

Content note: This is a non-exhaustive list of documentaries about trans and queer people. We are not affiliated with any of these documentaries, merely trying to provide resources for queer and trans folk. Please note that, while these documentaries are about the lives of trans people (often of colour), many of them are made by white cis people and can therefore come across as voyeuristic and mis-representative. Descriptions are mostly taken from IMDB.com or Wikipedia and some descriptions include mentions of suicide, sex work, drug use, the prison system, violence, sexual abuse, transphobia, homophobia and racism. We cannot give content warnings for every individual documentary so please view at your own discretion and take care when viewing.

Available for free:

[Paris is Burning \(1990 ; 1 hour 16 mins\)](#)

Cult documentary exploring the lives of African American and Latinx members of the 1980s New York drag and ball scene.

Available on: Youtube (free): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xf6Cn2y2xEc>

[I am They: A non-binary transgender LOVE story \(2019 ; 1 hour\)](#)

I Am They is a feature-length documentary that follows the story of Fox and Owl, as they explore the many issues facing non-binary trans people in the UK today. Through a protest-wedding Fox and Owl set out to raise awareness of the wider issue of lack of legal gender recognition in the UK, and speak with many other non-binary people about the challenges they face.

Available on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_zyn_oUN9M

[Cruel and Unusual \(2006; 63 mins\)](#)

Five transgender women share their prison experiences. Interviews with attorneys, doctors, and other experts are also included.

Available on: Youtube (free): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Yzy8oh5Fw0>

I'm not Les: A Transgender Story (2012 ; 26 mins)

For almost 70 years, Sherri hid herself from the world. Everyone knew her as Les, a welder, a husband and a father. "I'm not Les" is the deeply personal account of one woman's journey to create an identity and find her place in the world. Follow Sherri, from childhood to womanhood, as she struggles to fit in, to find love, and to accept herself.

Available on: Youtube (free): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOVEYtO6e_o

My Dad is a Woman (2018 ; 46 mins)

'My Dad is a Woman' gains intimate access to the lives of two fathers undergoing extraordinary sex change operations and family upheaval as they fulfil their desire to become the women they have always wanted to be.

Available on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9ly2QLralg>

Shinjuku Boys (1995; 50 mins)

A film about love and gender. This documentary is set in the New Marilyn night club in Tokyo, Japan, following the lives of three trans men who work in the club as hosts.

Available on: free on Youtube (in three parts):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzGDvtWByrU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QZma1jKoJ4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPmiPevOiBQ>

Available for students from some universities through

<https://www.kanopy.com/product/shinjuku-boys>

Transforming Gender (2020. 42 mins)

Transforming Gender explores what it's like to be in conflict with the gender assigned to you. The battle over the rights and freedoms of transgender individuals is the first great civil rights struggle of the 21st century. In the last five years mainstream society has woken up to the vivid presence of transgender people in its midst.

Available on: Youtube (free): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B67OVJTvV0I>

Beautiful Darling (2010 ; 1 hour 25 mins)

Trans woman Candy Darling was a fixture in the New York Off-Broadway scene in the 60s, in Warhol films such as *Women in Revolt* and *Flesh*, and became a prominent personality in Warhol's circles, influencing such noted contemporary artists as Madonna, David Bowie and Lou Reed. This documentary uses a series of interviews, archival footage and images from Candy's home in Massapequa, NY.

Available on: Youtube (free): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFbYL7BE0GY>

A place in the Middle (2015; 24 mins)

Eleven year old Ho'onani dreams of leading the hula troupe at her inner-city Honolulu school. The only trouble is that the group is just for boys. She's fortunate that her teacher understands first-hand what it's like to be "in the middle" - the Hawaiian tradition of embracing both male and female spirit. Together they set out to prove that what matters most is what's in your heart.

Available on: Vimeo (free): <https://vimeo.com/121840165>

Transagenda (2016; 32 mins)

In light of Caitlin Jenner and the Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage, this participatory documentary *Transagenda* tells the stories of two youths who have struggled against the tides of society. They have fought against homelessness while simultaneously discovering who they truly are. With the use of four disposable cameras to capture symbolic and important moments and places in their lives, Jobi and Brandi engage the audience in a participatory photo project. Every day is a form of resistance for Jobi and Brandi are causing us to ask what the next steps are in the LGBTQ movement.

Available on: Vimeo (free): <https://vimeo.com/138266536>

Transmormon (2014 ; 15 mins)

Two competing identities, transgender and Mormon, come into conflict in this documentary about Eri Hayward, a trans woman who grew up in a conservative Mormon community in Utah.

Available on: Vimeo (free): <https://vimeo.com/82104871>

Middle Sexes - Redefining He and She (2005 ; 1 hour 16 mins)

Documentary exploring the blurring of gender as well as the serious social and family problems and dangers often faced by those whose gender may fall somewhere between male and female, narrated by Gore Vidal and filmed in the US, Europe, Asia and South America.

Available: Youtube (free): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Gyoq6tdIsE

Transgeneration (2005 ; mini series, episodes roughly 1 hour)

US documentary- style reality TV series following the lives of four transgender college students during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Available on: Youtube (free) :

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL88BD29E2D7FABBCE>

Available for free through some universities:

The Salt Mines (1990; 47 mins)

Explores the lives of three Latinx transgender sex workers and crack addicts living in abandoned garbage trucks at a road salt storage facility near lower Manhattan.

Available on: available for students from some universities through

<https://www.kanopy.com/product/salt-mines-latina-transwomen-new-york>

A Jihad for Love (2007; 80 mins)

A documentary on gay, lesbian, and transgender Muslims across the Muslim and Western worlds.

Available on: Available for students of some Universities through
<https://www.kanopy.com/product/jihad-love>

A Boy Named Sue (2000 ; 56 mins)

This compelling documentary chronicles the transformation of an individual named Theo from a woman to a man over the course of six years. The film successfully captures Theo's physiological and psychological changes during the process, as well as their effects on his lesbian lover and community of close friends.

Available on: available for students of some universities through
<https://www.kanopy.com/product/boy-named-sue>

Gendernauts: A Journey Through Shifting Identities (1999 ; 1 hour 24 mins)

An illuminating and compassionate look at the world of transgender identity, as seen through portraits of some of San Francisco's leading gender mixers. Whether by birth or by choice, sometimes with the assistance of hormones or surgical prostheses, we meet those who blur the lines of male and female.

Available on: available for students of some universities through
<https://www.kanopy.com/product/gendernauts>

Paper Dolls (2013 ; 1 hour 20 mins)

Paper Dolls explores the lives of transgender migrant workers from the Phillipines who work as health care providers for elderly Orthodox Jewish men and perform as drag queens during their spare time.

Available on: available for students of some universities through
<https://www.kanopy.com/product/paper-dolls>

Available from streaming platform subscriptions:

The Trans List (2016 ; 58 mins)

The Trans List explores the range of experiences lived by Americans who identify as transgender, featuring Buck Angel, Laverne Cox, Caitlyn Jenner, Alok Vaid-Menon and others.

Available on: HBO

The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson (2017 ; 1 hour 45 mins)

Filmmakers re-examine the 1992 death of transgender legend Marsha P. Johnson, who was found floating in the Hudson River. Originally ruled a suicide, many in the community believe she was murdered

Available on: Netflix

Laerte-se (2017 ; 1 hour 40 mins)

This film follows the Brazilian cartoonist Laerte Coutinho who came out as a crossdresser at age 58 and later as a transgender woman.

Available on: Netflix

The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye (2011 ; 1 hour 10 mins)

The film is a portrait of influential transgender musician and performance artist Genesis P-Orridge and their partner Lady Jaye Breyer P-Orridge, focusing in particular on the Pandrogyny project of plastic surgery and body modification that they both undertook to become more similar to each other in appearance.

Available on: Amazon Prime

The Brandon Teena Story (2018 ; 50 mins)

Documentary about the last few weeks of murdered trans man Brandon Teena's life in a small town in Nebraska.

Available on: Amazon Prime

Available to rent or buy from streaming platforms:

Mala Mala (2016 ; 1 hour 29 mins)

The critically acclaimed MALA MALA explores the intimate moments, performances, friendships and activism of trans identifying people, drag queens and others who defy typical gender identities in Puerto Rico. The film features Ivana, an activist; Soraya, an older sex-change pioneer; Sandy, a prostitute looking to make a change; and Samantha and Paxx, both of whom struggle with the quality of medical resources available to assist in their transition.

Available on: Vimeo (£3.99) ; Youtube (£2.49); Google Play (£2.49) ; Amazon Prime (£2.49)

Free CeCe (2018 ; 1 hour 27 mins)

This film confronts the culture of violence surrounding trans women of color. It is told through the voices of Laverne Cox and Cece McDonald. It follows Cece McDonald who was incarcerated in a men's prison after defending herself against a racist and transphobic assault.

Available on: Vimeo (£3.83) : <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/freecece>

Passing (2016 ; 23mins)

Filmmakers explore the experiences of three black men who have undergone gender transitions. The three men share their experiences of transitioning from female to male and life as black men.

Available on: Amazon Prime (\$1.99)

Leitis in Waiting (2018 ; 1 hour 10 mins)

Film about transgender rights in Tonga, focussing on native transgender women fighting religious fundamentalism and intolerance.

Available on: Amazon Prime (£ 3.99)

Kumu Hina (2014 ; 75 mins)

KUMU HINA is a powerful film about the struggle to maintain Pacific Islander culture and values within the Westernized society of modern day Hawai'i. It is told through the lens of an extraordinary Native Hawaiian who is both a proud and confident māhū, or

transgender woman, and an honored and respected kumu, or teacher, cultural practitioner, and community leader.

Available on: Amazon Prime (£3.49), Youtube (£4.49), Google Play (£4.49)

Kiki (2016 ; 94 mins)

A group of young LGBTQ people of color unite to form a safe gathering space within the Drag and Voguing scene in New York. Described as the sequel to Paris Is Burning by some.

Available on: available to rent or buy from several platforms, see <https://www.moviefone.com/movie/kiki/20088072/where-to-watch/>

Check it (2016; 90 mins)

Documentary that follows members of Check It, a gang of young queer and trans African American people that live in Washington, D.C.

Available on: available to rent or buy from several platforms, see <http://www.checkitfilm.com/on-demand-1>

She's A Boy I Knew (2014; 1 hour 10 mins)

Auto-ethnography of film-maker Gwen Haworth's transition from male to female.

Available on: Vimeo (£3.28): <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/shesaboyiknew>

Game Face (2016 ; 1 hour 35 mins)

Game Face explores the lives of a group of LGBTQ athletes, including Fallon Fox the first female transgender pro MMA fighter.

Available on: Amazon Prime (£3.49)

Pick up the mic (2006; 90 mins)

An explosive documentary on the world of queer hip-hop. Featuring searing public performances and intimate interviews with the community's most significant players, the

film captures an underground music movement as it's about to hit the mainstream - defying the music industry's homophobic traditions in the process.

Available on: iTunes (\$3.99)

Two Spirits (2018; 51 mins)

Two Spirits interweaves the tragic story of a mother's loss of her son with a revealing look at a time when the world wasn't simply divided into male and female and many Native American cultures held places of honor for people of integrated genders

Available on: Vimeo (£2.49)

Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria (2005; 60 mins)

Documentary about transgender women and drag queens who fought police harassment at Compton's Cafeteria in San Francisco's Tenderloin in 1966, three years before the famous riot at Stonewall Inn bar in NYC.

Available on: Amazon Prime (£ 3.49)

XY Chelsea (2019 ; 1 hour 33 mins)

A look at the life and career of Chelsea Manning, a trans woman soldier in the US Army, who was sentenced to serve 35 years at an all-male military prison for leaking information about the country's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Available on: Youtube (£1.99), Google Play (£1.99) , Amazon Prime (£1.99)

Trinidad (2008 ; 1 hour 26 mins)

Transsexual surgeon Dr. Marci Bowers and two of her patients work to transform their small Colorado town into a haven for individuals seeking gender-reassignment surgery.

Available on: Youtube (£2.49), Google Play (£2.49)

We Exist: Beyond the Binary (2018 ; 55min)

What if the world told you that you do not exist? This is the reality for Lauren: a person in their mid-twenties who identifies as gender neutral. Lauren's story chronicles their entire life--from early childhood, to a near death experience, to living in the depths of the rain forest--capturing the physical, emotional, and mental obstacles Lauren must face just to get to say, "I exist."

Available on: Amazon Prime (£3.49)

In the Turn (2014 : 1 hour 53 mins)

Following a 10-year-old transgender girl as she navigates the challenges of transition with the support of an inclusive roller derby league called the Vagine Regime.

Available on: Youtube (£2.49), Google Play (£2.49) ; Amazon Prime (£2.49)

Unfortunately not available right now:

Honoured by the Moon (1990; 15 mins)

In Native American culture homosexual men and women were accepted as being two-spirit people and were thought to have the power to bridge worlds between the present world and the spirit world. This documentary interviews present day lesbian and gay native Americans about their lives and the homophobia that they face.

Available on: does not seem to be available online right now

Still Black: A portrait of Black transmen (2008; 78 mins)

A portrait of six transmen in the US.

Available on: does not seem to be available online right now.

U People (2008; 76 mins)

U People documents the making of the first lesbian centred music video by a local Brooklyn artist named Hanifah Walidah, featuring a cast of queer and trans people.

Available on: does not seem to be available online right now

Be like others (2008; 75 mins)

An intimate and unflinching look at life in Iran, seen through the lens of those living at its fringes, 'Be Like Others' is a provocative look at a generation of young transgender Iranians.

Available on: does not seem to be available online right now

I hate New York (2018; 75 mins)

From the underground scene of the most radical and fascinating city in the world comes the revolutionary story of four transgender activists, their fierce struggle and emotional fight to create an identity of their own.

Available on: does not seem to be available online right now

Transformer (2017 ; 1 hour 18 mins)

Portrait of the competitive bodybuilder Janae Kroc and her transition after coming out as a trans woman.

Available on: does not seem to be available online right now

Disclosure (2020 ; 1 hour 45 mins)

Documentary about the history of transgender people in films and on television.

Available on: not released yet