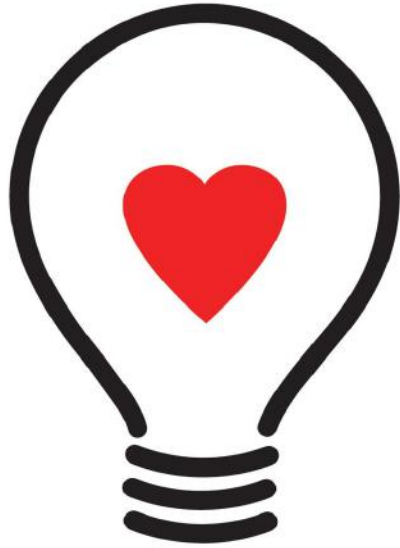


CAMP LIGHTBULB

Winter 2016

CAMP LIGHTBULB



CAMPLIGHTBULB.ORG

Dear Reader,

I'm thrilled to present our Winter Camp 2016 commemorative book. It was our 2nd winter camp and our first in LA, and in line with our very first camp in 2011, we welcomed 10 campers.

For one week we crisscrossed LA on an urban adventure - taking in Hollywood, Santa Monica Beach, West Hollywood and Downtown LA. We welcomed speakers from the National Gay Pilots Association and The Trevor Project, played games and ping pong, learned Drag lingo and performed in a Variety Show in the entertainment capital of the world - while honoring actress Alexandra Grey with the Bright Light Award.

Our camps bring together campers, role model counselors and the wide diversity of our community. Our Winter Camp is our first expansion beyond Summer Camp, returning again in 2017, and in 2018 we will be branching out with our very first Spring Break Camp in NYC. And, we are expanding our age range to include 18 to 20 year olds, so we don't have to say goodbye so soon.

My vision is to create a year-long lineup of awesome events and camps for our LGBTQ youth to look forward to - and to look back on!

Thanks to everyone who helps make it happen.

A big hug,

Puck Markham





COUNSELORS



Clayton

Dear Campers,

I hope you all had an amazing time at Winter Camp in Los Angeles this past holiday season. It was a pleasure getting to live among you for a week and learn all about your lives at home and then watch you explore and conquer the city I have called home for the past five years. I can't express how excited but also how nervous I was the day before camp started. I wanted everything to go perfectly as planned. I wanted all of you to love and accept each other and make life-long friends. I wanted for you to have as much fun as you possibly could have. I wanted to ensure that you had one week of nothing but the best life possible. I wanted to look after you and be a mentor, a counselor, and a guide to help you navigate the very real and tough problems that we face identifying as a member of the LGBTQ community and yet make those problems seem so distant at the same time.

But then I realized, I was thinking about ME too much. This wasn't an experience for ME! This was about you, and your time spent with Camp Lightbulb! I quickly realized that I was simply blessed to be chosen as the one to help create and lead the experience, but ultimately it was up to you to decide what interested you in regards to the activities we did and the adventures we had, if you had fun or not, and if you enjoyed my company or the company of your peers. I was along for the ride just like you were! I no longer had control over your camp experience because that control was then bestowed upon you, and I realized that the moment I met you.

I say all that because it took me a long time to begin to live for myself. When I was your age I was so concerned with what my friends thought of me and my interests, what activities I did and who I befriended. I was very caught up in being one of the cool kids, because I wanted everyone to like and accept me. At times, that desire put me in situations where I made decisions that went against my true nature and my inner-self. I remember one of my first mistakes was kissing Madi Gooch in a game of spin the bottle! I was twelve and I wanted to kiss my

cute friend Ryan when the bottle stopped on him, but I ignored those thoughts and feelings because Madi came over and stole that first kiss from me and that outcome of who-kisses-who was more "normal". This was a trend that continued until I went to college, where the taste of the real world starts to trickle down the back of my throat like bad tasting medicine and suddenly I had to stop and decide what kind of life I was going to live: The Normal Life? Or MY Life?

I don't want it to take as long for you to figure out that there is nothing you can control in life other than yourself. You'll never be able to have control over other people's attitudes or their knowledge or their acceptance or their actions; now we can certainly try to change their perspective, enlighten them to new and unfamiliar things, and try to influence their decisions and their choices; however, at the end of the day we only ever have full control of ourselves – and that is OK. And as long as you are aware that you can always count on yourself to do everything in your power to make your life the best life possible, you'll be OK too! In fact, you'll be way more than just OK, you'll be HAPPY!

I hope you continue to have the courage and the strength to always be who you truly are. Never be afraid of the world around you and the people in it. Be brave, be bold and live your absolute best and truest life. Know who you are and what you stand for, and remember it is always easier to say what we are against but people will listen when you tell them what you are for. And know that in the end, the only things we regret are the chances we didn't take, the relationships we were too scared to have, and the decisions we just took too long to make.

Always know, that Camp Lightbulb will be that place for you to come back to and get grounded, to receive love and acceptance, and to prepare you for a bright and beautiful future.

I hope to see you all again in another camp soon.

Always your friend,

Clayton Gray

Josh





Shaquerra

Therasas Pieces



Campers,

I'm one of the lucky ones. I ran out of the closet covered in glitter with tiny little designer purses literally falling out of my mouth. At just 17, I stumbled into the loving and supportive LGBTQ community I found in NYC - not to mention the continued love and support from my friends and family.

But not everyone is so lucky. And it is the greatest joy and privilege of my life to work with Camp Lightbulb, and try my best to ensure that every single LGBTQ teenager I meet is embraced, loved, and celebrated for the things that make them unique. Because queer is beautiful, and our campers inspire me to wake up, put my most authentic foot forward, and live joyfully.

Adult life is hard, but it's

my Camp Lightbulb family - and the promise of another camp just around the corner - that makes the dark times just a bit lighter. And for that, I am eternally grateful!

SHINE ON my magical unicorn brothers, sisters, and gender non-conforming siblings. Because we're here, we're queer, and the world will learn how to taste the rainbow one day at a time.

Much love,
Josh

Hi guys,

It's been a minute since I have seen you all, but the memories you gave me will be with me forever!

Thank you for giving me the chance to learn from you and join in at the gay camp I wish I had as a kid. I miss you guys so much and I hope that I can see

you again at another Camp You left me in awe of your courage and the amount of authenticity in which you live your lives.

Xo,
Therasas Pieces

Hi Campers,

Camp Lightbulb has been the most queer inclusive space I've ever been to. Everyone is extremely supportive of one another, youth can be their true selves and adults are nothing but supportive.

The camp is essentially youth led with activities and choices of their day which makes it extra special.

I truly feel youth feel trusted by the adults around them. Camp Lightbulb is a magical space.

Shaquerra



CAMPERS



Dylan

Inez





Elle

Kenji





Miles

Natalie





Ophelia

2ND ANNUAL WINTER CAMP

CAMP LIGHTBULB COMES TO SUNNY
LOS ANGELES
MONDAY 12/26, 2016-SUNDAY 01/01, 2017

We're bringing Summer Camp to the Holiday Season with LGBTQ+ Campers, ages 14 to 18, from across the USA. Camperships are available. There's limited space so sign up today!

Stay 1 block from the beach in Santa Monica - Hollywood Walk of Fame - Magic Castle - Universal Studios - Beach Games - Bonfire - Celebrity Guests - Variety Show - Carpool Karaoke - Kickball - New Year's Eve Party and more! (Activities subject to Change).

You can't miss this! For more details and to book visit camlightbulb.org.

Camp Lightbulb is a 501(c)3 non profit organization. We celebrate LGBTQ young people with magical, week-long overnight camp experiences, filled with fun, pride, community, friends, support, self-discovery and memories to last a lifetime.



In association with Macha Theater & Films



CAMP LIGHTBULB'S VARIETY SHOW

**A BENEFIT FOR CAMP LIGHTBULB'S
WINTER CAMP FOR LGBTQ YOUTH**

**MACHA THEATRE, 1107 N KINGS RD, WEST HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY 12/30/16 | 6PM-8PM
COCKTAILS PROVIDED BY TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA**

**WITH PERFORMANCES BY:
MISTY VIOLET | COLBI MONTRESE | THE CAMP LIGHTBULB CAMPERS
AND HONORING ALEXANDRA GREY WITH THE BRIGHT LIGHT AWARD**

FREE TICKETS: WWW.CAMPLIGHTBULB.ORG

Camp Lightbulb is a 501(c)3 non profit organization. We celebrate LGBTQ young people with magical, week-long overnight camp experiences, filled with fun, pride, community, friends, support, self-discovery and memories to last a lifetime.

MAJOR SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: LINDA ROHLER & JUNO SPIRO



**NATIONAL GAY PILOTS
ASSOCIATION**



























THANK YOU!

Board Member Linda Rohler

Our major donors Linda Rohler and Juno Spira

Alan Bloom; Jeep Bryant; Hans Eijmberts; Jack Hornor; Robert Ketterer; Ron Kollen; Laura McDonnell; Craig Smith

Camp Director Clayton Gray

Counselors Shaquerra Blackwell, Teresa Carter, Josh Kelly

Operations Manager Rob Williams

Contributors

Brooks Beaudoin; Jason Evert; Chris Angel Murphy; Merle Ginsberg;
Alexandra Grey; Devin Mitchell; Colbi Montrese; Misty Violet

Hosteling International Santa Monica

National Gay Pilots Association

Tito's Handmade Vodka

Trevor Project

Varsity Gay League



CAMP LIGHTBULB