

Visibility and Oppression: Voiceover Only

For LGBTQ+ people, the first half of the twentieth century was like a seesaw.

Mainstream society misunderstood and ostracized queer people, but America's growing cities gave them the opportunity to find one another. In gay bars and lesbian literary societies, queer people began developing a collective identity. These spaces also created queer celebrities, who achieved mainstream fame when prohibition forced audiences into underground entertainment venues.

Things changed during the Great Depression. Already tenuous family structures splintered, and anxieties around male sexual behavior skyrocketed. Police began targeting homosexuality using sexual psychopath laws, which allowed them to place queer people in psychiatric institutions.

Surveillance continued during World War II, and discharges for homosexuality could follow veterans for life.

But the war was also the first opportunity many gay men and women had to explore their sexuality. Living in single-sex environments, they could develop bonds that might never have formed at home.

After the war, new organizations like the Mattachine Society made the queer community more visible than ever. But police harassment continued, particularly towards queer people of color, and President Eisenhower banned homosexuals from federal employment in 1953.

For half a century, queer people found ways to come together only to be further oppressed. The stage for a revolution was set—and in years to come, the fight for queer rights would flourish.

Visibility and Oppression: Voiceover and Description of Visuals

Voiceover	Visuals
For LGBTQ+ people, the first half of the twentieth century was like a seesaw.	A seesaw draws on screen, and the words "Visibility" and "Oppression" appear, bouncing up and down.
Mainstream society misunderstood and ostracized queer people	The word "oppression" flies into the air, eventually zooming off screen.
but America's growing cities gave them the opportunity to find one another.	The word "visibility" appears where "oppression" had been and begins zooming down, eventually landing on the ground. Upon impact, a city pops up.
In gay bars and lesbian literary societies, queer people began developing a collective identity.	Split screen appears, with two people clinking their drinks together on one side and a stack of books dropping on top of one another on the other side.
These spaces also created queer celebrities, who achieved mainstream fame when prohibition forced audiences into underground entertainment venues.	Gladys Bentley, blue singer and pianist, pops up, smiling as roses are tossed at her feet. Cameras begin flashing as well.
Things changed during the Great Depression.	The words "Things changed during the Great Depression" appear on screen in line with the audio.
Already tenuous family structures splintered,	A black and white photograph of a family appears on screen, then splits in half.
and anxieties around male sexual behavior skyrocketed.	An arrow appears on the screen and heads to the upper right, eventually flying off screen.
Police began targeting homosexuality using sexual psychopath laws,	A pair of binoculars appear on screen, coming in focus on a man walking along.

Voiceover	Visuals
<p>which allowed them to place queer people in psychiatric institutions.</p>	<p>A hand reaches down and plucks up the man, then the scene changes and an asylum appears. A hand reaches down and removes the roof, then the man falls from above into the building before the roof is replaced.</p>
<p>Surveillance continued during World War II, and discharges for homosexuality could follow veterans for life.</p>	<p>Close-up of a severe man's face with sunglasses on. His eyes swing back and forth—then the glasses slide down his nose and his eyes narrow.</p>
<p>But the war was also the first opportunity many gay men and women had to explore their sexuality. Living in single-sex environments, they could develop bonds that might never have formed at home.</p>	<p>A series of beds spring onto the page, each with a woman sleeping in it. As the screen pans down the row of beds, two women open their eyes and smile at one another.</p>
<p>After the war, new organizations like the Mattachine Society made the queer community more visible than ever.</p>	<p>A hand gives out a pamphlet that contains information about the existence of homosexuals, and other hands grab it.</p>
<p>But police harassment continued, particularly towards queer people of color,</p>	<p>Red and blue lights alternatively flash on screen.</p>
<p>and President Eisenhower banned homosexuals from federal employment in 1953.</p>	<p>Executive Order 10450 appears on screen, and as the camera moves to the bottom of the page, Eisenhower's signature appears.</p>
<p>For half a century, queer people found ways to come together only to be further oppressed.</p>	<p>The words "gay bars," "literary societies," and "activist groups" drop onto the ground, then a boot stamps on them and raises a cloud of dust.</p>

Voiceover	Visuals
The stage for a revolution was set—and in years to come, the fight for queer rights would flourish.	The boot begins to tentatively rise, and the words “queer rights” appear beneath it, eventually throwing off the boot.