

INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS



ART OF WAR

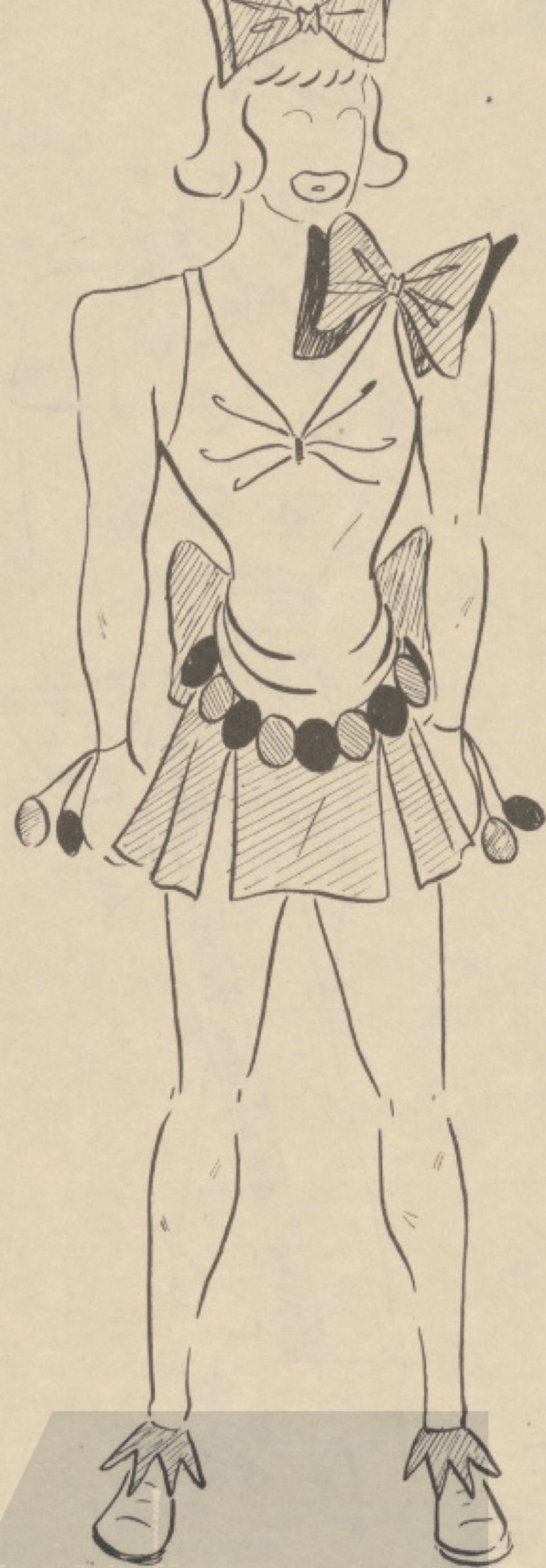
II OF DRAG QUEENS IN WORLD WAR

THE UNTOLD STORY

LOGLINE

Art of War is the story of Arthur Levitz, a misfit Jewish drag queen who unexpectedly finds acceptance, community and a spotlight in the most unlikely of places:
The U.S. Army during WWII.





SPECIALTY NUMBER
"GIRL"

The girl's costume is made by using a "T" shirt as a bodice. Drape at chest and tie with a piece of string. Cut larger sized discs and staple along edge of bodice. The skirt is made of either yellow paper or cut from salvaged sheets. A large crepe paper bow at shoulder and a saucy bow in back, complete the outfit.

SYNOPSIS

A historical series blending comedy, drama and drag, *Art of War* explores the hidden world of queer soldiers who find community and purpose serving in World War II.

Within the Army's Special Services Division, Arthur and his company boost morale by performing in musical revues, navigating queer survival while hiding in plain sight in full drag.

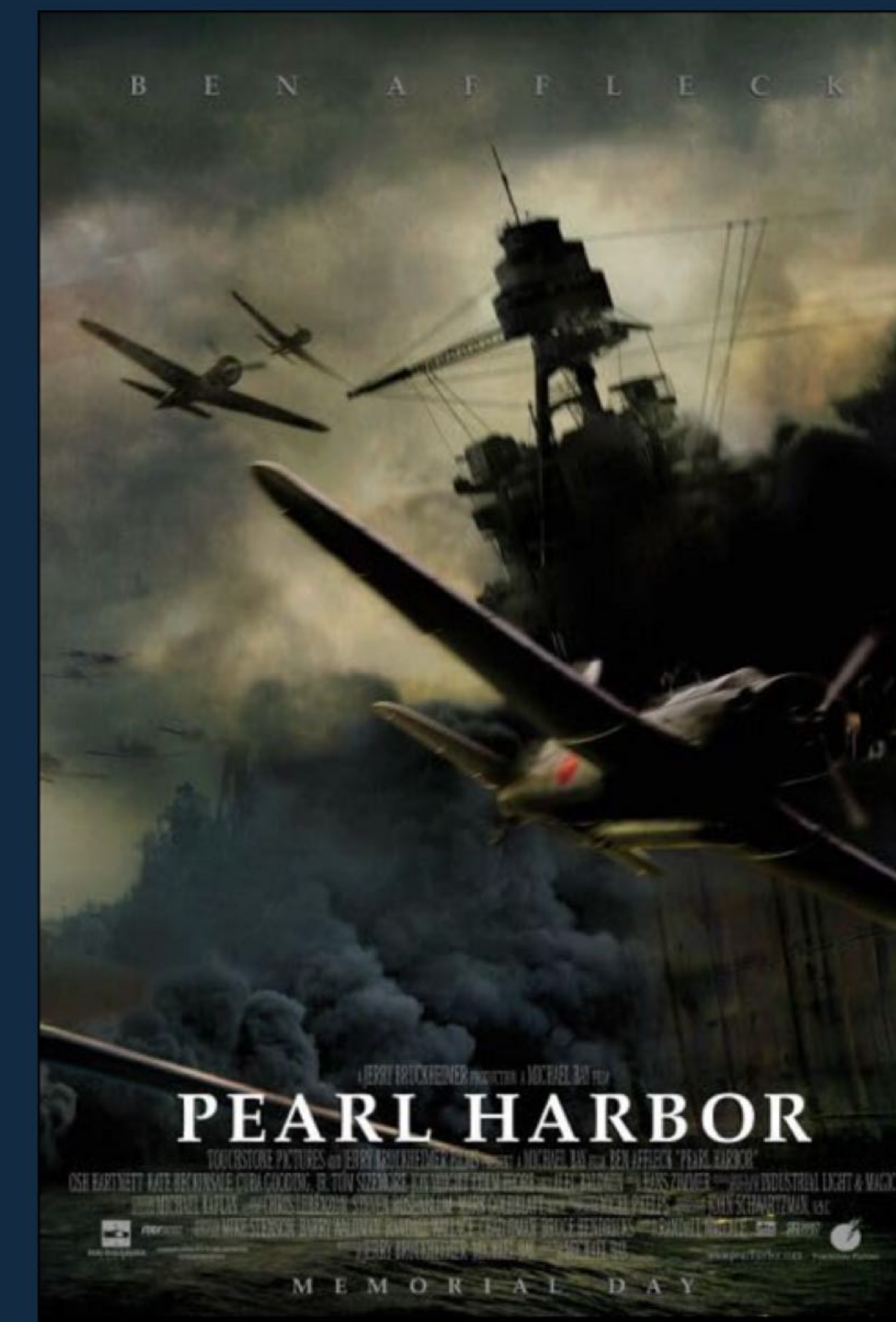




“You are not fighting with machine guns, but your job is just as important.”



Art of War balances gritty wartime realism and humor with the spectacle of drag. Think *Cabaret* meets *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and *Pearl Harbor*.
The tone is cinematic, emotional, and fabulous, where lipstick and camouflage share the same stage.





At its heart, the series confronts the erasure of queer history and the urgent need for visibility—drawing direct lines between the persecution of LGBTQ+ individuals in the 1940s and the renewed attacks on drag and LGBTQ+ rights today.





Arthur Levitz is a fast-talking, big-dreaming performer hustling his way through New York City. He bounces from gig to gig, chasing a big break that never quite comes—his brassy, vaudeville-inspired act is out of style in a quickly changing world. But Arthur's got heart, humor, and a stubborn belief that one day he'll be the biggest star in New York.

Jinkx Monsoon
as
ARTHUR



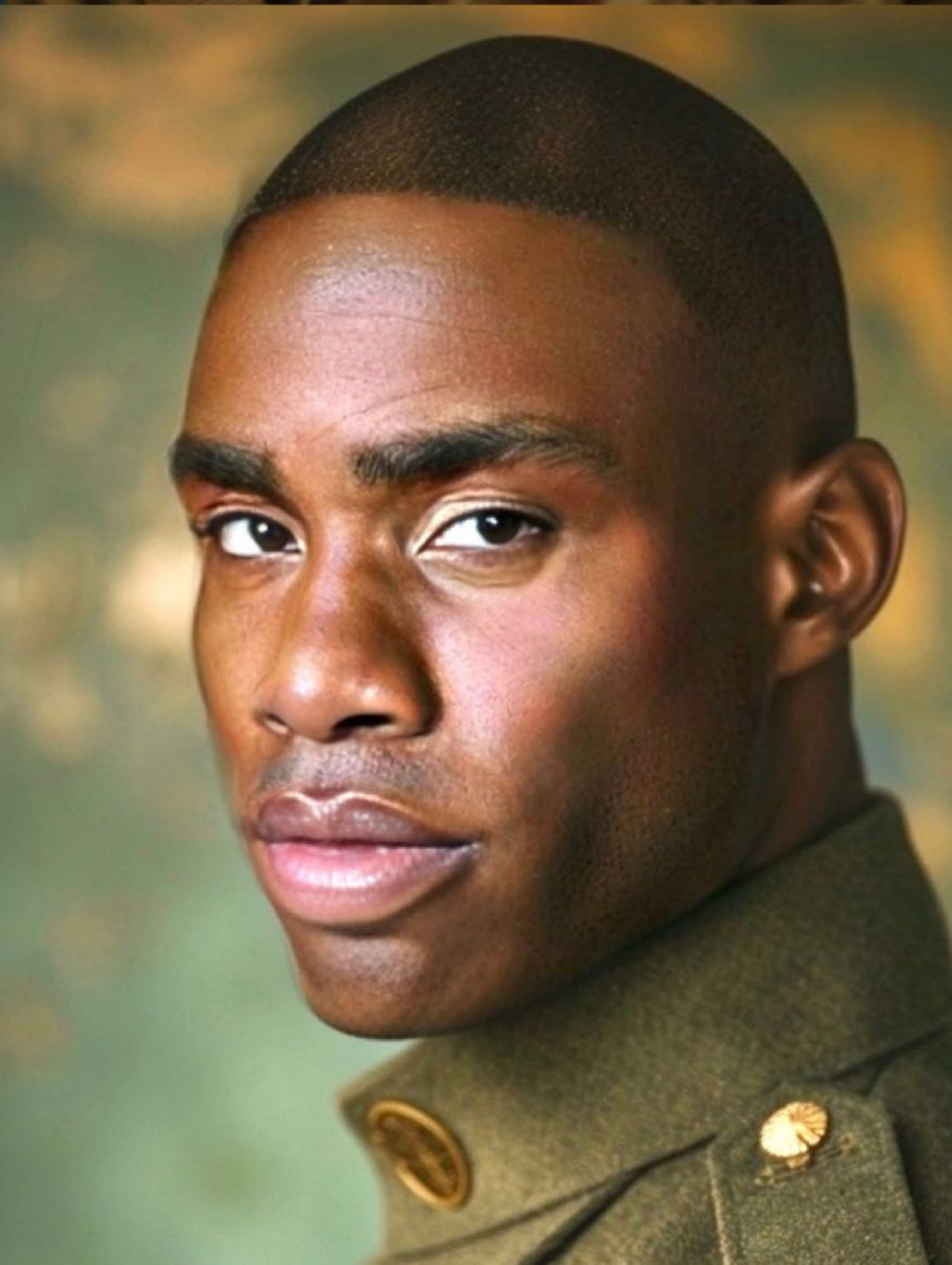


Robert is a closeted Texan from a rural town who's never been around a group of gay men before, forcing him to confront his own identity for the first time. Robert becomes the guardian of the group, warning them of increasing anti-gay scrutiny within the military.

Ronen Rubenstein

as

ROBERT



James, known as Sepia Jean Harlow in Harlem's ball scene, is the the most politically aware member of the group. Driven by a deep sense of social justice, he wrestles with the contradictions of serving a country that doesn't serve him.

Monét X Change

as

JAMES





Helen is a strong, shapely, no-nonsense broad from Jersey City who is a longtime friend of Arthur's and ally to the LGBTQ+ community. She and Arthur are often mistaken for brother and sister, and her razor-sharp wit matches her fingernails.

Jennifer Lawrence
as

HELEN



Tommy is a first-generation Japanese-American (Nisei) who dreams of a career on Broadway. He is the backstage doorman at the theater where Arthur works. Tommy's heritage makes him the target of increasing racism after Pearl Harbor.

Hiroto Kanai
as

TOMMY





Rita (born Fernando) is a dead ringer for Rita Hayworth whose beauty catches the eyes of many men. A multi-lingual force of nature, she is the outspoken one in the group. Despite her fearless facade, Rita is terrified of being drafted and facing combat.

Valentina
as

RITA



Sarita is Arthur's wise and witty grandmother who single-handedly raised him in her Brooklyn boarding house. Sarita is deeply worried about their family in Europe during these darkest of times, and is fiercely protective of her gay grandson.

Bette Midler
as

SARITA



PILOT EPISODE: THE DRESS

December 6, 1941 starts out like any other day, with Arthur Levitz hustling his way through the queer bubble of NYC, fixing costumes, voicing radio commercials and scheming for ways to make rent. He “borrows” a priceless red dress worn by Broadway legend Ethel Merman, intending to loan it to his friend Rita for quick cash, setting off a chain reaction that threatens his job , his reputation, and his future.

That night, he meets Robert Winblad, a wide-eyed Texas soldier newly assigned to NYC as part of the Army’s morale and propoganda efforts, and their unexpected chemistry sends Arthur reeling. The queer bubble is shattered when a gay bar is raided, the dress is torn and secrets are revealed. Just when Arthur thinks things couldn’t get worse, Pearl Harbor is bombed and the world is forever changed.



EPISODE CONCEPTS

EPISODE 1: THE DRESS

Arthur and his fantasy alter-ego thrive in the queer bubble of NYC.
Pearl Harbor is bombed and everyone's lives change forever .

EPISODE 2: DUTY CALLS

With Robert's help, Arthur enlists to avoid the draft board's scrutiny.
The Army begins sorting recruits and Arthur goes off to bootcamp.

EPISODE 3: BASIC TRAINING

Boot Camp reveals a network of queer soldiers.
Arthur creates a newsletter to keep them all connected.

EPISODE 4: SPECIAL SERVICES

The Army creates the Special Services Division and puts Robert in charge of finding talent. The first integrated Army Battalion is formed.

EPISODE 5: ITS A DRAG

Irving Berlin reboots his WW1 show, *This Is The Army*.
Arthur finally finds his place in the spotlight.

EPISODE 6: : THE ARMY MADE A MAN OUT OF ME

This Is The Army opens on Broadway to sold out crowds and rave reviews. The show is extended.

EPISODE 7 : SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY

The Army begins it's queer crackdown.
Robert is promoted, then tasked with reporting gay soldiers.

EPISODE 8 : HOLLY WOOD CALLING

Hollywood calls to create the movie version of the show.
Arthur's newsletter is intercepted.
The show prepares to tour the states.



FUTURE SEASONS

SEASON 1

NEW YORK

Pearl Harbor shatters Arthur Levitz's world and forces him and his friends into uniform. As they enlist and endure basic training, Arthur builds a covert queer network through a coded newsletter, while Robert rises quickly through the ranks. Arthur's company forms the Army's first racially integrated performance unit. Against the backdrop of anti-gay propaganda films, the drag troupe is born—hiding in plain sight.

SEASON 2

THE STATES

Hollywood arrives to film the movie version of *This Is The Army*. The show expands and tours the country, earning applause and drawing much attention. The troupe faces backlash for being queer and integrated. As Sarita steps in to protect Arthur's newsletter network, Robert walks a tightrope as the military escalates its crackdown on queer soldiers. Love blooms, Tommy's family is interned, and Arthur is interrogated as a suspected spy.

SEASON 3

EUROPE

The film premieres and Arthur's part is cut. The troupe tours Europe and confronts the brutal reality of war. Performances continue to uplift amid the devastation. The company is torn apart when one of their own is sent to a gay disciplinary camp. Arthur is killed weeks before the war ends, leaving Robert to fulfill a promise. In liberated Berlin, the fantasy returns one final time, transforming loss into legacy.



Scenes of Action

VISUAL

1940s fashion contrasted with theatrical drag.

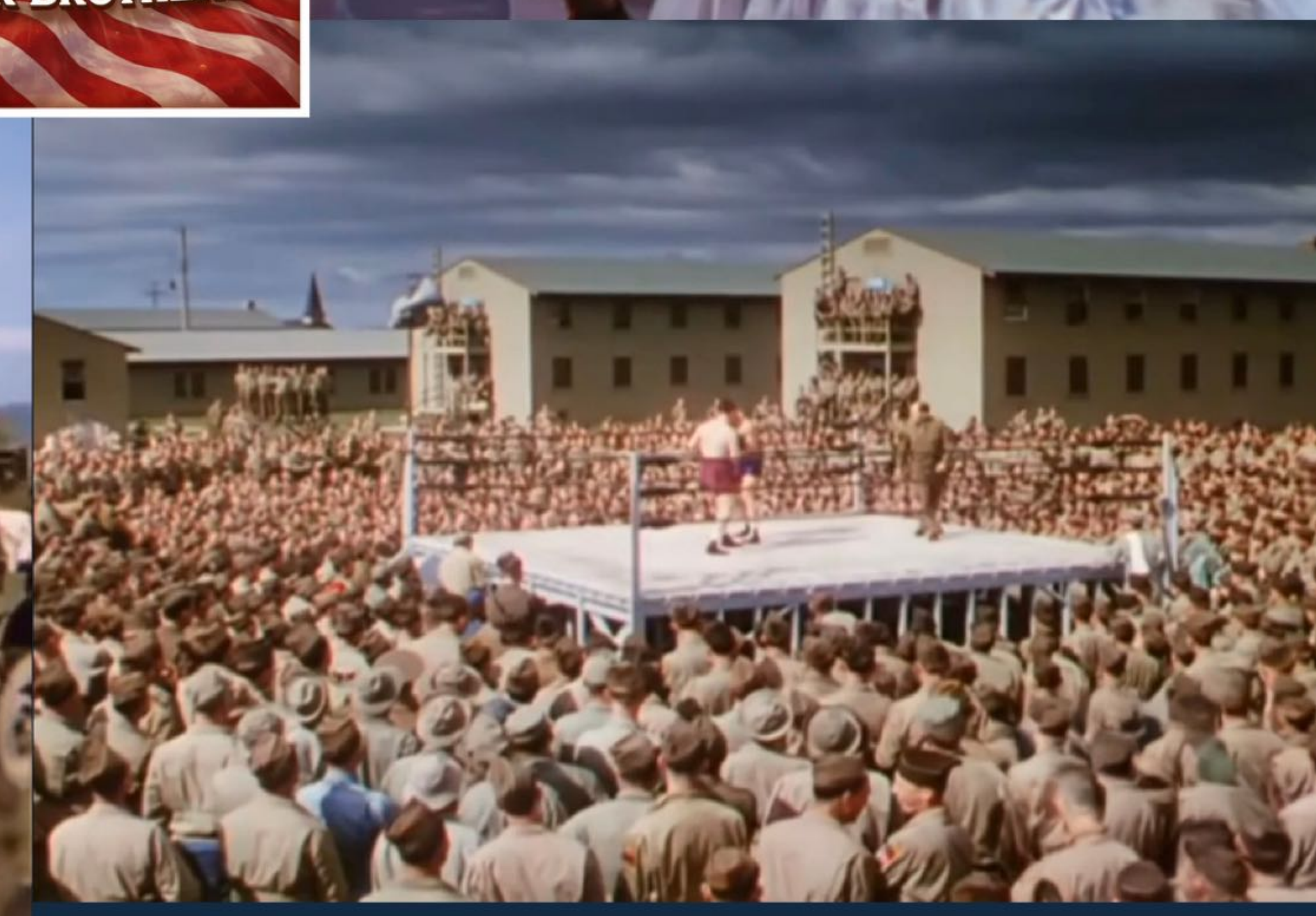


VISUAL WORLD



SOURCE IMAGES :
**SET
RENDERINGS**
CREATED WITH
MIDJOURNEY AI

VISUAL WORLD

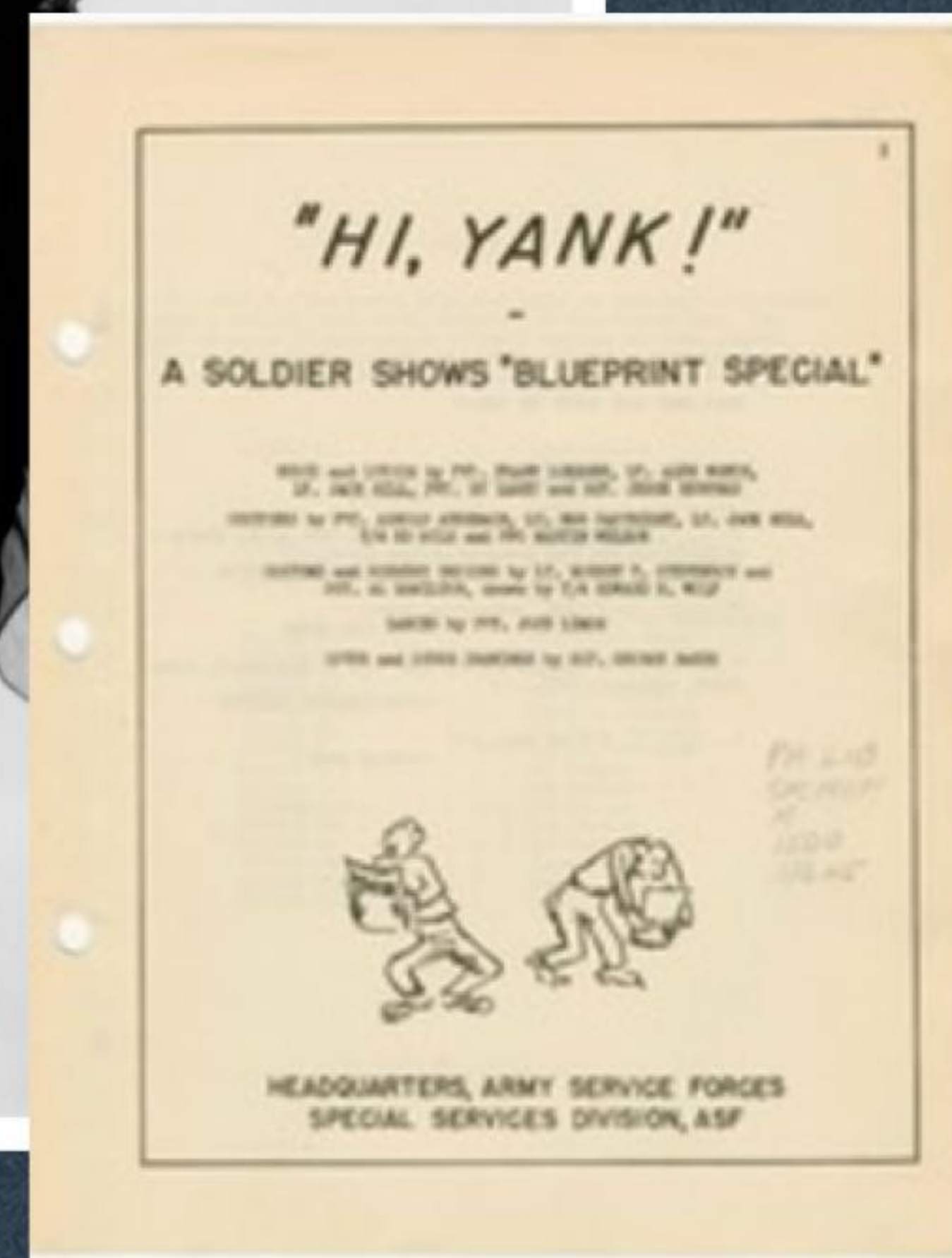
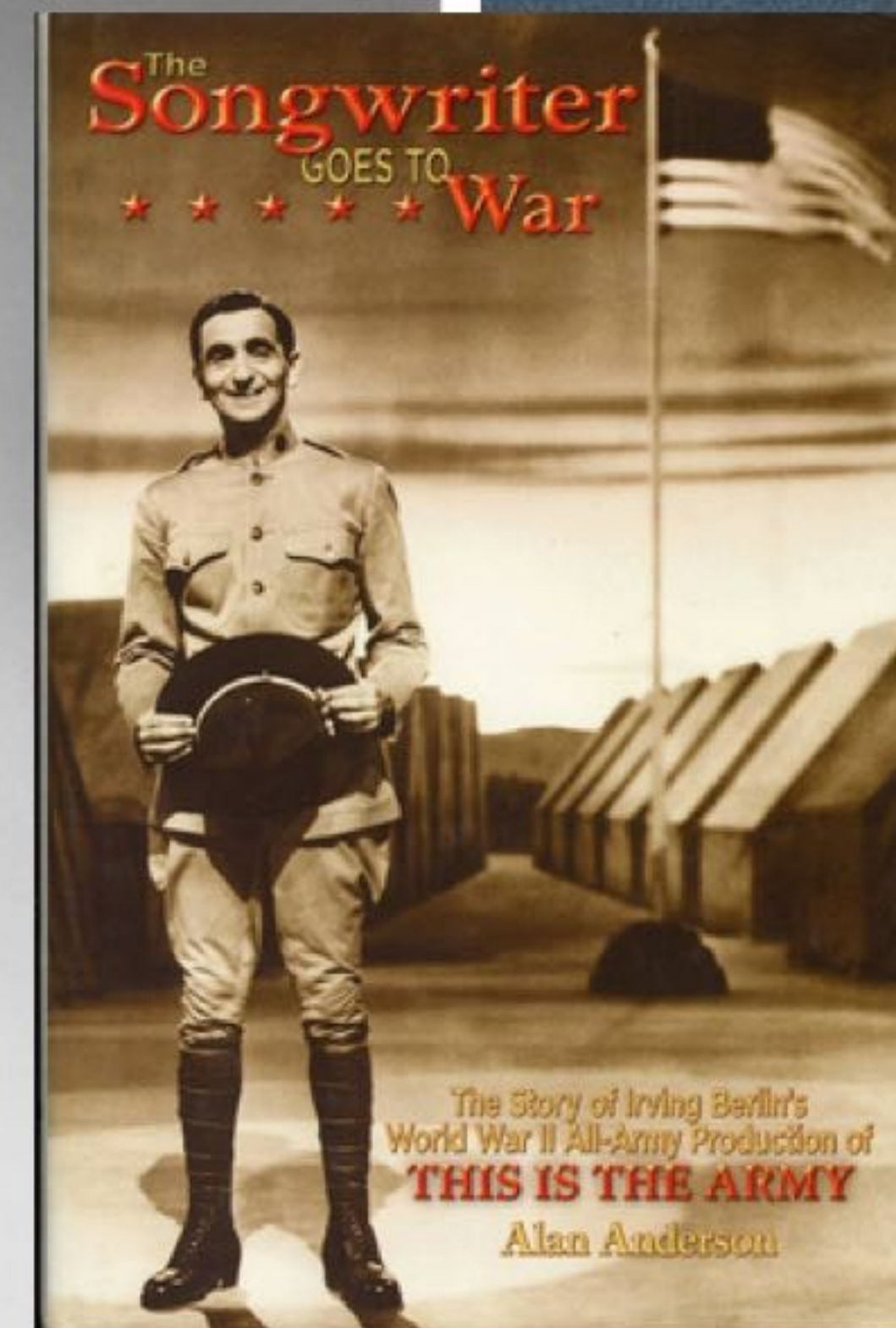
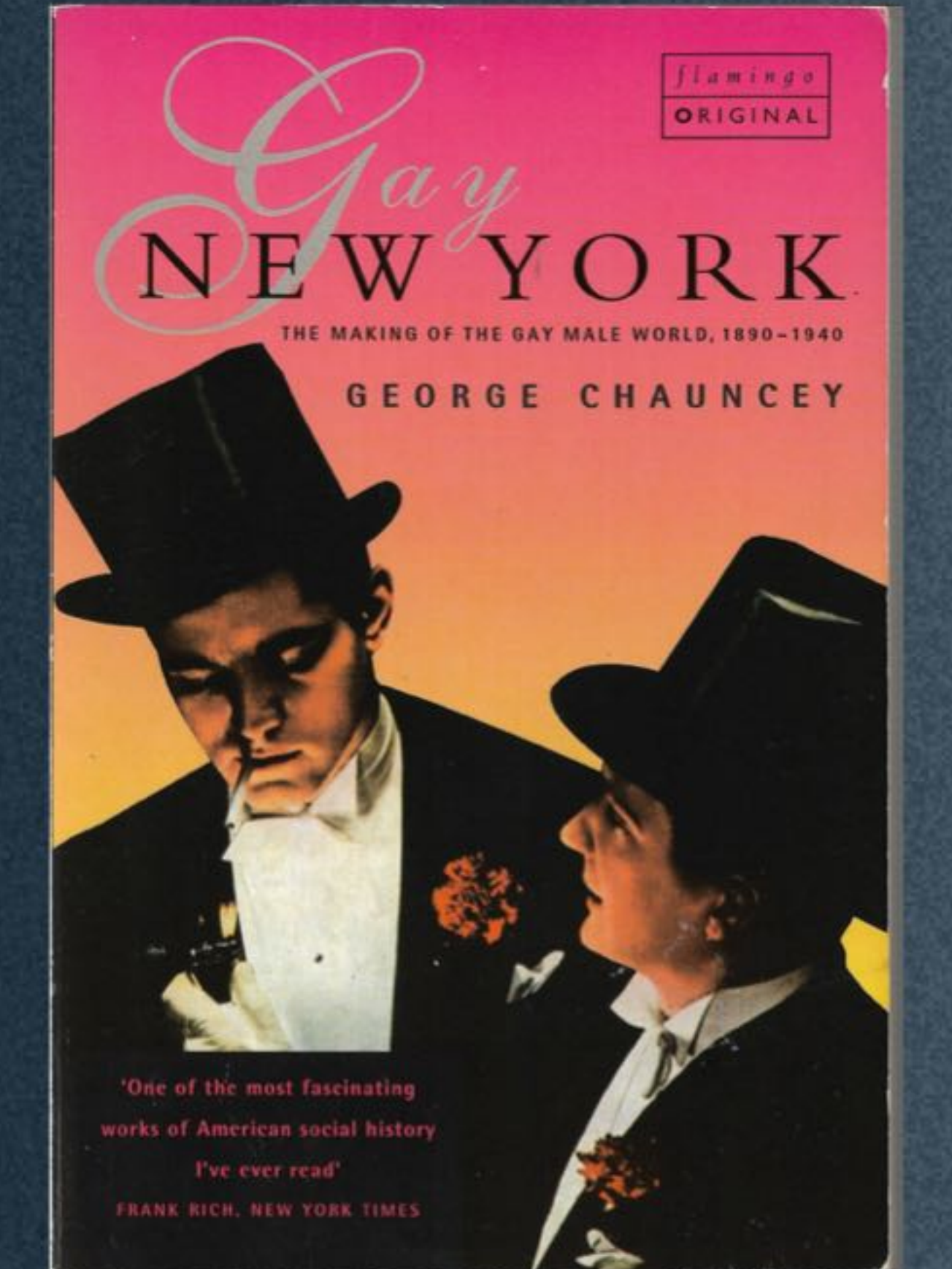
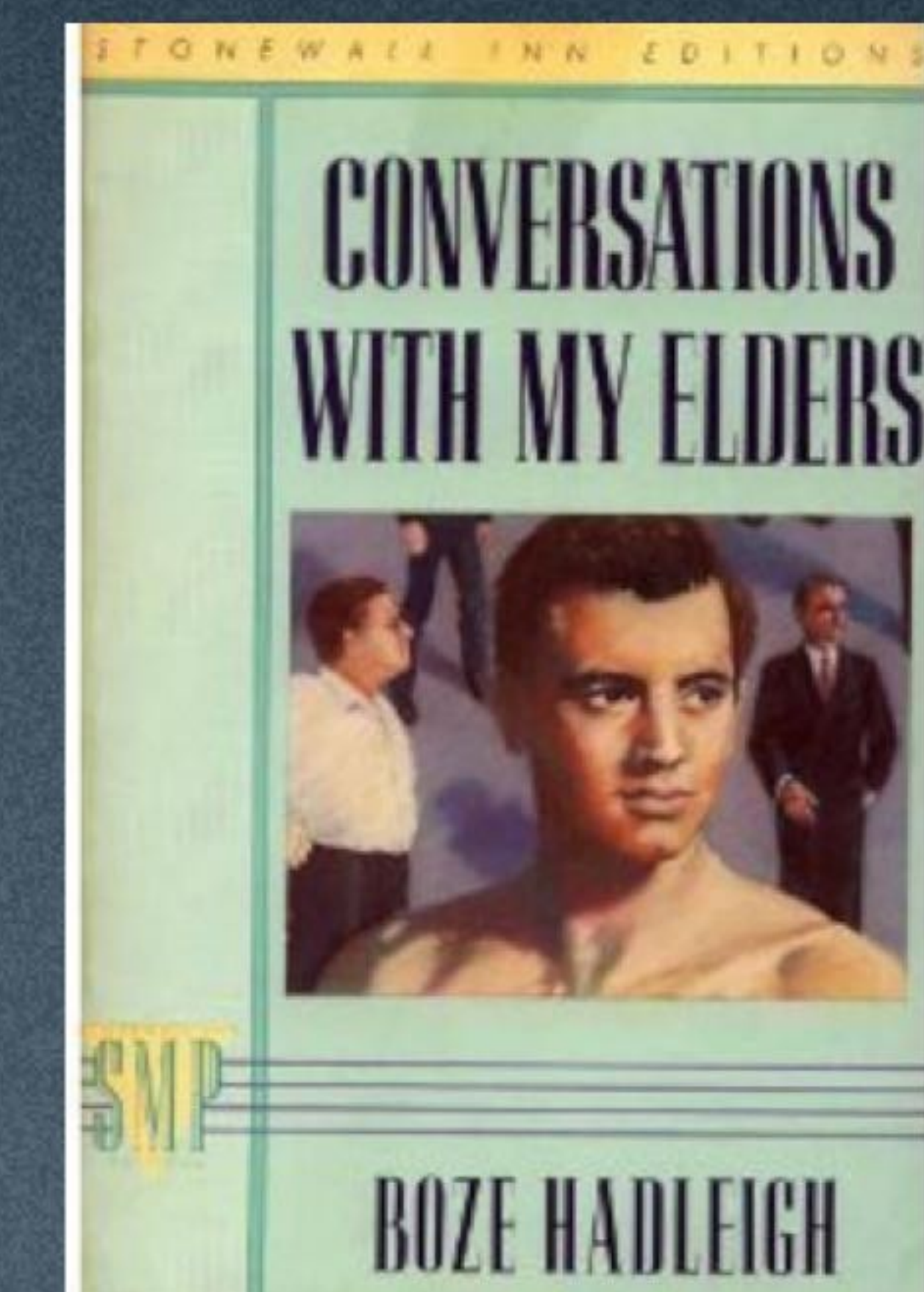
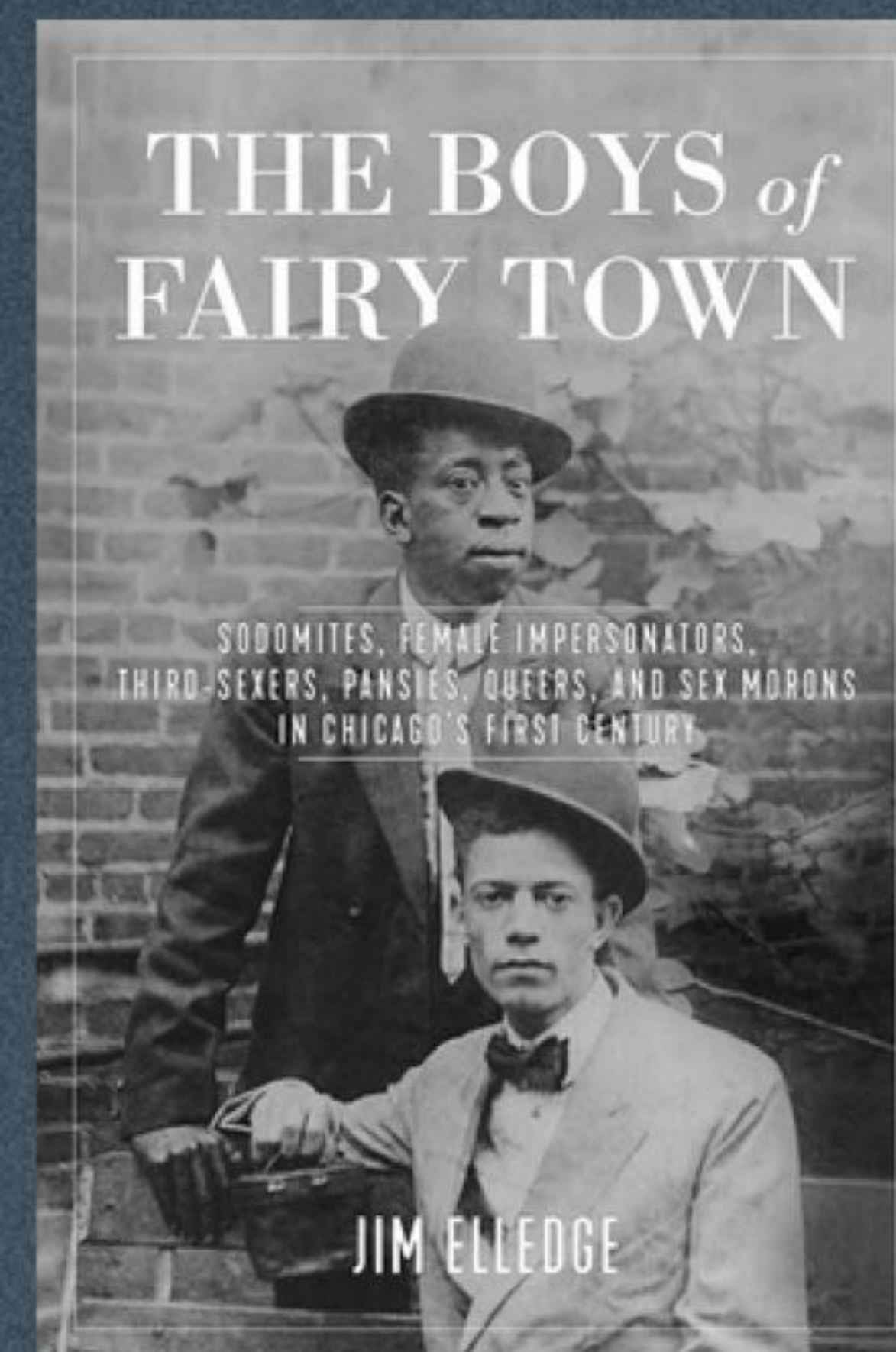
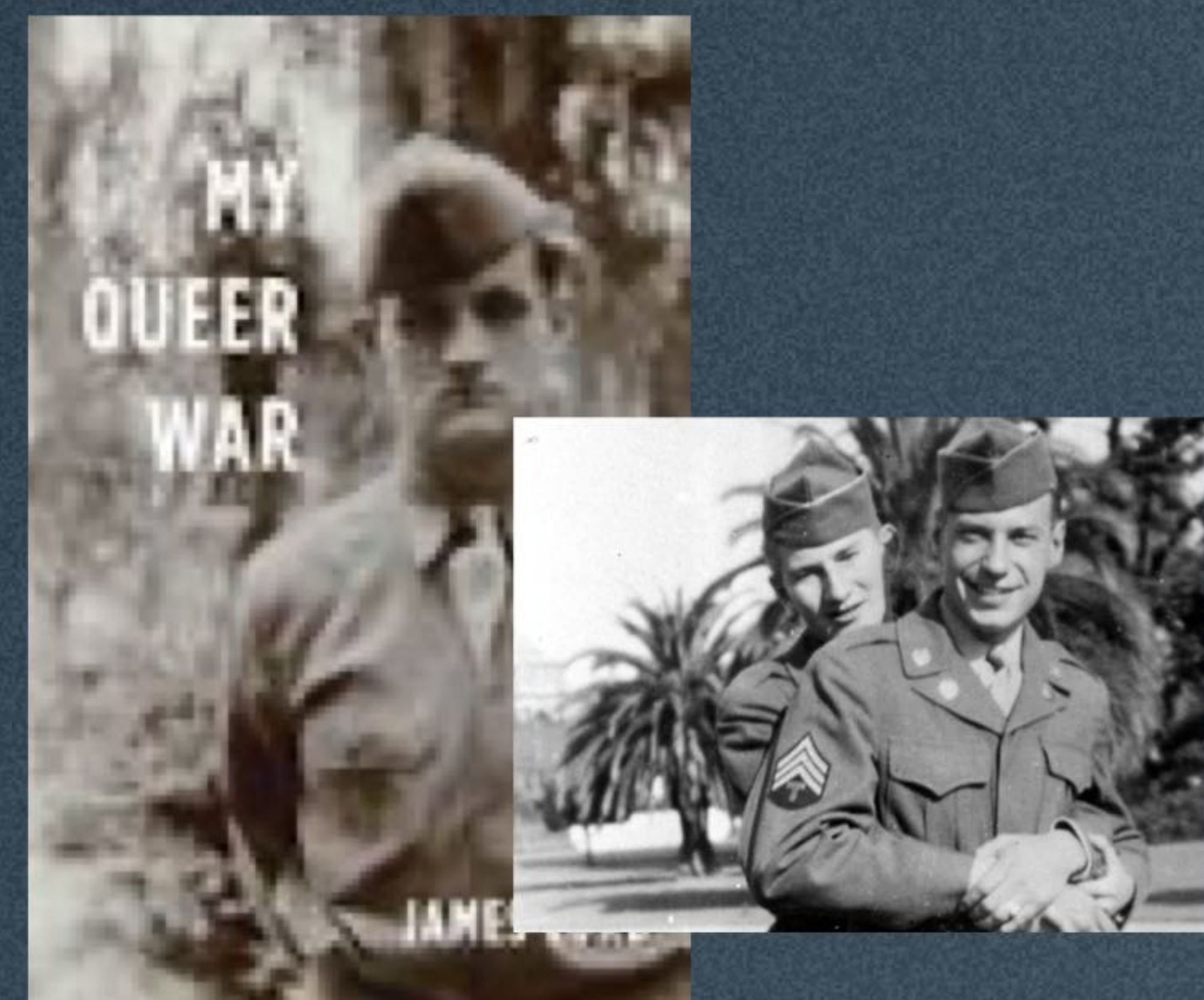
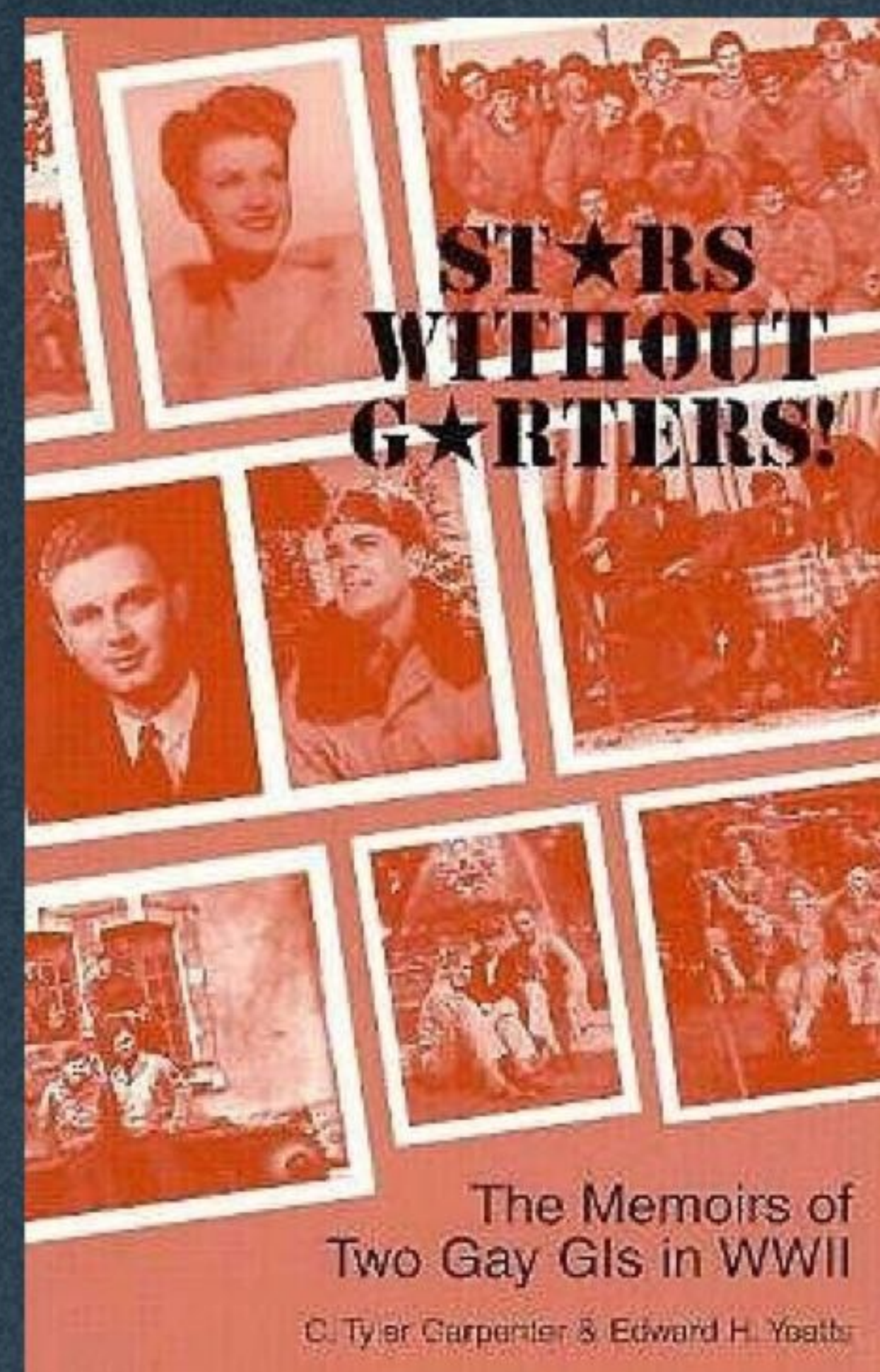
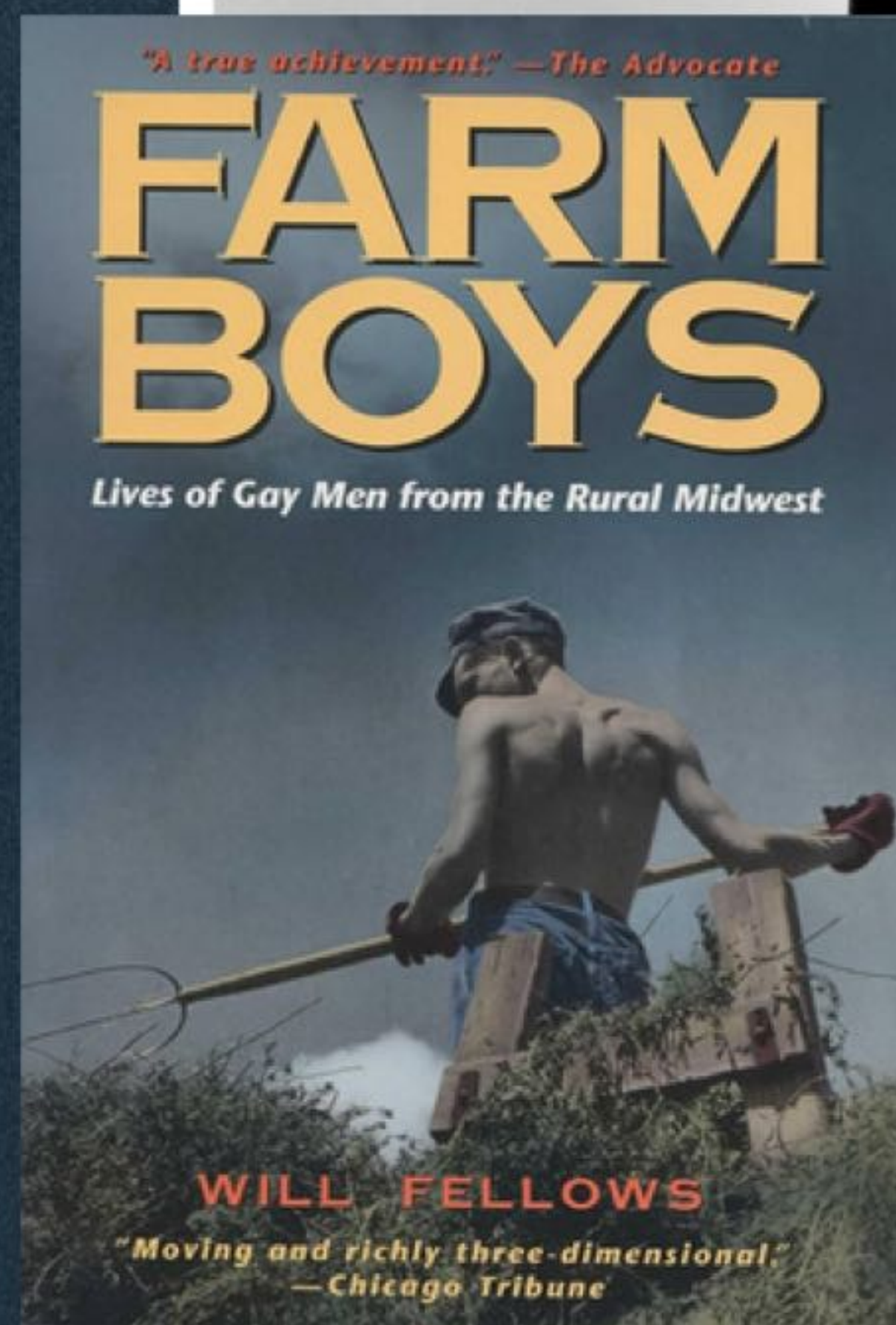


VISUAL WORLD

CREATOR'S STATEMENT

While watching a Sophie Tucker documentary, I learned of a Jewish soldier who dreamed of playing 'My Yiddishe Momme' in Berlin. He died before realizing that dream, but his friend made it happen—playing the record on a phonograph wired to a truck.

That moment opened a floodgate of hidden history to me. I researched diaries, letters, and photos of queer performers in the military. *Art of War* is my tribute to them.





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