**‘A BRIEF HISTORY OF LGBTQ IN TV’**

While some people may think LGBTQ hasn’t been addressed in entertainment until recent years, they are in fact wrong. Although LGBTQ characters have been more mainstream and considered the norm in recent years, it was supposedly back in the ‘70s that LGBTQ roles were first written into TV – although they were minor as opposed to leading roles, they were still being represented.

**1970s**

*All in the Family* (1971) has often been credited as the first primetime TV to represent an LGBT character. Called Steve, he was played by Philip Carey. However, Steve only appears in one episode cleverly titled *‘Judging Books by Covers’*  in whichArchie Bunker (Carroll O’Connor) makes thoughtless assumptions about a friend of a friend, only to discover that his own friend Steve is, in fact, **gay**.

*That Certain Summer* (1972) was supposedly the first TV movie to deal compassionately with a **gay couple**. Following Hal Holbrook’s Doug Salter and Martin Sheen’s Gary McClain as the former attempts to hide his life partner from his teenage son Nick (Scott Jacoby), before finally explaining their relationship to him.

*The Corner Bar* (1972) featured the first central, recurring LGBT character known a Peter Panama, played by Vincent Schiavelli, a flamboyant set designer. While Jodie Dallas (see *Soap* entry) is more recognised, Peter Panama was in fact the first recurring representation of a **gay** man.

*Hot L Baltimore* (1975) has earned recognition for depicting the first **gay couple** in a recurring TV show, in the shape of 50-something George and Gordon, played by Lee Bergere and Henry Calvert respectively.

*The Jeffersons* (1977) featured a **transgender** character, however the character also only appeared in one episode entitled *‘Once a Friend’.*  The instalment depicts George Jefferson (Sherman Hemsley) as he discovers that an old Army friend; Eddie, is now a transgender woman named Edie (Veronica Redd).

*All That Glitters* (1977) featured Linda Gray playing a transgender fashion model named Linda Murkland. The first transgender series regular on American television.

*Soap* (1977) is thought to have featured the most well-known early gay character on TV. Jodie Dallas is most commonly noted as the first recurring gay character, played by Billy Crystal. Starring as a **gay** dad – who fathered a child after a one-night stand - having an affair with a famous quarterback and contemplating gender-reassignment surgery. He amassed considerable media attention for his portrayal.

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2017/07/28/first-gay-lgbt-character-tv-show/>

**1980s**

*An Early Frost* (1985) A Chicago lawyer (Aidan Quinn) returns home to reveal to his parents that he’s gay and has AIDS in [this NBC movie](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3Mt8qm6zt8)by John Erman, setting the stage for feature films like Jonathan Demme’s “Philadelphia.”

**1990s**

**1994 — ‘**[**MY SO-CALLED LIFE**](https://www.nytimes.com/watching/recommendations/watching-tv-my-so-called-life)**’** In the episode [“Life of Brian,”](http://abc.go.com/shows/my-so-called-life/episode-guide/season-1/11-life-of-brian) this ABC drama about high school angst deals with young gay love when Rickie (Wilson Cruz) develops a crush on his new classmate, Corey (Adam Biesk).

**1994 — ‘[ROSEANNE](https://www.nytimes.com/watching/recommendations/watching-tv-roseanne)’**Mariel Hemingway [locks lips](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXOVZzDaRcY)with Roseanne Barr in “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” — an early same-sex kiss that 30 million viewers tuned in to watch.

**1996 — ‘**[**FRIENDS**](https://www.nytimes.com/watching/recommendations/watching-tv-friends)**’** In “[The One With the Lesbian Wedding,”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlLno3iPKIE) the marriage of Ross’s ex-wife, Carol (Jane Sibbett), to her partner, Susan (Jessica Hecht), draws 31.6 million viewers to this NBC sitcom — even though the women don’t seal their vows with a kiss.

*Real World* (1992)

*Ellen* (1994)

*Xena: Warrior Princess* (1995)

*Will & Grace* (1998) is said to have paved the way for shows with LGBT themes.

Go back to 1999 when Russel T Davies bought the lives of 3 gay men living in Manchester to our screens; *Queer As Folk* (1999). The Guardian ranked the series at number 13 in their list of “The Top 50 TV Dramas Of All Time”. Its success was followed by a North American version under the same title, which closely followed the original story likes but made changes and moved on as new seasons were produced.

[*The Guardian*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Guardian) ranked the serial at number 13 in their list of "The Top 50 TV Dramas of All Time".[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queer_as_Folk_(UK_TV_series)#cite_note-2) Followed by its success, a [North American version under the same title](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queer_as_Folk_(U.S._TV_series)) was produced, set in [Pittsburgh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania, running from 2000–2005, and closely following the original storylines but making changes and moving on as new seasons were made.

*Once and Again* (1999)

*Bad Girls* (1999)

**2000 - 2010**

*Bob & Rose* (2001)

Tipping the Velvet (2002)

*Queer Eye* (2003)

*The L Word* (2004)

Nikki and Nora (2004)

Sugar Rush (2005)

*Noah’s Arc* (2005)

*Fingersmith* (2005)

South of Nowhere (2005)

*Torchwood* (2006)

Girl Seeks Girl (2007)

Exes and Ohs (2007)

*True Blood* (2008)

Anyone But Me (2008)

*Modern Family* (2009)

*Glee* (2009)

United States of Tara (2009)

Venice: The Series (2009)

Lip Service (2010)

Girl/Girl Scene (2010)

The Real L Word (2010)

Lost Girl (2010)

Out with Dad (2010)

**2010-2018**

*Shameless* (2011)

Happy Endings (2011)

Bomb Girl (2012)

Hit & Miss (2012) **[TRANSGENDER]**

*Last Tango In Halifax* (2012)

*The New Normal* (2012)

The L.A. Complex (2012)

Don’t Ever Wipe Tears Without Gloves (2012)

Wentworth (2013)

*The Fosters* (2013)

*Please Like Me* (2013)

*Orange Is The New Black* (2013)

*Vicious* (2013)

Hit the Floor (2013)

Starting From Now! (2014)

Brave New Girls (2014) **[TRANSGENDER]**

*Transparent* (2014) **[TRANSGENDER] ‘** This Amazon show stars Jeffrey Tambor as the patriarch of a California family who is transitioning late in life to the woman he has always identified as. Inspired by her own transgender parent, the show’s creator, [Jill Soloway](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/12/14/dolls-and-feelings), makes a point of putting transgender people both in front of and behind the camera.

*Looking* (2014)

Faking It (2014)

*Kingdom* (2014)

Carmilla (2014)

Janet King (2014)

I Am Jazz (2015) **[TRANSGENDER]**

I Am Cait(2015) **[TRANSGENDER]**

Becoming Us (2015) **[TRANSGENDER]**

Boy Meets Girls (2015) **[TRANSGENDER]**

The Rich Man’s Daughter (2015)

*Sense8* (2015) ?

*Grace and Frankie* (2015)

*London Spy* (2015)

*Cucumber* (2015)

Difficult People (2015)

One Big Happy (2015)

Skam (2015)

Banana (2015)

Take My Wife (2015)

*The Real O’Neals* (2016)

Her Story (2016) **[TRANSGENDER]**

The Switch (2016) **[TRANSGENDER]**

Class (2016)

Wynonna Earp (2016)

Strut (2016) **[TRANSGENDER]**

When we Rise (2017)

Star Trek Discovery (2017)

Doubt (2017) **[TRANSGENDER]**

American Horror Story

Class and Empire

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/16/arts/television/14-tv-shows-that-broke-ground-with-gay-and-transgender-characters.html>