

ARCHEION

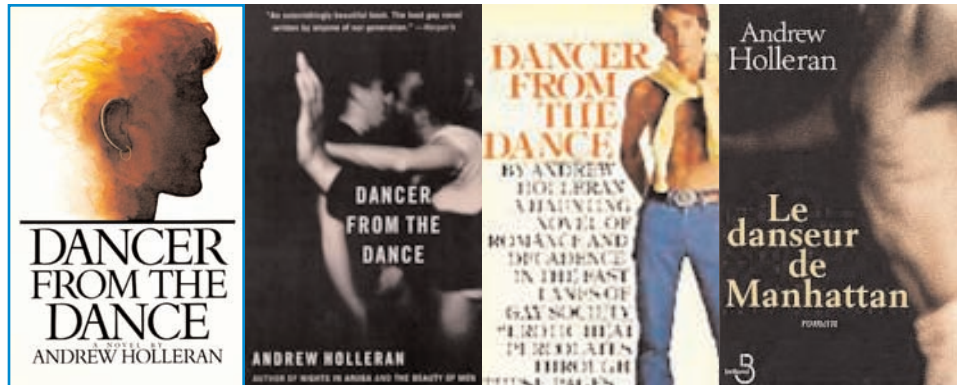
Stonewall Library & Archives

FEBRUARY 2008

A DANCER DANCES

Andrew Holleran to Speak at Stonewall

The legendary writer of *Dancer from the Dance* and five other gay works will read and sign his books at Stonewall Library & Archives on Sunday, February 17 at 2:00 PM.



Dancer from the Dance created a sensation when it was published in 1978 because it vividly chronicled New York gay life at a time when homosexuality was often the center of attention. The year began with orange juice spokesperson Anita Bryant initiating a bitter anti-gay campaign in Miami. In February, Ira Levin's *Deathtrap* opened on Broadway with a decidedly gay twist. Around the world in Australia, Sydney held its first gay and lesbian march in June, and the film *La Cage aux Folles* opened in Paris in October. Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, was assassinated in November.

Dancer kept on dancing. The novel, which was translated into French, Spanish, Italian and German, has not been out of print in thirty years.

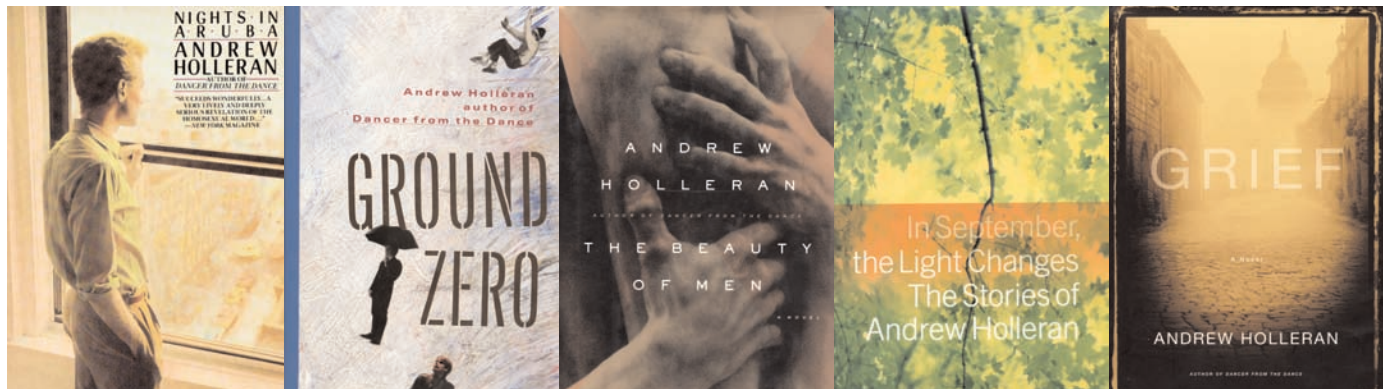
But Andrew Holleran was not an overnight success. "I had been writing for ten years," he says. "Only one story had been published, in 1971 in *The*

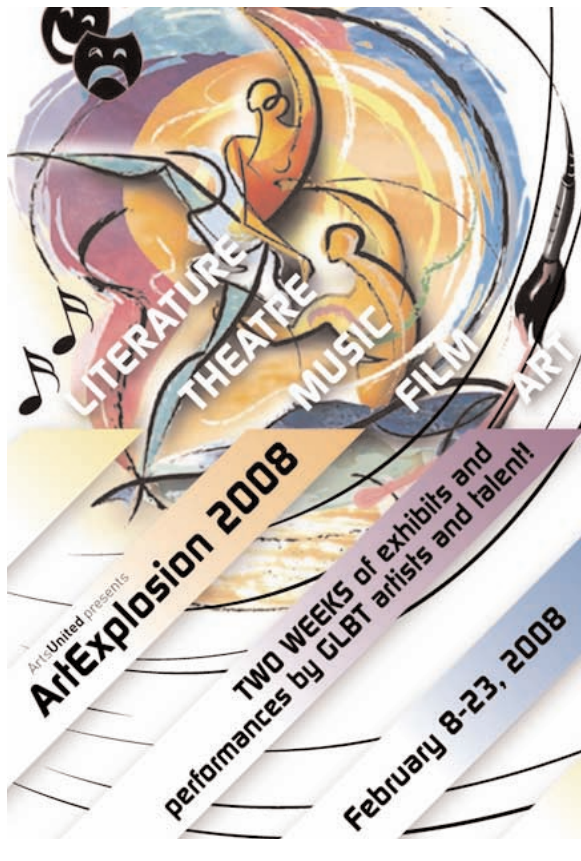
New Yorker. It was called 'The Holy Family,' and took place at a Thanksgiving reception. The son was not aware he was gay, but he felt uncomfortable at this gathering. Yes, it was autobiographical."

Holleran had studied literature and American history at Harvard then law at the University of Pennsylvania. "A lot of people study law, because they realize they can't make a living doing what they really want—they have to get a job," Holleran notes. "I took a writing course with Peter Taylor, and he was instrumental in my going to the Iowa Writers' Workshop. I knew then that I wanted to be a writer.

"I wrote *Dancer from the Dance* in just a few months. It was my last try. If I couldn't get it published, I was going to do something else."

The novel, about the much-desired Malone and the queeny Sutherland, is "an amalgam" of the lives of Holleran's friends, who did not realize he was writing about them. After the book was published, "their





SAVE THE DATES!

March 19, 7:00 PM

Popular novelist Karin Kallmaker will speak at Stonewall

Free and open to the public

April 16 7:00 - 9:00

Stonewall's 35th Anniversary Party

The Atlantic Resort and Spa
Call 954-763-8565 for details

STONEWALL Library & Archives

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Fort Lauderdale FL 33311
954-763-8565 www.stonewall-library.org

ARCHEION

Editor and Art Director: Charles L. Ross

Stonewall Library & Archives programs are supported by a generous grant from Comcast in recognition of Comcast's commitment to the communities where its customers and employees live and work.



Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.



reactions were positive, though one joked that a man had asked him, 'Are you the small cock or the kleptomaniac?'

"I knew the book was a success when I walked into the bathroom of a gay bar on Christopher Street and there was graffiti about Malone and Sutherland."

In 1983, Holleran followed *Dancer from the Dance* with another autobiographical novel, *Nights in Aruba*. Holleran had spent much of his childhood in the Caribbean nation, where his father worked for Esso, an American oil company.

His parents did not read these novels, let alone know he had written them. ("Andrew Holleran" is a pseudonym.) "My parents were really wonderful. They never pushed me in any direction. They knew I was writing, but they didn't ask *what* I was writing."

Some people might be hurt by this. "Maybe they didn't want to know. But I'm not hurt when a friend doesn't ask me what I'm writing, because they are taking me as myself, as a friend and not as a writer."

Published in 1996, Holleran's third novel, *The Beauty of Men*, focuses on a man nearing fifty, who is simultaneously obsessed with youth and mortality. Three years later, Holleran released *In September, the Light Changes*, a collection of poignant stories written during the past two decades. His latest novel, *Grief*, published in 2006, is his most profound, yet, as always, there is humor.

In *Ground Zero*, published in 1988, Holleran examined and distilled the gay world devastated by AIDS. The essays were taken from articles written for *Christopher Street*, and on May 12, 2008, a revised edition will be published under the title *Chronicle of a Plague, Revisited*. "I am glad I had the opportunity to revise it. I took out about six essays and revised some others in small ways." Several articles have been added, which haven't been published since they appeared in the magazine. "The book has a more historical tone now."

Holleran was part of the legendary Violet Quill, a group of seven gay writers, who gathered for eight sessions in 1980 to read their works to each other. "I'm a solitary writer, and I didn't really enjoy it," he says. "But I met interesting people." Edmund White was a member, as well as Felice Picano, who had been instrumental in starting a gay publishing house. "Robert Ferro, whom I had met at the Iowa workshop, asked me to go. I went because it was a chance to see someone's apartment and what they'd serve for dessert."

Although all of his books center around his life and the community around him, Holleran has never written another book as free-flowing as *Dancer from the Dance*. "It took no effort to write that book. There's an innocence about writing before you are published. After publication there are expectations, and it takes more effort."

Holleran would rather read than write. "In my sixties, I'm still doing what I did as a twelve year old, when a friend of my sister showed me that I could lie down and read and eat a peanut butter sandwich at the same time."

—Charles L. Ross

Thank You

FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT IN 2007

The board and staff of Stonewall Library & Archives are pleased to recognize our generous donors whose dedication to Stonewall sets an example for all. We are grateful to have them as part of our family.

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contributions, please refer to the January 2008 issue of the Archeion.*



FEBRUARY Stonewall CALENDAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

Friday February 1

BEHIND THE LAVENDER SCREEN: CINEMA CLASSICS

Women in Love (1969)
Screenplay by Larry Kramer, based upon the

novel by D.H. Lawrence. Starring Alan Bates. 7:00 PM at Stonewall Library & Archives. \$2.00 suggested admission.

Monday February 11

BOOK CLUB

Read the book, then come discuss it. *Dancer from the Dance* by Andrew Holleran. 7:00PM at Stonewall Library & Archives. Free and open to the public.

Saturday February 2

GLCC FLEA MARKET

First Saturday of every month. Don't miss **Stonewall's Book Sale** booth. All day. GLCC/Stonewall Library & Archives.

Friday February 15

CINE/CINEMA/FILM

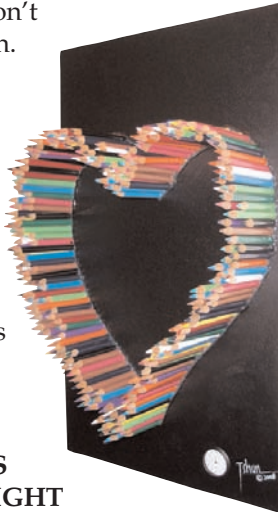
Foreign film screening and discussion. *Madame Sata*. Brazilian; Portuguese with English subtitles. 7:00PM at Stonewall Library & Archives. \$2.00 suggested admission.



Monday February 4-29

ARTSUNITED EXHIBITION

Sip Tshun NG, mixed media
Opening Reception Monday, February 4, 6:30-8:00 PM. Stonewall Library & Archives



Friday February 8

OUT BOYS MOVIE NIGHT

Black Is...Black Ain't. 1995. Marlon Riggs' exploration of what it means to be black. 7:00PM at Stonewall Library & Archives. \$2.00 suggested admission.



Saturday February 16

INTIMATE LUNCH with Andrew Holleran

12:00 PM at Stonewall Library & Archives. Tickets: \$50. For reservations, please call 954-763-8565

Sunday February 17

DISTINGUISHED AUTHOR LECTURE SERIES

Gay literary icon **Andrew Holleran**. 2:00 PM at Stonewall. Free and open to the public.

Sunday February 10

In conjunction with ArtsUnited's ArtExplosion
Collòquio: Gay Culture in Italy

Panel Discussion with Italian writers and film makers. 2:00 PM. ArtServe auditorium, 1350 East Sunrise Boulevard. Free and open to the public.



Valerio Bartolucci, Matteo Bianchi and Ivan Cotroneo.

Friday February 22

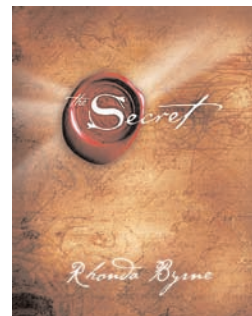
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Stonewall celebrates Black History Month with readings by local writers and poets. 7:00PM at Stonewall.

Sunday February 24

OPERA GROUP

Video screening and discussion at Stonewall at 1:00PM.



Friday February 29

OUT GIRLS MOVIE NIGHT

The Secret. Screening and discussion. 7:00PM at Stonewall. \$2.00 suggested admission.