2023 End of Year Recap

In 2023, IHP:

- is collecting and researching in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle
- has secured over 140 collections
- has identified 19 repository
 partners across those four states
- has preserved a dozen at-risk oral histories
- has won multiple local & national awards

unapologetically queer. unapologetically southern.

2023 RECAP

In 2023 IHP:

- hosted over 20 in-person and virtual events
- hosted two virtual LGBTQ history teach-ins
- gave over 25 talks and trainings across the US
- worked with 30 graduate level internships for course or program credit



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Patrick Kelly

Kelly was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1954. His mother, a home economics teacher, taught him to draw, and an aunt introduced him to sewing. But it was Kelly's grandmother, Ethel B. Rainey, who first inspired him to reach for the heights of couture. When she brought the six-year-old some fashion magazines from her white employer's house, Kelly noticed that no Black models appeared on the pages. "My granny told me nobody had time for Black women," Kelly later remembered. "I said, 'I will.'"

Kelly's grandmother remained his greatest muse and the "backbone of my tastes," he said. His Black Baptist church in Vicksburg - where worshippers dressed, in Kelly's words, "as fierce as the ladies at the Yves Saint Laurent Hautecouture shows"— was another key inspiration. After completing coursework at Jackson State University, Kelly moved to Atlanta, where he participated in the Ebony Fashion Fair and opened a clothing shop with vintage and custom

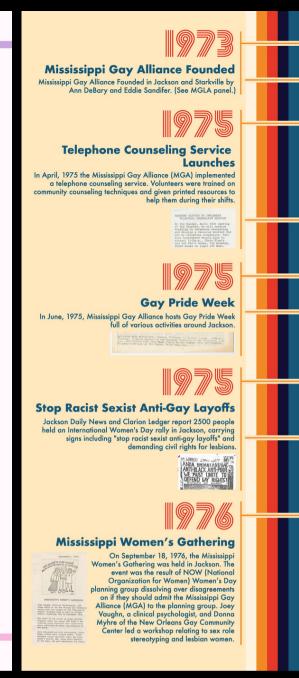
In 1974 Atlanta, Kelly supported himself by working at an AMVETS thrift shop, where he had access to donated designer dresses and coats that he modified and sold alongside his own designs. He ultimately had his own store in the city's Buckhead district. He also worked fashion shows at the Atlanta Hilton with upcoming supermodel Iman and established a modeling agency and clothing line under the name Longboy. In 1979, he connected with the pioneering Black supermodel Pat Cleveland, who admired the clothing he was making and encouraged him to move to New York City. After a lackluster year in New York, he moved to Paris in 1980. In Paris, he found more immediate success and soon developed his signature slinky, brightly colored jersey dresses adorned with colored buttons and bows in a nod to the sophisticated cut-rate style of the Southern women of his childhood Kelly met Bjorn Amelan, a photographers' representative, in 1983. The two quickly became lovers, with Amelan taking a management role in Kelly's burgeoning enterprise.



Patrick Kelly and Grace Jones







Mississippi State University LGBTQ Discrimination The Reflector, student paper at Mississippi State University, refuses to publish information about the Mississippi Gay Allian (MGA). The ACLU of MS files a suit, Mississippi Gay Alliance and Anne Debary, Petitioners, v. Bill Goudelock et al. During the trial, the Mississippi Attorney General and Judge Keady tried to force MGA to release their mailing list, but they refused. As a result of the trial, The Reflector does not have to publish

Metropolitan Community Church Opens

MCC opens in Jackson with the help of the Mississippi Gay Alliance. (See Faith Panel.)

Jackson Gay Community Speaks

Its Mind Jackson Daily News runs a survey asking readers "Should laws which restrict the activities of consenting adults in the privacy of their own homes be struck down." The responses were 32.79% yes, 42.62% no, 24.59% undecided.

MGA & NAACP Fight Police Harassment

Members of the Mississippi Gay Alliance (MGA) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) conducted a successful campaign to stop harassment of gay people in Smith Park in Jackson, MS. Police in plain clothing patrolled Smith Park under the guise of preventing public urination. However, Mississippi Gay Alliance claims that it is a tactic to entrap gay men. MGA begins patrolling the park and police begin arresting them for "interfering with officers in the line of duty." During this time, an unnamed and prominent NAACP leader was arrested

2023 RECAP

In 2023, IHP developed our largest exhibit yet. Magnolia Memories: An LGBTQ History of Mississippi was a nearly 2000sq ft panel, object, and textile exhibit. It opened in Jackson and will be traveling across the state throughout 2024. You can see it now at The Spectrum Center in Hattiesburg.





We are beyond thankful for our amazing donors who trust us with their memories. Thank you for helping us save these stories!



Stories like IHP's first archival donor, Dr.
Glenda Elliott.
Dr. Elliott explains why she donated to IHP in this touching clip.