projects undertaken by GALA follow the pattern of previous research projects by emphasising archival collection of life histories, documents, audio and video recordings of community activities and events. As a national lesbian and gay archive, GALA also strives to collect material from a wide range of geographically dispersed lesbian and gay communities throughout Southern Africa. As the only LGBTI archive in Africa, we have recently extended our focus to East Africa and in 2004 aim to create linkages with LGBT organisations throughout Africa.

2. OVERVIEW

2.1 Introduction

GALA's focus in 2003 in terms of its organisational relationships was to terminate amicably its host relationship with Behind the Mask which established itself as an independent trust in September 2003. Additionally GALA focused on making its collections more accessible to the public through expanding the website to include an online newsletter and updating the Guide to Resources which is also available on this website. Part of reaching a broader audience involved a range of community outreach projects including the development of publicity material for the Gay and Lesbian Library, the expansion, redevelopment and promotion of the Queer Tour of Johannesburg and a range of theatre, film and publishing projects based on archival collections. In order to expand its collections, oral history and research projects continued to be an important aspect of GALA's work.

2.2 GALA-SAHA relationship

GALA is constituted as an independent project of the South African History Archive Trust (SAHA). The SAHA Board is thus the overall management structure of GALA. In addition, the GALA advisory committee serves to monitor the work of GALA. The advisory committee represents a wide range of interest groups associated with the archives. The seven member advisory committee meets quarterly. The advisory committee has been expanded and diversified in 2003 to include Dr Rehana Ebr-Vally, a social anthropologist from the Department of Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand and Mr Thofi Bishop, also from the University of the Witwatersrand (Division of Bioethics, Faculty of Health Sciences) who is in the process of founding a LGBTI hospice and wellness centre for HIV/AIDS. They complement the five original committee members: Graeme Reid, former director and current researcher at WISER in the Cultures of Sexuality and Power programme; Michelle Pickover, Curator of Manuscripts at the University of the Witwatersrand and SAHA Board Member; Zackie Achmat, Chairperson of the Treatment Action Campaign and ex-director of the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality; Karen Martin, former Archivist and Sandra Gordon, who brings financial and corporate expertise to the project.

GALA was established as an independent project of SAHA in 1997. Both GALA and SAHA have a close and complex relationship with Historical Papers (HP). The latter gives both organisations physical space, infrastructural support and the assistance of Library members of staff. In significant ways the SAHA and GALA collections are integrated with the broader HP collections. GALA's collections are housed by the Historical Papers Department (HP) in the William Cullen Library free of charge, together with SAHA's collections under a pre-existing 1994 agreement between the University and SAHA for a duration of fifty years. This agreement includes the provision of infrastructural support and the assistance of library staff in times of need which are critical to sustainability. In 2003 the process was finalised in which the SAHA deed of trust and SAHA management policy were amended to formally include GALA. With this new framework in place, the directors of GALA and SAHA continued to work closely together to create a more streamlined and integrated administrative GALA/SAHA relationship. However GALA remains autonomous in the sense that it continues to be responsible for its own fundraising and the management of its own affairs.

GALA is governed by the SAHA Financial Policies and Procedures.

GALA's auditors are Douglas and Velcich. On completion of the audit, the audited financial statements for 2003 will be distributed.

The contact details of the auditors are as follows:

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10th Floor
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2.3 GALA-WISER collaboration

In collaboration with WISER and the Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences, GALA co-hosted the fourth conference of the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture and Society (IASSCS) which was held at the University of the Witwatersrand in June 2003. The theme of the conference was "Sex and Secrecy". GALA worked with Dr Saskia Wieringa from the Netherlands and Dr Evelyn Blackwood from Purdue University in the USA to convene the Same-sex women's forum which constituted a parallel session throughout the conference. This included nine presentations from East and Southern Africa on the African Women's Life History Project: Exploring same sex practices. The research was initiated by the project and two workshops were held by GALA in March and June 2003 to achieve this aim. An edited anthology containing the personal narratives of African women engaged in same-sex relations collected by the women from different African countries will be published in 2004. Due to lack of funds for a special session with the Dharani and Swabhava Trusts in Bangalore, a meeting rather than a formal session took place in which possible areas for future collaboration were discussed including a project focusing on LGBTI South Africans of Indian descent.

2.4 GALA-Behind the Mask Collaboration

GALA's focus in 2003 in terms of its organisational relationships was to terminate amicably its host relationship with Behind the Mask(BTM) which established itself as an independent trust in September 2003. The separation of the two organisations was completed successfully and the GALA-BTM association has continued in terms of collaboration on specific projects of mutual interest.

2.5 Collaboration with other organisations

GALA has collaborated with a number of other organisations in 2003 including OUT, The Lesbian and Gay Equality Project, the Triangle Project, The Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW), The Soweto HIV Counselling Association (SOHACA), The Hope and Unity Metropolitan Church (HUMCC), Out in Africa, the Perinatal HIV Research Unit and HIVSA. Through the African Women's Life History Project we now have links with the newly established African Lesbian Association (ALA) which was an outgrowth of that project.

2.5 Resources

As a result of a significant increase in funding in 2003 due to funding received from Atlantic Philanthropies, GALA was able to employ an additional full time staff member Busi Kheswa as an office administrator and outreach co-ordinator. Four additional part time staff members could also be employed to work on specific projects and to assist with archiving our backlog of unprocessed collections. In 2003 we had three full time staff members (the director, archivist and administrator/outreach co-ordinator), seven part time staff members (financial assistant, bookkeeper, two researchers/writers (youth book), graduate student (sangoma project), archive assistant and librarian) and a full time Deaf volunteer (Deaf oral history project).

The total income received for core funding for GALA for 2003 was R743,560. An operating budget of R753,681 was submitted to Atlantic Philanthropies and HIVOS for 2002. The small shortfall was attributed to the strengthening of the rand and was easily accommodated. GALA had three core funders for this period. HIVOS (Netherlands) provided a grant of R228,560 (Euro 27,690). The U.K based Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust provided a grant of R115,000. Atlantic Philanthropies (Ireland) provided a grant of R800 000 for the period July 2003 to June 2004 for both core and project support. R400 000 was allocated to 2003 and the balance was deferred to 2004.

Project funding for specific activities, including outreach projects, are raised separately from our core budget from a range of local and foreign sources. In 2003, GALA received project support from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Out in Africa and The National Film and Video Foundation for the Property of the State documentary and from HIVOS (Netherlands) for the African Women's Oral History Project: Exploring Same Sex Practices. Atlantic Philanthropies supported the Gay and Lesbian Library and the Youth Book Project. GALA also received funds on behalf of Behind the Mask (BTM) from the following Netherlands based organisations; HIVOS, Nederlands Instituut voor Zuidelijk Afrika (NiZA/PSO filok) as well as from Astraea (USA) and Atlantic Philanthropies.

2.6 Sustainability

GALA relies on funding for its continued existence and activities. This comes from foreign and local sources. A balance between foreign donor funds and local funding will help to ensure the continued support for the project from abroad. GALA continues to approach South African government, corporate and individual donors in order to raise funds for specific projects, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project. In 2004 priority will be given to working with a professional fund raiser to devise a fund raising strategy for the 2004-2006 funding period so as to expand our funding base.

3. PERFORMANCE REPORTS

3.1 The collections

This is GALA's core activity. It was established as a source of information to the public and to serve as a catalyst for generating otherwise silenced community histories and personal narratives. The GALA collections are housed in the William Cullen Library in terms of the agreement between SAHA and the University of the Witwatersrand. The archives groups are arranged according to the creator of the group. GALA collects a wide range of documentary material, artefacts and oral sources. GALA, like

other lesbian and gay archives internationally, pursues an open and flexible acquisition policy, in keeping with the concept of a community archive - this allows individual donors to participate in determining what should be preserved in the archives. Individuals are encouraged to donate personal mementoes, letters, diaries, scrap-books and photographs to the archives. These contributions, coupled with interviews, provide a unique insight into the experiences of individual lesbians and gay men and form part of the larger tapestry of community history and cultural experience.

The archives have also secured an extensive collection of organisational records, which mark the beginning of the process of establishing the source material for a comprehensive lesbian and gay social history in South Africa. This history sheds light on the broader processes of oppression and social transformation in South Africa and, as such, it is a useful tool for viewing aspects of South African history from the margins. Contractual arrangements with a number of organisations ensure that future records will be deposited with GALA.

3.1.1. Acquisitions

This years acquisitions have both broadened the range of collections at the archives (for example, the African Women's Life History Project has added important information on women's same-sex practices in Africa) as well as expanded the range of material within existing GALA collections. Several important additions are of records relating to court cases that further the constitutional rights of South Africa's lesbian and gay community, notably the acquisition of Chrystal Cambanis' records on *Du Toit & Another v Minister of Welfare and Population Development* (the adoption case). Our records of the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality (NCGLE) and its successor the Lesbian and Gay Equality Project, have been greatly expanded thanks to two large donations in the past year. The period 1994 to 2000 is now extremely well documented. These donations included correspondence, financial records, legal documents, administrative records, posters and memorabilia. The donations of records relating to this organisation's pension and provident fund cases were more modest, but still valuable and include *Muir v Mutual & Federal Pension Fund*, and a small number of records on *Martin v Beka Provident Fund* and the *Lesbian and Gay Equality Project v Minister of Finance*.

Our collection of sound and video recordings has also grown significantly: the most important addition being an invaluable donation of life story interviews on video (including transcripts) with prominent lesbian and gay activists and community members- part of a joint donation by Zackie Achmat and Jack Lewis. GALA has also secured a complete list of SABC (SA's national broadcaster) television programmes with LGBT content.

We continue to benefit from donations by researchers who have consulted the archive. Kevin Graziano, for example, donated copies of interviews and photographs from the photovoice project he facilitated on the experience of black lesbian and gay people living in Johannesburg. Daniel Conway (Rhodes) and Natalie Oswin (British Columbia) have both donated copies of original research material - including valuable interviews - collected for their respective Ph.D.s. Researchers have also donated copies of their relevant academic publications, theses and papers, adding to GALA's growing store. Our collection of international lesbian and gay publications has also increased considerably.

Once again, the archives acquired the personal records of a number of LGBT individuals. These include Roy Shepherd, who donated his notebooks going back to 1974, including copies of letters he wrote to Simon Nkoli during Nkoli's imprisonment as part of the Delmas Treason Trial; Gerry

Davidson who donated her extensive collection of LGBT t-shirts; Sue Charlton, whose donation included photographs and her own lesbian rock music; as well as donations by a number of other people. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has donated material to the archives over the past year!

3.1.2. Control and Preservation

This year GALA stepped up its project of digitising sound recordings and key photographic holdings in order (1) to ensure the long-term preservation of these records, (2) to provide access to our photographic holdings (and eventually sound recordings) online on the GALA website, and (3) to enable long-distance researchers (i.e. those who cannot travel to GALA) to make use of these records. In 2002 we began transferring the life story interviews on audiocassette that formed GALA's original Oral History Project from analogue to digital, and this year we saw the completion of this project. This is important as audiocassettes are subject to considerable wear and tear, and so break easily. 2003 saw GALA begin to record its key photographic holdings in digital format. Over 500 images were digitised. The Renee Liddicoat, David, Simon Nkoli and Kevin Graziano photographs have been completed. The extensive Kewpie photograph collection is in the process of being digitised at present, but will be completed only in 2004.

3.1.3. Arrangement and Description

An area of concern in 2003 was the large backlog of 55 unprocessed collections. This has been successfully addressed with the processing of 53 of these collections with the assistance of an additional part time staff member. The remaining backlog consists of the large 2003 acquisition of records from the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality (NCGLE) and its successor the Lesbian and Gay Equality Project, as well as a sizable collection of GALA's own records ('Archiving GALA'). These two remaining collections will be addressed in the first quarter of 2004.

3.1.4. Access and Use

GALA and SAHA are physically located in the Historical Papers Department of the University of the Witwatersrand at the William Cullen Library, East Campus. A single reading room accesses all three archives. It is serviced by Historical Papers professional staff who integrate all knowledge of all three collections. SAHA and GALA staff provide expert support when required. Guides, inventories, indexes and reference books are available for use. Academics, students, journalists, film-makers, television producers, book researchers and human rights activists continue to make use of the Gay and Lesbian Archives.

GALA responds to enquiries via e-mail, telephonically, through correspondence and through personal visits. As a service to distance users, inventories are sent either via electronic or conventional mailing and copies of relevant documents supplied to researchers. The web page is also of use to researchers. With the exception of the provision of copies of records, all GALA access and use services are provided free of charge.

In 2003 we worked to improve access to our collections that were previously referenced only in a card catalogue and inventories. In October the archivist underwent training in the design and use of

InMagic databases. An InMagic database was then created that allows users to search our collections faster and with less difficulty according to any combination of the following: keyword; and/or name of collection; and/or type of record; and/or date. A similar database is in the process of being set up for our large and somewhat cumbersome press clipping collection, to be completed in 2004. Other databases are planned for our photographs, posters, and sound and video recordings.

In addition, we have begun the process of making our key photographic holdings available to long-distance researchers online via our website.

During 2003 GALA has assisted a broad range of users with various interests and needs. We have been able to provide useful information to students, academics, professional researchers, journalists, filmmakers and NGOs. Our users are not only from South Africa, but from the UK, USA, Canada, India, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Singapore, Namibia, and Zimbabwe.

Usage of GALA collections increased this year, in part thanks to events such as the IASSCS Conference co-hosted by GALA. In addition to increasing awareness of the resources available at GALA, many conference delegates elected to lengthen their stay in Johannesburg to do research at the archive, or returned to GALA later in the year. As in previous years, the primary users of GALA continue to be academic researchers, including professional academics and students. Lecturers and post-graduate students from the fields of law, psychology, medicine, sociology, anthropology, history, cultural geography, fine arts and drama made use of GALA's archival holdings. Examples include: Craig Lind, lecturer in Law, University of Sussex, who researched aspects of family law and sexuality as well as constitutional law while at GALA; Natalie Oswin, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of British Columbia, Canada, who is doing a comparative study of the political and economic developments for lesbian and gay people in South Africa and Singapore; Daniel Conway, a Ph.D. candidate at Rhodes University, who returned to do further research on the role of homosexuality in political objection to compulsory military service in the SADF; Mandisa Mbali, University of Natal, who researched the HIV/AIDS movement in South Africa and its relationship with lesbian and gay political organisations; Fiona Brown, a Masters student at the University of Cape Town, who has used the archive to look at issues around same-sex marriage; Dr. Hannah Hacker, University of Vienna, who researched lesbian lives in South Africa; Ivor Chipkin, WISER, who used the archive to research his paper on "When sexuality is important for the state"; and Dr. Marc Epprecht; Ken Cage; Rebecca Sinclair; and Amanda Swarr, amongst others, who all continued their long association with the archives.

NGO's and statutory bodies that have made use of GALA's services include the Commission for Gender Equality, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, the Centre for the Study of AIDS, the Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Task Force, The Lesbian and Gay Equality Project, OUT-LGBT Wellbeing, Triangle Project, and Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ). Examples of other users include numerous journalists, fact-checkers, filmmakers, photograph researchers, and curious members of the public.

The above examples serve to give the reader an idea of the range of people who are using the archives, as well as the variety of uses to which our holdings are put.

3.1.5. Guide and Website

Our *Guide to the Resources of the Gay and Lesbian Archives* provides a comprehensive description of the collections at the archives. The past year has seen the updating and revision of this *Guide* which will be published and distributed in January 2004 to archives, universities and other institutions, both in South Africa and internationally.

The revised *Guide* is also available online on the GALA website. The website has become an important tool for long distance users of our collections. The website continues to be updated regularly and includes some new features: the most important being a web page that allows GALA staff to upload newsletters and announcements directly onto the website.

3.2 Community Outreach

3.2.1 Theatre

3.2.1.1 *Your Loving Simon*

This play about the late Simon Nkoli was developed in 2002 at The Market Theatre Laboratory as a piece of “reality theatre” by Robert Coleman with Fourie Nyamande and Bekhi Vilakazi. Fourie Nyamande plays Simon and Bekhi Vilakazi plays his cell mate, Madoda. The play ran for three weeks at the Market Theatre during April 2003. GALA purchased a block booking for a preview performance attended by township youth as part of our outreach programme. A special performance was also given for international delegates at the Sex and Secrecy conference in June. The play is in the form of an extended dialogue and is based on Simon’s letters from prison which are part of the GALA collection. The story revolves around Simon’s time in detention for alleged terrorist activities as one of the Delmas 22. During his imprisonment Simon faced the added pressure of “coming out” to his comrades as a gay man, some of whom hold high positions in government today.

3.2.2 Films

3.2.2.1 *Property of the state: Gay men in the Apartheid military.*

This docu-drama was completed early in 2003 and was launched successfully at the opening night of the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in March 2003 in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. This production draws on the GALA aVersion project research findings, turning these into a powerful rendition of the SADF’s policies towards homosexuality during the apartheid era, and in particular to the efforts of the military to offer a crude form of aversion therapy in the form of electric shock treatment. The executive co-producers are GALA and the Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Funding was received from Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, The National Film and Video Foundation and the Out in Africa, Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. An edited version of the film was broadcast by SABC on “Special Assignment” in South Africa. The film was also shown in South Africa at the Encounters documentary festival, the 3 Continents Human Rights Festival and the 24th Durban International Film Festival. Extensive footage from the making of the film was donated to

GALA.

The film has been distributed successfully by Out in Africa in 2003 to the following 27 international film festivals: South Africa Raindance Film Festival (London, U.K.), Silver Lake Film Festival (California), Fresno Reel Pride: 14th annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (California), 4th Annual Reelout Queer Film + Video Festival in Kingston (Canada), 4th Czech Gay and Lesbian Film Festival MEZIPATRA (Czech Republic), Rehoboth Beach Independent Film Festival (USA), Copenhagen Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (Denmark), 14th Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (USA), 9th Paris Gay and Lesbian Film Festival/Forum des images Paris, Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Film Festival -- Out on Film (USA), REELING 22nd Annual Chicago L & G Intern Film Festival (USA), Berlin 13th International Queer Film Festival, Bombay Sexual and Gender Minority Film & Video Festival (India), Indianapolis GLBT Film Festival (USA), New Orleans Film & Video (USA), 6th Annual Long Island Gay and Lesbian Film (USA), Ljubljana Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (Slovenia), 16th Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival (Austin, USA), OUT TAKES The 5th Annual Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (Dallas, USA), Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival – All Around (Seattle, USA), Spokane Annual GLBT Film Festival (Spokane, USA), 13th Reel Affirmations: International G & L Film Festival (Washington DC, USA), Milwaukee Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival (USA), Golden Gate Fiction and Documentary Festival (San Francisco, USA), YAMAGATA Documentary Film Festival (Japan) and Haanjinsi Film Festival in India.

3.2.2.2 *Everything Must Come to Light*

This documentary co-produced by GALA and Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival was completed in February 2002. The film was co-directed by the late Mpumi Njinge and Paulo Alberton and produced by Ruth Morgan. It features three dynamic vibrant sangomas (traditional healers) involved in same-sex relationships living in Soweto. Funding for this film came from Atlantic Philanthropies and Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The film breaks down stereotypes about “African culture”, kinship, sexuality and gender identity in an African context. This project follows the format of other projects that include a collection and documentation component, a research dimension and a dissemination programme in the form of the video documentary. The film was shown at the Out In Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in March and has been distributed in North America to film festivals and educational institutions by First Run/Icarus Films. It has been also internationally distributed by GALA on request. It has been shown at the following 12 international film festivals¹: Toronto Gay/Lesbian Film Festival, Reel Affirmations (Washington D.C.), Hallwalls Contemporary Art, Zeitgeist, the African Studies Association, First International Human Rights Film Festival of Spain (Turin), Seattle lesbian and gay film festival, Inside Out Film Festival, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) at North Eastern Illinois University, the Out on Screen Vancouver Queer Film and Video Festival, the Combat Festival – a Queer Feminist Film Festival, (Stockholm, Sweden) and the gay and lesbian film festival (Columbia). The film was sent to Ahead in Kiev: Cinema Program about Non-traditional Love and to a film festival in Korea but we are unsure if it was screened. It has been leased for life by twelve universities in the USA including Yale University Library. It was broadcast by the Triangle Gay and Lesbian Television and Video Festival (Auckland, New Zealand).

¹ This list does not include the final quarterly report from First Run/ Icarus for 2003 which had not been received at the time of writing this report.

3.2.2.3 *Simon and I*

Made in association with the Gay and Lesbian Archives, this documentary was funded by Astraea and was a successful contender for the series Steps to the Future documentary film programme. The film utilises GALA archival material and tells the life story of Simon Nkoli through the eyes of Director Beverley Ditsie. Beverley was actively involved in the lesbian and gay movement and provides an insider perspective on his life. Extensive videotaped archival footage from this film has been donated to GALA. After showing at 21 film festivals in 2002, the documentary has continued to be screened at film festivals internationally during 2003 including the London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, Queer Zagreb (Croatia) and Africa in the Picture (Amsterdam). It has been broadcast in Austria (ORF), South Africa (SABC TV 1), U.K. (BBC) and Finland (YLE)

3.2.2.4 “*Dark and Lovely, Soft and Free*”: *Small town gay and lesbian life through the lens of the hairdressing saloon*

This video documentary co-directed by Graeme Reid and Paulo Alberton was produced by GALA, Franmi and Vidiola in 2001. Since then it has been screened extensively at film festivals internationally. In 2003 it was screened at the First International Human Rights Film Festival of Spain (Turin) and at the gay and lesbian film festival in British Columbia. This project included research, archival and dissemination components. The research aspect involved travelling to small towns, urban peripheries and rural areas and documenting the lives of gay men and lesbians living in more remote areas. This sought to address the imbalance of the archive holdings, which tend to collect the life stories, papers and records from the urban centres. Interviews were conducted in audio and video format and several individuals have loaned personal photograph albums for duplication and narration.

3.2.3 *Queer Johannesburg Tour*

GALA, in partnership with other organisations, developed a tour of historical Johannesburg and surrounding areas in 1999. The particular focus of the tour is to give visitors a unique insight into the history of lesbian and gay culture and political development in the Gauteng region. In 2003 the tour has been expanded and updated with new material, it now includes a visit to Constitution Hill, to Beverley Ditsie’s mother’s house in Soweto, to a lesbian sangoma’s consulting room in Soweto and to the Hope and Unity Metropolitan Community Church in Fordsburg. The gala archivist, Anthony Manion and the outreach co-ordinator Busi Kheswa were trained as tour guides by Mark Gevisser between May and October 2003. The tour was offered to the delegates at the Sex and Secrecy Conference in June. The expanded tour was launched with a media tour in November 2003 to which there was an incredibly positive response. Articles appeared in all major local newspapers and radio and TV coverage included interviews with the GALA director, guides and lesbian sangoma who is included in the tour. Foreign journalists from Norway, the Netherlands and Britain (BBC) also covered the tour. For more information visit our website www.gala.wits.ac.za

3.2.4 *Gay and Lesbian Library*

The library is one of GALA’s most important ongoing outreach projects. It houses appropriate reference material from the GALA collection as well as a extensive collections of fiction, non-fiction

and videos that may be borrowed. The library has over three thousand book titles in its collection. Since July 2003 the library has obtained 477 new books (over half of the new purchases are non-fiction) and 19 new video titles due to substantive funding from Atlantic Philanthropies. This is the first time that the library has received any funding. As a result the library has also been able to develop publicity material, purchase digital equipment and expand its fiction and non fiction collections. Funding has also allowed the employment of part time librarians which has enabled us to increase the hours of access to the library from two and a half hours to twenty hours a week.

Library membership and usage continues to grow as a result of increased publicity. Library membership increased by 15% in 2003. In order to publicise the library, bookmarks and posters were printed and distributed at Pride and at libraries and bookstores. The library is also publicised via the webpage where the collections can also now be accessed: www.gala.wits.ac.za. Many enquiries have been received from the rest of South Africa wanting details of other such libraries in other centres – this library is the only such library in Africa. The library has also been contacted by overseas authors who would like their books to be in our library and have signed and donated them.

The library provides a much needed safe environment where gay men and lesbians can meet informally on a weekly basis and provide mutual support. The library also hosts cultural events and exhibits from time to time. The Very Queer Event was held in June preceding the opening of the Sex and Secrecy Conference which was well attended by over 200 people. This included exhibits of gay artworks, a puppet show by a well known lesbian puppeteer and the launch of the book GAYLE by Ken Cage, a dictionary of South African coded gay lexicon from the days of apartheid. A smaller slide show on views of the twenty century was hosted by the library in December.

3.2.5 Publishing projects

In accordance with the principles of GALA, it is important that the archival material is accessible to as wide an audience as possible. A number of activities have achieved this, and GALA plans to consolidate and extend these.

3.2.5.1 Youth Book

GALA has initiated the Youth Book Project in order to provide relevant, positive reference points for young people. New Africa Books will be publishing this book which will be ultimately distributed in high schools. The submission date to the publishers is March 2004. Twenty five stories have been collected. Ten stories have been edited and the remaining ten will be edited in 2004. Our aim is to promote a sense of entitlement and pride amongst gay and lesbian youth by providing reference points for making responsible and personally authentic life choices in the realms of gender roles and relationships, and sexuality. By producing a positive, life-affirming book, we also hope to promote openness on the issues, in the interests of reducing homophobic prejudice. (see 3.3.3.1).

3.2.5.2 Newsletters

GALA publishes and distributes a newsletter twice a year in order to make its holdings accessible to the public. The newsletters include information about both archival material, research and outreach projects. GALA published two newsletters in 2003 which are also available on our website. The first focused on the launch of the documentary “Property of the State” and was distributed at the Out In Africa film festival in March and the Sex and Secrecy Conference in June. The second “Sex and

Secrecy” covered the African Women’s Oral History Project presented at the IASSCS Sex and Secrecy Conference in June. It was distributed at the LGBTI cultural week preceding the Pride Parade in September. The newsletters were also distributed to gay and lesbian organisations locally, to individuals on GALA’s mailing list and to Queer Tour participants.

3.2.5.3 Academic Papers

A paper co-authored by Rehana Vally, Phineas Riba and Ruth Morgan based on Phineas Riba’s presentation on his work with same sex sangomas at the Sex and Secrecy Conference was submitted to *Culture, Health and Sexuality: an international journal for research, intervention and care* for a special edition of the journal covering conference presentations. The 2002 submission to this journal by Morgan and Reid “*I’ve got two men and one woman*”: *ancestors, sexuality and identity among same-sex identified women traditional healers in South Africa* was published in volume 5, No. 5, September-October 2003. Another paper on the sangoma project by Morgan entitled “*So it is African although they were hiding it*”: *same-sex sangomas and the indigenous oral archive* was published in a special edition of Comma International Journal on Archives (2003.1) entitled Archives and Indigenous Peoples.

3.2.6 Exhibitions

A number of exhibitions were held in 2003. An exhibit of Simon Nkoli photographs and archival material was held at the Market Theatre in Newtown for three weeks during the performance of the play “Your Loving Simon”. GALA exhibited Kevin Graziano’s photovoice project on the experience of black lesbian and gay people living in Johannesburg in the foyer of the William Cullen Library at the University of the Witwatersrand. Two exhibits were held at the Sex and Secrecy conference in June, one included photographs and interview excerpts from the African Women’s Life Story Project: Exploring Same Sex Practices and the other constituted photographs by Zanele Muholi of the Sangoma Project. The exhibit on the African Womens' Life History project was repeated at the Cultural Festival of the annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade.

3.3 Research projects

In addition to the general research facility provided by GALA, it also conducts specific research projects. In 2003 our research focused on the different components of our oral history project: disability, youth, sangomas and HIV/AIDS

3.3.1 GALA-SAHA collaboration, Freedom of Information Project: Gay men in the apartheid military

GALA is engaged in an active programme of recovering existing material in other archival repositories. In association with the South African History Archives’ Freedom of Information Programme, GALA embarked in 2002 on what was initially a four month project to use the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) to obtain documents from the Military Archives and the Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPCSA) on Dr Aubrey Levine. This project, funded by Atlantic Philanthropies, was an extension of the Aversion Project carried out by GALA in association with the Health and Human Rights Project of the Community Health Department at UCT in 1999. The initial Aversion Project focused on the human rights abuses of gays and lesbians in the South African Defence

Force by health workers during the Apartheid era. The project focused particularly on the testimony of conscripts who were treated using a form of shock therapy by an army Psychiatrist Dr Aubrey Levine.

During 2002 the project, testing the implementation of PAIA, has successfully obtained numerous files related to the Aversion Project. However the project required an extension beyond the initial four months due to the slow nature of the work of declassifying files and the time that the Military takes to release files. SAHA made supplementary funding available and the research continued in the first six months of 2003. SAHA has lodged an average of 12 requests per month in terms of PAIA. Applications to peruse lists of files have been fairly successful. Identifying files and lodging requests in respect of these lists have been successful to a certain degree. The files were perused and records valuable to the project have been copied.

The follow up project for the second half of 2003 was not initiated due to the fact that SAHA did not receive the funding it needs yet for its Freedom of Information Project which will supplement the amount of R20 000 allocated from GALA funds for this project. A scaled down follow up project will be conducted by Laura Pollecut between January and June 2004 using the present funds. Pending the availability of SAHA funding, this project will be expanded after March 2004.

3.3.2 An Investigation of Gender Identity for African Traditional Healers Involved in Same Sex Relationships

The National Research Foundation only committed funds to the value of R20 000 for 2003 for the second year of the bursary for Phineas Riba, a full time Masters student whose own research dovetails with the broader same sex sangoma research project. A masters student in Anthropology, Phineas Riba, under the co-supervision of the Ruth Morgan and Dr Rehana Ebr-Vally (Department of Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand) has done the bulk of the work for this project and has conducted extensive interviews during his field work for his case study on a male gay sangoma. Mr Riba has made good progress and has started writing up his thesis which could not be completed in 2003. An extension of the time frame for his Masters was necessary due to the time consuming nature of the research that involves sangomas who operate in a spiritual realm. He aims to complete his thesis in 2004. The funds for Mr Riba are administered by WISER through a university research account and therefore do not appear in the GALA audited financial statements. ***Same sex Sangomas (traditional healers)***.

3.3.3 Oral History Project

3.3.3.1 Youth life stories

In 2003 the youth book project was initiated which includes the collection of life histories from youth in Gauteng. Joanne Bloch has collected a series of 25 audio taped interviews with a cross section of youth living in Gauteng, ranging in age from about thirteen to twenty-five. A wide range of LGBT youth have been interviewed yielding a body of fascinating material for the archive (see 3.2.5.1 Youth Book)

3.3.3.2 HIV/AIDS

GALA partnered with the Perinatal HIV Research Unit and HIVSA located at Baragwanath Hospital in order to start a HIVSA support group for LGBT infected and affected individuals. It was decided that the University of Cape Town model of eliciting narratives around the construction of memory boxes and body maps would be used. A training was conducted at HIVSA in September 2003 by two women from the Cape Town based Bamabani project. GALA ensured that eight people from LGBT CBOs participated in the 5 day training. Thereafter a LGBT support group was initiated at HIVSA. Busi Kheswa conducted this 12 session pilot group from October to December 2004. Unfortunately inconsistent attendance by participants prevented continuity and it was impossible to build the trust necessary to create the memory boxes and body maps and accompanying narratives. The reasons for the erratic attendance by individuals was attributed to the lack of a culture of therapy in Soweto and therefore people attended only when they had a real need to do so. We have therefore decided to spend the following six months (January to June 2004) working with individuals rather than a group using the Pietermaritzburg model in order to collect the stories and create the memory boxes and body maps for our archive. During this process, we will build the trust necessary for us to assess whether a group is wanted or needed by these individuals. We will plan to re-initiate the group in July 2004 if there is a real need from at least six individuals. In the interim GALA will work with HIVSA to establish a LGBT resource day at the PHRU clinic to encourage LGBT people to attend the clinic on a specific day each week and hopefully to become more visible.

3.3.3.3 Gays and Lesbians with Disabilities

John Meletse, GALA's Deaf volunteer on the Deaf oral history project has made substantive if slow progress in this difficult area of research. Mr Meletse was interviewed as well as the Director of GALA and with a lawyer from the Equality Project on a Deaf TV programme screened by the SABC which focused on homosexuality in the Deaf community and the GALA Deaf oral history project. Since the programme was screened, GALA has been contacted by six Deaf gays and lesbians throughout the country interested in our project. Mr Meletse has travelled to Bloemfontein, Mafikeng, Pretoria and Durban in order to conduct initial interviews with four of these individuals. He still needs to interview people in Cape Town and will be following up with videotaped interviews in 2004. GALA was unable to make any progress in the area of other disabilities due to our inability to identify even one person with a disability other than Deafness who is openly gay or lesbian. We will therefore only be focusing on the Deaf component of this project in 2004.

Outputs from all focus areas included audio-visual, audio and print material acquisitions for the archive. The Deaf TV programme featured our Disability oral history project. The youth book will be published in 2004. In terms of outreach the HIV project included a support groups and counselling for HIV infected and affected gay men and lesbians.

3.3.3.4 Same sex sangoma project

A total of 43 interviews have been completed during 2002-2003. Many of these had to be retranslated by Phineas Riba from isiZulu in 2003 due to the English second language limitations of the sangoma who originally interviewed the subjects and did the initial translations. These have now been correctly translated and transcribed. We decided that sufficient material had been collected for this phase of the project. Our efforts then focused on incorporating the material from this project into the historical tour of Queer Johannesburg (see 3.2.3). The lesbian sangoma Nkunzi Nkabinde has been trained as a tour

guide and a visit to her consulting room in Soweto has been incorporated into the tour where she engages the tour group as an example of GALA's ongoing interaction with the living oral archive.

3.3.4 Conference Presentations

In keeping with the previous GALA policy of being selective regarding conference attendance, Ruth Morgan did not give a conference presentation herself in 2003 due to her role in hosting the Same sex women's forum and African Women's Life History project at the Sex and Secrecy conference. She collaborated with Rehana Ebr Vally and Phineas Riba on the same sex sangoma presentation by Phineas Riba at this conference and subsequent paper submission for publication (see 3.2.5.3). In December she submitted an abstract to the 2004 WERRC conference in Dublin for a co-presentation given by herself and the sangoma researcher Nkunzi Nkabinde at the Women's Education, Research and Resource Centre (WERCC), University College, Dublin, Lesbian Lives XI Conference: Lesbian Lives, Studies and Activism since the Lesbian Postmodern, to be held in Dublin in February 2004. The paper and screening of the film Everything Must Come to Light were accepted. A GALA submission on record keeping, archiving and oral histories was also accepted in December for the All Africa LGBTI conference to be held in South Africa in 2004 for LGBTI organisations throughout Africa.