

Jr. and Malcolm X, her work with Leninist C.L.R. James and the Socialist Workers Party, her activism within the Black Power movement, and her continuing meetings with young people and others. Interviews with Boggs, late husband James, activists, and friends emphasize Boggs' favorite theme: "conversation as a crucible for change and development of revolutionary ideas." Boggs is resolutely optimistic, a woman who after 70 years of political activity is happily looking ahead to the next, as yet unknown, revolution. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (*M. Puffer-Rothenberg*)

### Quality Balls: The David Steinberg Story

★★★★

(2012) 80 min. DVD: \$59; public libraries; \$350 w/PPR; colleges & universities. Seventh Art Releasing.

This Canadian documentary is a love note to veteran standup comedian David Steinberg (it better be; wife Robyn Todd Steinberg produced it), whose career spans three decades. Hailing from Winnipeg's Jewish community, the handsome young Steinberg attended the University of Chicago and fell in with both the original Second City troupe and its later Canadian spin-off. Working the performance circuit with Richard Pryor, Robert Klein, Elliott Gould, and others, Steinberg's star rose when a *New York Times* review of a sparsely attended gig at The Bitter End crowned him as a new Woody Allen/Lenny Bruce. Steinberg's intellect won the admiration of Johnny Carson on many *Tonight Show* appearances, while his pointed political and then-daring religious humor (sharpened by years at yeshiva school) made him a focus of the

censorship that plagued the Smothers Brothers' CBS variety hour. Steinberg also guested on the Nixon administration's "enemies list." In the late 1970s, Steinberg stepped away from the mic to a more settled Hollywood career as a sitcom director, working on *The Golden Girls*, *Mad About You*, *Seinfeld*, and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. While other documentaries about standup comics often emphasize emotional pain, Steinberg's bio is as upbeat as the man himself. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (*C. Cassidy*)

### A Self-Made Man ★★★★★

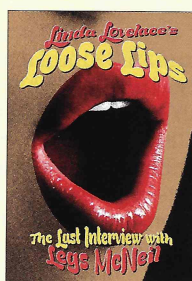
(2013) 56 min. DVD: \$50; individuals; \$100; public libraries; \$250; colleges & universities. Frameline Distribution. PPR.

Lori Petchers' uplifting and moving documentary centers on the life and work of Tony Ferraiolo, a certified transgender youth advocate and life coach working in New Haven, CT. *A Self-Made Man* alternates between Ferraiolo's own story about being a transgender male and his remarkable support programs for teens and younger children with gender-identity issues. Charismatic, buoyant, and accessible, Ferraiolo is both a friend and an adviser to the kids who come to group meetings, which provide a safe place to hang out, share feelings, and (for the adolescents) receive nitty-gritty counseling. Petchers captures warm and sometimes funny footage of these activities (younger participants often work on art projects, and talk about gender only if the subject comes up), as well as scenes of the parents' support group in session. Along the way, Ferraiolo discusses his own childhood experiences as a girl who knew she was a boy, followed

### Linda Lovelace's Loose Lips ★★★★★

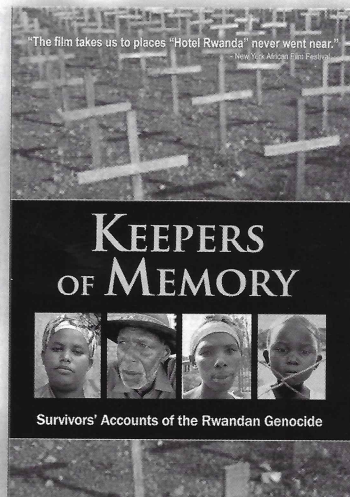
(2013) 90 min. DVD: \$16.95. Music Video Distributors (avail. from most distributors).

This interesting documentary takes an open-minded approach to the story of the late Linda Lovelace, whose lengthy 2001 interview (a year before she died) with pop culture historian Legs McNeil forms the centerpiece here. Lovelace, a superstar in the world of pornography during the 1970s, offers her own, now-familiar account of how she was forced to participate in the 1972 porn hit *Deep Throat* by her boyfriend manager, Chuck Traynor, who—Lovelace charges—beat her and turned her into a "robot" tasked with performing sexual acts on camera. Lovelace says the sex was an out-of-body experience during an out-of-control chapter in her life, although some of the other interviewees here—which include Traynor, retired FBI agent Bill Kelly (who tracked the porn industry for decades), biographer Eric Danville, and porn stars Marilyn Chambers and Sharon Mitchell—dispute her claims. Regardless, viewers will learn many details about Lovelace (whose show business friends included Elvis Presley and Sammy Davis Jr.) and *Deep Throat*—a film that was funded by Mafia money (the criminal investors reaped enormous profits that eluded IRS scrutiny). The U.S. federal government's eventual legal case against *Deep Throat* was really aimed at organized crime, although bringing charges against cast members—including costar Harry Reems—for violating the law proved to be fruitless. Offering tantalizing suggestions that Lovelace was more than the victim she claimed to be, this solid biographical slice of pop culture history is recommended. Aud: C, P. (*T. Keogh*)



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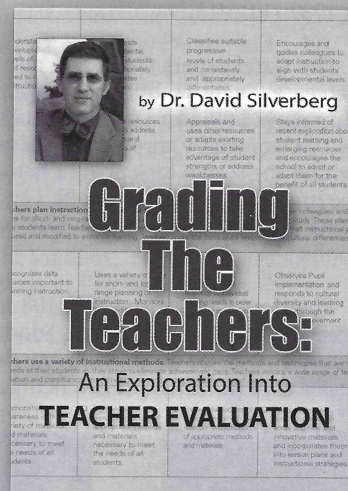
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