

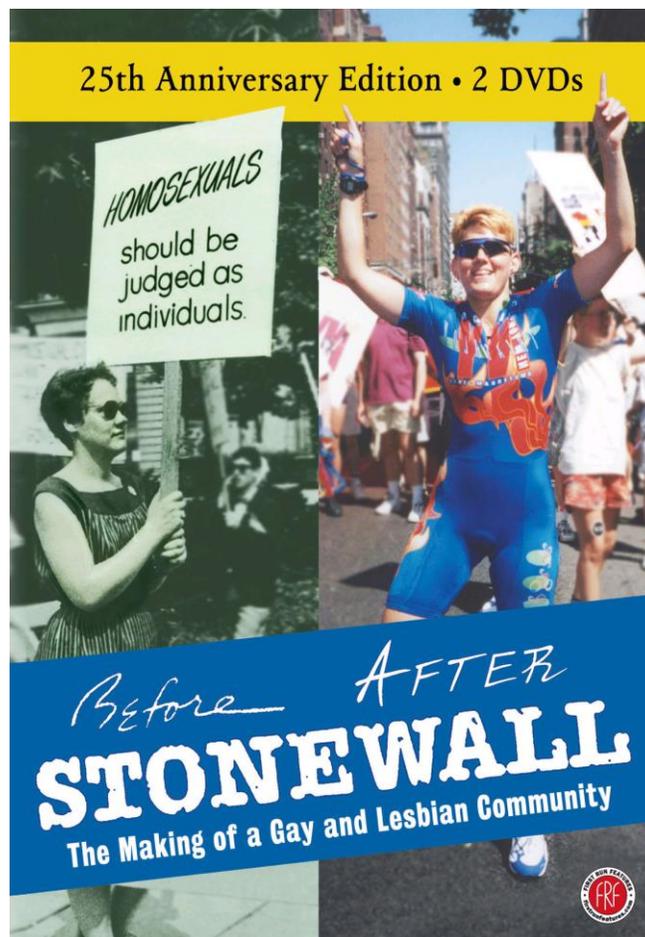
RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community

(RADICAL TEACHER NO.38, 1990)

by Scott Bravmann



BEFORE STONEWALL: THE MAKING OF A GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY. ANDRE WEISS AND GRETA SCHILLER (NAIAD PRESS, 1985)

***Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community.* Andre Weiss and Greta Schiller. Naiad Press.**

As lesbian and gay communities have become more visible, academic work within the movement has developed substantially. But there has been little material that has attempted to make lesbian and gay history available to younger readers. A notable and recent exception is a book by Andre Weiss and Greta Schiller. *Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community* offers a sensitive, brief introduction to the origins of contemporary lesbian and gay cultures and political activism. An outgrowth of the movie by the same name, this book can either serve as a supplementary written guide to the movie or stand independently as a text for classroom discussion.

In spite of limited space, the authors have tried to avoid simplifying, and hence further distorting, lesbian and gay existence. Rather than offering a uniform picture of what being gay meant at a particular time, the book's and film's oral histories present a mosaic of race, gender, and class experiences.

Since information about homosexuality remains heavily shrouded in ignorance, superstition, and bigotry -- which has only been further exacerbated by the AIDS epidemic -- this volume delivers important and timely information. Included at the end of the book are a discussion guide and suggested reading list for teachers. The book (and film) could be used in a variety of courses.



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