

# HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**\*\*Gregory Hinton will arrive in Bend the afternoon of the presentation and is available for interviews. He's available for phone interviews in the meantime. To schedule an interview, email him directly at [outwesthinton@gmail.com](mailto:outwesthinton@gmail.com)**

## **AUTHOR, FILMMAKER GREGORY HINTON TO SPEAK AT HIGH DESERT MUSEUM**

Evening Presentation Explores LGBTQ Stories from the American West

Bend, OR — Author, filmmaker and historian Gregory Hinton will be presenting a discussion of *Out West with Buffalo Bill™* on Tuesday, March 6 at 6 p.m. at the High Desert Museum. Hinton, who grew up in the cowboy country of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado, will share his personal narrative as a rural-born, western gay man who, along with many like him, left home in search of community, companionship and security.

Despite the unconditional love of his parents, who supported Hinton and his older brother Scott who was also gay, the backlash after coming out as a gay man while attending college in Colorado drove Hinton out of the rural West and into the city. Hinton's presentation at the High Desert Museum will explore how the program series he created, *Out West™*, was inspired by his longing to return home as his true self, and how William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody led the way.

The nationally-acclaimed series, which includes lectures, plays, film and gallery exhibitions, documents as well as celebrates the history, culture and role of LGBTQ communities in the West, bringing to light the stories often untold.

"Gregory Hinton has done a tremendous amount to uncover LGBTQ history in the American West, which is key to understanding the past and yet is too often overlooked," said HDM Curator of Western History Dr. Laura Ferguson.

Hinton's presentation is in conjunction with an exhibition on display at the Museum through April 30th — *Blake Little: Photographs from the Gay Rodeo*. Hinton discovered Little's photographs while researching the history of the gay rodeo in the American West. Though they had been taken nearly two decades earlier, the images resonated with Hinton, bringing back childhood memories of spending weekends and summer nights at the rodeo with his father, who was the newspaper editor in Cody, Wyoming.

Curated by Johanna Blume of the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art in Indianapolis, *Photographs from the Gay Rodeo* features 41 black-and-white images Little captured while participating in

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the gay rodeo circuit in the 1980s and '90s. Offered from an insider's perspective, the exhibit captures the spirit and camaraderie of the gay rodeo and its participants, whose stories are part of the Western experience.

"Telling stories of the richly varied communities of the West is a key part of the Museum's mission. We're honored to welcome Gregory Hinton, who's *Out West* series, including the Blake Little exhibition, brings us stories that encourage an awareness of the unique history and culture of our region," said HDM Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D.

Members \$5, non-members \$10; Free for COCC and OSU-Cascades students.

RSVP at [highdesertmuseum.org/out-west](https://highdesertmuseum.org/out-west).

The Museum's Rimrock Café will be open for food and drinks.

This program is offered in partnership with the [Nancy R. Chandler Visiting Scholar Program at COCC Foundation](#).

Blake Little: Photographs from the Gay Rodeo is a program of ExhibitsUSA and The National Endowment for the Arts. Made Possible by Cascade A&E, Oregon Cultural Trust, and Zolo Media. This project has been funded in part by the Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. With support from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation.

## ABOUT THE MUSEUM:

THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM opened in 1982 and brings regional wildlife, culture, art and natural resources together to promote an understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of North America's high desert country. The Museum uses indoor and outdoor exhibits, wildlife in natural habitats, and living history demonstrations to help people discover and appreciate the high desert environment. The Museum is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian Affiliate.

<https://www.highdesertmuseum.org>

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