

INDIGENOUS LITERATURE WITH A TWO-SPIRIT/QUEER/LGBT SENSIBILITY

A Note about the List:

This list is a general resource, being neither exhaustive nor authoritative. Not everyone on this list is LGBT/Queer/Two-Spirit-identified; some are included because of their profound sensitivity to Queer issues and sensibilities and/or the prominence of Two-Spirited characters in their work. Inclusion (or exclusion) of writers from this list should not be construed as a claim about their sexual orientations, gender identities, or opinions regarding LGBT issues.

kateri akiwenzie-damm (Anishinaabe)

My Heart is a Stray Bullet

bloodriver woman

Without Reservation: Indigenous Erotica (ed.)

Skins: Contemporary Indigenous Writing (ed.), with Josie Douglas

Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur d'Alene)

The Toughest Indian in the World

The Business of Fancydancing (film)

Old Shirts and New Skins

Blasphemy

Paula Gunn Allen (Laguna Pueblo/Sioux)

Life is a Fatal Disease: Selected Poems 1964-94

The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions

The Woman Who Owned the Shadows

America the Beautiful: Last Poems

Beth Brant (Bay of Quinte Mohawk)

Writing as Witness: Essay and Talk

Mohawk Trail

Food and Spirits: Stories

A Gathering of Spirit: A Collection by North American Indian Women (ed.)

Chrystos (Menominee)

Dream On

Fire Power

In Her I Am

Not Vanishing

Cherie Dimaline (Métis)

Red Rooms

The Girl Who Grew a Galaxy

Qwo-Li Driskill (Cherokee/Osage/Lenape/Lumbee/Black/Irish)

Walking With Ghosts: Poems

Book of Memory: Honor Poems (chapbook)

Burning Upward Flight (chapbook)

Marilyn Dumont (Métis)

The Colour of Dried Bones

A Really Good Brown Girl

That Tongued Belonging

Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Chippewa)

Love Medicine

The Antelope Wife

The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse

Janice Gould (Koyangk'auwi Maidu)

Earthquake Weather

Beneath My Heart

Doubters and Dreamers

Joy Harjo (Mvskoke)

In Mad Love and War

A Map to the Next World

She Had Some Horses

Reinventing the Enemy's Language: Contemporary Native Women's Writings of North America (ed. with Gloria Bird [Spokane])

Tomson Highway (Cree)

Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing

Kiss of the Fur Queen

The Rez Sisters

Rose

Daniel Heath Justice (Cherokee)

The Way of Thorn and Thunder: The Kynship Chronicles

"Ander's Awakening"

Maurice Kenny (Mohawk)

Backward to Forward: Prose Pieces

Tekonwatonti/Molly Brant: Poems of War

Janet McAdams (Creek)

The Island of Lost Luggage

Feral

Deborah Miranda (Esselen/Chumash)

Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir

The Zen of La Llorona

Indian Cartography

(Rollie) Lynn Riggs (Cherokee)

The Cherokee Night

The Cream in the Well

The Iron Dish

Gregory Sarris (Miwok/Pomo)

Grand Avenue

Keeping Slug Woman Alive: A Holistic Approach to American Indian Texts

Watermelon Nights

Cheryl Savageau (Abenaki)

Dirt Road Home

Mother/Land

Home Country

Gregory Scofield (Métis)

I Knew Two Metis Women

Love Medicine and One Song

Thunder Through My Veins: Memories of a Métis Childhood

James Thomas Stevens (Akwesasne Mohawk)

Combing the Snakes from His Hair

A Bridge Dead in the Water

Craig S. Womack (Muskogee Creek/Cherokee)

Drowning in Fire

Red on Red: Native American Literary Separatism

Art as Performance, Story as Criticism: Reflections on Native Literary Aesthetics

Other writers

Connie Fife (Cree)

Jewell Gomez (Wampanoag/Ioway)

Carole laFavor (Anishinaabe)

Vickie Sears (Cherokee)

SELECTED SECONDARY SOURCES

A Note About Terminology:

Indigenous people identify same-sex eroticism and non-dualistic concepts of gender by many names, and we have attempted to respect that diversity here. Different communities have different terms and understandings—such as *winkte* and *koskalaka* (as per Allen) among Lakotas and *nádleeh* among Navajos—that do not always translate into Eurowestern concepts of sexuality and gender. As most of these concepts are tribal nation-specific and thus not universal, we have generally kept with the inclusive acronym LGBTQ, the broader “Queer,” or the contemporary pan-Native “Two-Spirit,” which many people embrace, so we acknowledge it here along with LGBTQ and Queer. The term “berdache,” however, is a different matter. It is used by some of the secondary sources (particularly Will Roscoe), but it is strongly disliked by most Two-Spirit/LGBTQ/Queer people, and is generally perceived as an insult.

Allen, Paula Gunn. "Beloved Women: Lesbians in American Indian Cultures."

Conditions: Seven 3.1 (Spring 1981): 67-87.

Brant, Beth. "From the Inside – Looking at You." *Canadian Woman Studies – Les Casiers de la Femme*, 14.1 (Fall 1993): 16-17.

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Brown, Lester B. *Two Spirit People: American Indian Lesbian Women and Gay Men*. Binghamton, NY: Harrington Park P, 1997.

Cameron, Barbara. "No Apologies: A Lakota Lesbian Perspective." *The New Our Right to Love: A Lesbian Resource Book*. Ed. Ginny Vida. New York: Touchstone, 1996. 234-36.

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Cochran, Jo Whitehorse. "From a Long Line of Contrary Folks." *The New Lesbian Studies: Into the Twenty-First Century*. Ed. Bonnie Zimmerman and Toni A.H. McNaron. New York: Feminist P, 1996.

Cornell, Daniel. "Woman Looking: Revis(ion)ing Pauline's Subject Position in Louise Erdrich's *Tracks*." *Studies in American Indian Literatures* 4.1 (Spring 1992): 49-64.

Deschamps, Gilbert. *We Are Part of a Tradition: A Guide on Two-Spirited People for First Nations Communities*. Mino-B'maadiziwin Project. Toronto: 2-Spirited People of the First Nations, 1998.

Dickinson, Peter. *Here is Queer: Nationalisms, Sexualities, and the Literatures of Canada*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 1999.

Douglas, Carol Anne. "Judith Witherow: A Storyteller." *Off Our Backs: A Women's Newsjournal*, 29.2 (February 1999): 14-17.

Driskill, Qwo-Li. "My Dragonfly Tongue." *Mavin* 6 (2002): 60-61.

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- Estrada, Gabriel S. "Two-Spirit Film Criticism: Fancydancing with Imitates Dog, Desjarlais and Alexie." *Post Script: Essays in Film and the Humanities. Special Issue: Native American/Indigenous Film*. Guest Ed. Elise Marubbio. 24, No. 3 (Summer 2010): 106-118.
- . "Two Spirits, Nádleeh and Navajo LGBTQ2 Gaze." *American Indian Culture and Research Journal: Special Edition: Indigenous Performances: Upsetting the Terrains of Settler Colonialism*. Guest Ed. Mishauna Goeman. 35, No. 4 (2011): 167-190.
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- Justice, Daniel Heath. "Fear of a Changeling Moon: A Rather Queer Tale from a Cherokee Hillbilly." *Me Sexy: An Exploration of Native Sex and Sexuality*. Ed. Drew Hayden Taylor. Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 2008: 87-108.
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FILMS WITH TWO-SPIRIT/QUEER NATIVE THEMES/SUBJECTS

- Mary* (dir. Kent Monkman), 2011.
- Dance to Miss Chief* (dir. Kent Monkman), 2010.
- Miss Nizhoni* (dir. Carey Tully), 2010.
- Two Spirits* (dir. Lydia Nibley), 2009.
- Two Embrace* (dir. Carrie House), 2009.
- Traditional Indigenous Values* (dir. Ruth Villasenor), 2009.
- Dance to the Berdache* (dir. Kent Monkman), 2008.
- Robin's Hood* (dir. Kent Monkman), 2007.
- Shooting Geronimo* (dir. Kent Monkman), 2007.
- Two Spirits* (dir. Ruth Fertig), 2007.
- Two-Spirited* (dir. Sharon Desjarlais), 2007.
- AIDS to Native Eyes* (dir. Kevin VanWansele), 2007.
- Group of Seven Inches* (dir. Kent Monkman), 2005.
- Future Nation* (dir. Kent Monkman), 2005.
- Muxes: Auténticas, Intrépidas, y Buscadoras del Peligro* (dir. Alejandra Islas), 2005.
- The Business of Fancydancing* (dir. Sherman Alexie), 2001.
- Johnny Greyeyes* (dir. Jorge Manuel Manzano), 2001.
- Blood River* (dir. Kent Monkman), 2000.
- Deep Inside Clint Star* (dir. Clint Alberta), 1999.
- Through the Looking Glass* (dir. Thirza Cuthand), 1999.
- Honey Moccasin* (dir. Shelley Niro), 1998.
- Two Spirits, One Journey* (dir. Shawn Imitates Dog), 1997.
- I Am* (dir. Carrie House), 1993.
- Two Spirits: Native Lesbians and Gays* (dir. T. Osa Hidalgo-de la Riva), 1992.
- Shasta Woman* (dir. Crystal Mason), 1992.
- Two-Spirit People* (dir. Michel Beauchemin, Lori Levy, and Gretchen Vogel), 1990.
- Her Giveaway* (prod. Mona M. Smith), 1989.
- Honored by the Moon* (prod. Mona M. Smith), 1989.

--list compiled by Daniel Heath Justice, Lisa Tatonetti, and Deborah Miranda 2004, with contributions from many friends and colleagues; rev. 2006, 2008, 2012.