



Manscaping

A feature-length documentary by Broderick Fox
Produced, directed, shot, and edited by Broderick Fox
Featuring Devan Shimoyama, Jessie Anderson, and Richard Savvy
Produced by Lee Biolos
Sound Design by Scott Johnson
Original Music by Ronit Kirchman
61 min 33 sec USA/Canada/Australia
Exhibition formats: DCP, ProRes file
(stereo and 5.1 surround sound options, closed captioning)
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Full Presskit: <https://manscapingmovie.com/presskit>

Hi-res Photos: <http://flickr.com/manscapingmovie>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/broderickfox/manscapingtrailer>

Instagram, Facebook, Threads, Twitter: @manscapingmovie

Logline: An Afrofuturist, a naked fetishist, and a community activist walk into a barbershop...

Short Synopsis: Afrofuturist visual artist Devan Shimoyama, Australian fetish barber/porn producer Richard Savvy, and transgender Canadian barber Jessie Anderson are three queer men reimagining the traditional barbershop and restyling masculinity along the way.

Longer Synopsis: *Manscaping* is an intimate documentary portrait of three queer men who are reimagining the traditional barbershop. Devan Shimoyama is a Black American artist, fast on the rise, whose barbershop painting series draws upon Afrofuturism and drag to envision the Black barbershop as a more inclusive space. Jessie Anderson is a young transgender Canadian barber and proprietor of Big Bro's Barbershop, where trans, gender nonconforming, and queer customers know they won't have to 'go back into the closet' to get a haircut. Richard Savvy, Australia's 'naked barber', is a fetish barber/porn actor, and former 'Sydney Mr. Leather' who invites you to leave your shame and clothes at the door and to add the transformative power of kink to your cut. Their stories, artistry, and activism model ways we can cut through the toxicity of male fragility in favor of social inclusion and personal freedom.

About Broderick Fox: Broderick Fox's award-winning fictional, experimental, and documentary works present challenging, socially relevant issues through accessible, character-driven storytelling and have screened in over 70 international festivals as well as on PBS and Danish Television. *Manscaping* is his fourth feature documentary project. Broderick received a Special Recognition Award from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and a Dore Schary Award from the Anti-Defamation League for his co-directed first feature *Tak For Alt: Survival of a Human Spirit*. His second feature documentary [The Skin I'm In](#) won the Special Jury Prize at the Arizona International Film Festival, Best Feature and Best in Fest at the Tattoo Arts Film Festival and was a Juror's Pick at the Victoria International Film Festival. His third feature [Zen & the Art of Dying](#) was selected as a showcase "Heart of Film" project at the Austin Film Festival and the Closing Night Gala film of the Byron Bay International Film Festival, and continues to be utilized by a range of community groups and death care workers as an educational tool. Fox is a two-time recipient of Artistic Innovation Grants from the Center for Cultural Innovation. His book, *Documentary Media: History - Theory - Practice* is out now through Routledge Press. A full CV of Fox's critical scholarship, media works, and press coverage is available at: <http://works.bepress.com/bfox>.

Director's Statement: I entered into production on *Manscaping* driven by my own complex matrix of desire and fear elicited by barbershops, and the impulse to scrutinize those feelings more deeply while exploring the lives, work, and experiences of other queer artists and activists linked to these masculinist spaces. My approach to documentary production as a producer/director/cinematographer/editor (accompanied in the field only by my sound recordist/co-producer husband, and later assisted by our trusted trio of sound, music, and colorist/motion graphics artist) is increasingly rare. My scaled-down presence with my participants is one of shared vulnerability. It permits me to look closely at the lives and events I'm

documenting, and simultaneously at myself, fostering a distinct poetics, or language, for each project: one that moves beyond talking heads and exposition, or the extractive legacies of documentary, to instead find the moments and details that render a participant both specifically unique and deeply relatable, even across registers of difference.

I think of documentary's potential as being inherently queer: using intersectional and interdisciplinary frameworks to unpack perceived norms. *Manscaping* is an experimental documentary that uses barbering and body hair as a means of questioning historical and cultural ideas about masculinity and manhood in the West. My own queer perspective and the stories of other LGBTQ+ and marginalized individuals are re-centered in my media works, connecting audiences with issues and perspectives that have traditionally been excised from or sidelined by mainstream media.

Manscaping amplifies queer, Black, and trans issues in essential, timely ways, giving voice to underserved audiences and inspiring others to scrutinize their implicit bias and entitlement as they become productive allies. The film reveals how its three central participants are transforming the often-exclusionary space of the barbershop into a site of queer reimagining and possibility. Devan, Jessie, Richard, and their communities of friends, clients, and collaborators vivify a spectrum of cis-, trans-, and nongender identifications, races and ethnicities, sexual orientations, and national origins. Their varied engagements with barbering help audiences to reimagine masculinity (and gender more broadly) as an ongoing cultural performance and dynamic space for self-expression and social justice, modeling new conceptions of personal and cultural identity that both reveal and destabilize toxic masculinity—the engine of white supremacy.

This project is born out of our pivotal cultural moment, where the scrutiny of patriarchy and the dismantling of its legacies is arguably the most important priority of our time. The global rise of alt-right populism, the #metoo movement, a proliferation of anti-transgender laws, systemic racial injustice and hysteria about critical race theory in schools, the overturn of *Roe vs. Wade*, and SCOTUS's signal that other rights of privacy and bodily autonomy (including contraception and gay marriage) are now under threat—are all rooted in entrenched systems of toxic masculinity and white supremacy.

Rather than engaging in didacticism or polemics, *Manscaping* addresses these vital issues and changemaking aims through the unexpected and vibrant contexts of barbershops, barbering, and grooming. The project's three central participants are accessible, relatable, and inspiring, offering up queer, trans, and BIPOC perspectives and experiences many audiences may not have directly encountered before, making this an exciting, essential project.

Awards and Commendations: *Uplift Award Winner*—Geelong Pride Film Festival, *Best Documentary Winner*—ReelQ Pittsburgh, *Best Documentary Honorable Mention*—OUTShine LGBTQ+ Film Festival, *Best Documentary Honorable Mention*—University Film and Video Association, *Best Documentary Nominee*—Merlinka International Queer Film Festival, *Festival Director's Pick*—Queerscreen Sydney Mardi Gras Film Festival, *Festival Favorite*—Cinema Diverse Palm Springs LGBTQ+ Film Festival.

Festival and Institutional Screenings to Date: *Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art + Out Film CT*—Wadsworth, CT, June 2024, *39 Ljubljana LGBT Film Festival*—Ljubljana, Slovenia, December 2023, *Pink Screens Film Festival*—Brussels, Belgium, November 2023, *Massimadi : Afro LGBTQ+ Film & Arts Festival*—Montreal, CA, September 2023, *Visible Evidence XXIX*—Udine, IT, September 2023, *University Film and Video Association*—Savannah, GA, July 2023, *prism/aGLIFF Austin Kink Weekend*—Austin, TX, April 2023, *Geelong Pride Film Festival*—Geelong, AU, April 2023, *Merlinka International Queer Film Festival*—Belgrade, RS, December 2022, *Byron Bay International Film Festival*—Byron Bay, AU, October 2022, *Mix Copenhagen*—Copenhagen, DK, October 2022, *Reel Q Pittsburgh*—Pittsburgh, PA, October, 2022, *Reel Affirmations*—Washington, D.C., October, 2022, *Out on Film*—Atlanta, GA, October, 2022, *ImageOut: Rochester LGBT Film Festival*—Rochester, NY, October, 2022, *Reeling Chicago*—Chicago, IL, September 2022, *GAZE LGBTQ+ International Film Festival*—Dublin, IE, September 2022, *Queer Lisboa – Panorama Selection*—Lisbon, Portugal September 2022, *Cinema Diverse Palm Springs LGBTQ+ Film Festival*—Palm Springs, CA, September 2022, *Mimesis Documentary Festival*—Boulder, CO, August 2022, *OUTSOUTH Queer Film Festival*—Durham, NC, August, 2022, *Outfest*—Los Angeles, CA, July 2022, *rioLGBTQIA+ Festival de Cinema*—Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 2022, *Fairy Tales Queer Film Festival*—Calgary, Canada, June 2022, *OUTShine LGBTQ+ Film Festival*—Miami, FL, April 2022, *Arizona International Film Festival*—Tucson, AZ, April 2022, *BFI FLARE London LGBTQIA+ Film Festival*—London, UK, March 2022, *Queerscreen Sydney Mardi Grad Film Festival*—Sydney, AU, March 2022, *Santa Fe Film Festival*—Santa Fe, NM, February 2022



Filmography for Broderick Fox:

Manscaping (2022) *I Knew Him* (2007)
Zen & the Art of Dying (2015) *things girls do...* (2001)
The Skin I'm In (2012) *Love, Death, & Cars* (1999)
Home (2009) *Tak for Alt: Survival of a Human Spirit* (1999)