

A VISIONS AND VOICES SIGNATURE EVENT

JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL & STEPHEN TRASK

THE ORIGIN OF LOVE

Friday, August 26, 2022
Saturday, August 27, 2022
8 p.m.
Bovard Auditorium
University of Southern California

FEATURING THE STORIES AND SONGS OF HEDWIG

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST **AMBER MARTIN**

PRODUCED BY **ArKtype**

CREDITS

Written by **JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL** and **STEPHEN TRASK**

Performed by **JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL** and **STEPHEN TRASK**

Additional Vocals by **AMBER MARTIN**

Musical Direction and Guitar by **JUSTIN CRAIG**

Drums by **PETER YANOWITZ**

Bass by **MATT DUNCAN**

Makeup and Wigs by **MIKE POTTER**

Costumes by **ERIK BERGRIN**

Production Management and Lighting by **JOJO A. FRANJOINE**

Live Video by **MICHAEL ZUMBRUN**

Video Design by **CHO SU-HYUN** and **MICHAEL ZUMBRUN**

Company Management by **SAMI PYNE**

Produced by **ArKtype/THOMAS O. KRIEGSMANN**

Exclusive Origin of Love gear is available outside the auditorium, at johncameronmitchell.com, and on IG @thehedquarters.



USC Visions & Voices



Photo: Matthew Placek

John Cameron Mitchell



Photo: Bill Bernstein

Stephen Trask



Photo: Alfredo Asaf Nieto

Amber Martin

JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL directed, starred in, and wrote, with Stephen Trask, the film *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, for which he won Best Director at the Sundance Festival and was nominated for a Golden Globe as Best Actor. His recent Broadway production of *Hedwig* garnered him Tony Awards for his performance and for Best Revival. He won an Obie Award for *Hedwig* Off-Broadway as well for as starring in Larry Kramer's *The Destiny of Me*. He directed Tennessee Williams's *Kingdom of Earth* Off-Broadway with Cynthia Nixon and Peter Sarsgaard. He directed *Shortbus*, as well as *Rabbit Hole* and *How to Talk to Girls at Parties*, both starring Nicole Kidman, who was nominated for Best Actress Oscar for the former. Recent roles on TV have been on Peacock's *Joe vs. Carole*, Hulu's *Shrill*, HBO's *Girls* and *Vinyl*, CBS's *The Good Fight*, and Amazon's *Mozart in the Jungle*. He stars in, wrote (with Bryan Weller), and directed the musical podcast series *Anthem: Homunculus* featuring Cynthia Erivo, Glenn Close, Patti Lupone, Denis O'Hare, Laurie Anderson, and Marion Cotillard, which is playing on the Luminary podcast platform.

STEPHEN TRASK first achieved wide acclaim as the co-creator, composer, and lyricist of the award-winning stage musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, which was also developed into a feature film released by Fine Line Features, for which he won an Obie Award; the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical; a 1998 *New York Magazine* Award, Drama Desk nominations for Outstanding Music, Lyrics, and New Musical; a Grammy nomination for Best Cast Album; two GLAMA Awards; and *Entertainment Weekly*'s Best Soundtrack Award for 2001. The Broadway production of the show won four Tony Awards in 2014, and the soundtrack was nominated for a Grammy. Since 2003 Trask has been scoring films at both the independent and studio levels for directors as diverse as Tom McCarthy (*The Station Agent*, Miramax Films), Paul Weitz (*In Good Company*, American Dreamz, *Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant*, *Little Fockers*, Universal Pictures), Todd Graff (*Camp*, IFC Productions/Jersey Films/Killer Films), Tamara Jenkins, (*The Savages*, Fox Searchlight), Jon Kasdan (*In the Land of Women*, Warner Brothers), Robert Benton (*Feast of Love*, MGM/Lakeshore), John Cameron Mitchell (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, Fine Line), Sean Anders (*Sex Drive*, Summit Entertainment), Bill Condon (*Dreamgirls*, Dreamworks/Paramount), Alan Poul, (*The Back-up Plan*, CBS Films), Tom Vaughn (*So Undercover*, Exclusive Media), and Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman (*Lovelace*). In addition to *Hedwig*, Trask's work for Broadway includes orchestrations for the recent production of *Rocky*, the musical based on the classic film. His latest show *This Ain't No Disco*, premiered at The Atlantic Theater last year. He is also at work on a new musical in collaboration with book writer Chris D'Arienzo (*Rock of Ages*) to bring the Martin Scorsese/New Regency film *The King of Comedy* to the stage. Known for his time fronting '90s New York City punk band Cheater, Trask has also recorded and performed with artists such as Stone Temple Pilots, Bob Mould, Sleater-Kinney, and Yoko Ono.

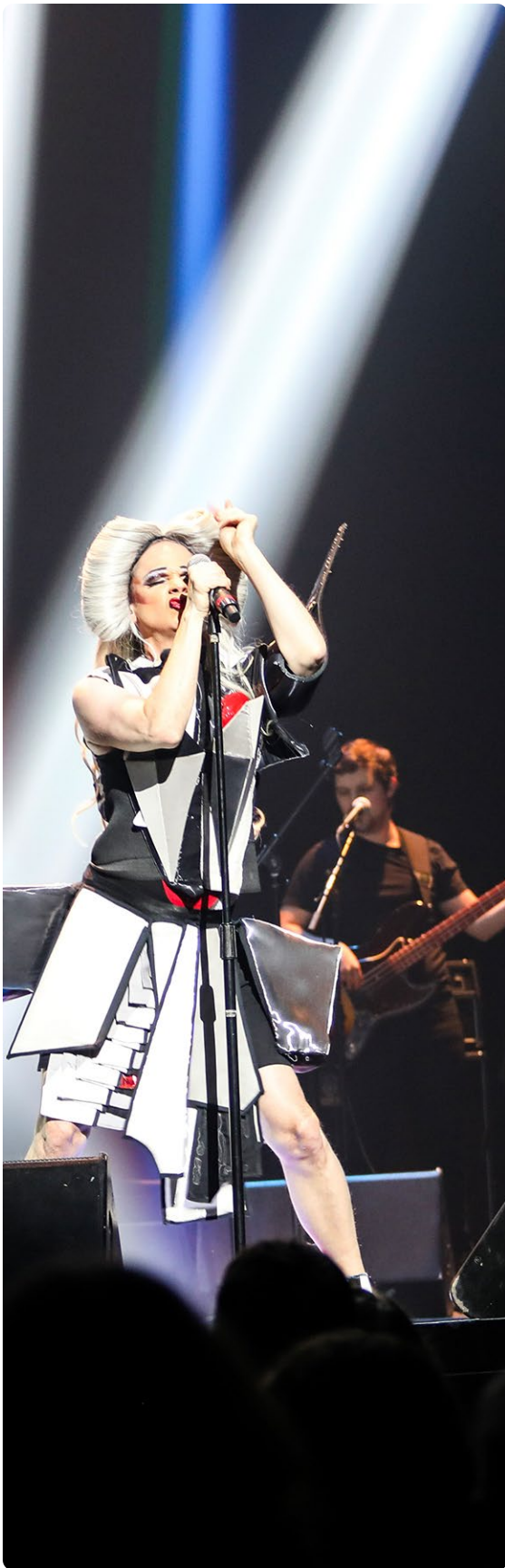


Photo: Michael Muser

AMBER MARTIN (vocals) is a celebrated New York City-based vocalist, cabaret star, and comedic monologist. Named one of the Top Performers of the Year by *The New Yorker*, Martin brings a combination of cabaret, belting vocals, and no-holds-barred comedy to her live, raucous, genre-hopping musical performances. She made her Broadway debut in *Tales of the City* at the Music Box Theater. Some of her performances include appearing with Joan Rivers on *Celebrity Apprentice* and opening for Joan's live NYC shows. You can hear her belting out featured vocals on The Scissor Sisters single "Inevitable" (co-produced with Pharrell). She was a featured vocalist with comedian Sandra Bernhard at Town Hall in New York City and has twice been a featured guest on Sandra's Sirius XM radio show, *Sandyland*. Amber has performed her own solo shows in New York City and New Orleans, as well as The TBA Festival; Treefort Festival; Outsider Festival; Jazz and Blues Festival in Altomonte, Italy; and has recurring New York City residencies at Alan Cumming's Club Cumming, Joe's Pub, and The Cutting Room. Amber continues to evolve as writer, curator, choreographer, and star of her own performances, *The Days of My Lives*, *3 Women: Joplin, Midler & Nyro* (Solo Artist Residency at Joe's Pub), *Hi!* (Best Solo Performance Drammy Award), *Wigshop*, *Stoned Soul: In Love with Laura Nyro* (Residency at Feinstein's/54 Below), and *Janis: Undead* (a continuing to tour the U.S. and internationally). She is also touring her original album, *A.M. Gold*, including two songs featured in John Cameron Mitchell's film, *How to Talk to Girls at Parties*.

JUSTIN CRAIG (musical direction and guitar) is a Grammy-nominated record producer, composer, and musical director (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch* on Broadway and its first national tour). Coming up in pop and rock, he spent years writing, recording, and touring with artists and bands all over the world. After relocating to New York City in 2011, he began orchestrating and performing in musical theatre productions in addition to his studio work as producer and musician. Additionally, he has worked in film as a composer, score mixer, and performing multi-instrumentalist on *How to Talk to Girls at Parties*, *The Nice Guys*, *Match*, *Admission*, *Lovelace*, *Little Fockers*, and more.

PETER YANOWITZ (drums) is a songwriter, librettist, and performer who made his Broadway debut as "Schlatko," the drummer in the Tony award-winning Broadway musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Yanowitz was the original drummer of The Wallflowers, and for Natalie Merchant on her first three solo records: *Tigerlily*, *Ophelia*, and *Live in Concert*. Other artists he has recorded and performed with include Yoko Ono, Allen Ginsberg, and Wilco. With Stephen Trask, Peter cowrote *This Ain't No Disco*, a rock opera about Studio 54 and the Mudd club in 1979, which made its Off-Broadway debut in the summer of 2018 at the Atlantic Theater. Yanowitz was also the bass player and main songwriter for the band Morningwood on Capitol Records. Currently, Peter plays in the band Princess Goes to the Butterfly Museum with Matt Katz-Bohen and Michael C. Hall.



Photo: Miguel Villalobos

MATT DUNCAN (bass) has worked as a professional musician for over a decade in various capacities, most often as a bass player and a singer, songwriter, and producer. He played bass as “Jacek” in the Broadway production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and continued that role during the national tour that followed. Duncan’s solo albums are enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of fans on streaming services every month, and he continues to play bass with major touring acts. Duncan got his start playing in punk, jazz, and folk bands in Lexington, Kentucky, before moving to New York City in 2014 to join the cast of *Hedwig*. Although he frequently moonlights as a saxophonist and keyboard player, his love for the interplay of rhythm and melody always brings him back to his true instrumental love, the bass. Duncan is currently working on a new solo album and an original musical, and is the orchestrator and arranger for the upcoming *King of Comedy* musical written by Stephen Trask and Chris D’Arienzo.

“JOJO” A. FRANJOINE (production manager/lighting director) is a lighting artist interested in synchronizing space with waveform. With various flavors of waves and photons, Jojo seeks to discover harmonious aural and visual environments that resonate deeply within the human spirit. By charting and creating patterns over a stretch of time, Jojo expresses the present with bright attitude in an emotionally saturated overtone. Jojo’s work can be viewed at www.josephfranjoine.com and @designjojo.

ERIK BERGRIN (costumes) is a costume designer and fiber artist based in NYC. His work has been featured in galleries and museums such as the Marlborough Contemporary, the State Historical Museum in Moscow, Envoy Enterprise Gallery, David Fierman Gallery, AC Institute, The Society of Arts and Crafts in Boston, and HERE arts, as well as banner of his work flying in New York City’s Garment District. He has designed costumes for shows such as John Cameron Mitchell’s *Origin of Love* tour, *Goodbar* at the Public Theater, and musicians such as Lady Gaga and Peaches. His costume designs have been featured in TV shows such as *America’s Next Top Model* and *Make Me a Supermodel*, and highlighted in films such as *Violet Tendencies*. Erik’s creations have been in articles and publications such as *Dazed and Confused*, *Zink*, *New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Star*, *King Kong*, *Zoo*, *Dust*, *Bullett*, *ODDA*, and many more.

MIKE POTTER (wig and makeup design) was born and raised in rural Delaware. He began doing wigs and makeup at a young age, and earned a BS in resource economics at the University of Delaware. He did the wigs and makeup for *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* since the beginning, with Stephen Trask and John Cameron Mitchell at the Jane Street Theatre as well as the wigs and makeup for the film, the Broadway run, and subsequent tour. He currently works in the fashion and film industries as a makeup artist and is also a painter. Mike currently lives and works in New York City.



Mick Rock

Photo: Nathalie Rock

These final performances of *THE ORIGIN OF LOVE TOUR* are dedicated in loving memory to Mick Rock (1948-2021).

MICHAEL ZUMBRUN (live video design) is a concert production and lighting specialist. He is currently part of The Box production team, and formerly of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's performance arm, MetLiveArts. Other notable clients and venues include Webster Hall, Skrillex, Erykah Badu, Alva Noto, and John Varvatos. Michael lives and works in New York City.

ARKTYPE / THOMAS O. KRIEGSMANN (producer) is a management and production company specializing in new work development and touring. Over the past 15 years, Arktype's work has grown to encompass renowned artists from thirty different countries, multiple genres, and commercial and non-profit support structures resulting in new work for a variety of spaces. His acclaimed work as producer has been seen worldwide, proudly beginning his work in the production, development, and touring of emerging ensembles. His work includes projects with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Peter Brook, Kaneza Schaal, Victoria Thiérree-Chaplin, Yael Farber, Annie-B Parson & Paul Lazar, John Cameron Mitchell, Lisa Peterson, Peter Sellars, Tony Taccone, and Julie Taymor. Recent premieres include Sam Green's *32 Sounds* with JD Samson, nora chipaumire's *NEHANDA*, Bryce Dessner's *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)*, Sam Green and Kronos Quartet's *A Thousand Thoughts*, Byron Au Yong and Aaron Jafferis' *Trigger*, Kaneza Schaal and Christopher Myers' *CARTOGRAPHY*, Big Dance Theater and Mikhail Baryshnikov's *Man in a Case*, and the U.S. premiere of Nalaga'at Deaf-Blind Theater's *Not by Bread Alone*. Ongoing collaborators and collaborations include Bryce Dessner, Rude Mechs, 600 HIGHWAYMEN, Toshi Reagon, Sam Green, Scott Shepherd, Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen, nora chipaumire, Adrien M. and Claire B., Big Dance Theater, and Compagnia TPO. Upcoming premieres include Justin Peck and Sufjan Stevens' *ILLINOIS* and Scott Shepherd's *This Ignorant Present*. More info at arktype.org.

SPECIAL THANKS

Originally presented by David M. Hawkins and Showtune Productions

Continued development by Brian Yim and Shownote Productions

For further inquiries on *The Origin of Love Tour*, please contact:

Thomas O. Kriegsmann, Arktype
tommy@arktype.org

To all friends and lovers who have made *The Origin of Love* tour such an amazing adventure, Daria Yudacufski and the amazing team at USC Visions and Voices, Seen Merch, Showtune Productions, Adelaide Cabaret Festival, Patrick Herold, Brian Yim, David Binder, Liz Vap, Matthew Placek, Chris Glass, Shanta Thake, Iyvon Idebiri, Patrick Herold, Jeff & William Gridley, M.A. Papper, and Hansel.

USC Visions & Voices

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ARKTYPE

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* is a rock musical by Stephen Trask (music and lyrics) and John Cameron Mitchell (book). Originally a stage production, it opened off-Broadway in 1998, and was adapted as a film in 2001. *Hedwig* has been performed all over the world, including a Tony Award-winning Broadway production in 2014.
- John Cameron Mitchell is an actor, playwright, screenwriter, and director who created the character Hedwig.
- Stephen Trask is a musician and composer who co-created *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, was a member of the punk band Cheater and music director of the club SqueezeBox!, and composes film scores.
- Amber Martin is a comedic cabaret performer.

“So being queer offers vistas ... Part of being queer is like, *Oh, there’s somewhere else to go.*”

—John Cameron Mitchell in the *Advocate*

ABOUT HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

Hedwig and the Angry Inch is a rock musical that started as a stage production in 1998 and was adapted into a film in 2001. It tells the story of a genderqueer East German rock singer who survives multiple traumas and keeps moving toward love and wholeness. Both the film and the many theatrical productions of *Hedwig* have been critically acclaimed, winning numerous awards, and are beloved by fans, making *Hedwig* a “cult classic.”

TIMELINE

Early to mid-1990s: John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask start collaborating on performances at SqueezeBox!, a punk/drag party in NYC. The character of Hedwig emerges in this collaboration, and Trask starts writing Hedwig songs.

Late 1990s: Mitchell stars as Hedwig in concert/cabaret-style shows, or rock theatre, at small clubs and theatres in NYC. The show becomes a cult favorite.

1998: Off-Broadway premiere of the stage musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. The show wins Obie and Outer Critics Circle awards.

2000: *Hedwig* has a run on London’s West End theatre district.

2001: The film version of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* is released.

2000s and beyond: Productions of *Hedwig* appear on stages around the world.

2014: Original Broadway production of *Hedwig*. The show wins four Tony Awards.



Wikipedia lists 10 different *Hedwig* soundtrack recordings, from the original off-Broadway cast to the original Broadway cast as well as the original Korean and Peruvian cast recordings, among others.

SOME OTHER LANDMARK ROCK MUSICALS

- ☉ *Hair* (1967)
- ☉ *The Rocky Horror Show* (1973)
- ☉ *Rent* (1996)
- ☉ *Spring Awakening* (2006)

EAST GERMANY

The character Hedwig grew up in East Berlin, the de facto capital of East Germany (the German Democratic Republic), a former state that existed from 1949 to 1990. East Germany was part of the Eastern Bloc, or Soviet Bloc, during the Cold War era, meaning it was a socialist state and a satellite state of the Soviet Union.

The Berlin Wall, which separated East Berlin from West Berlin, was constructed in 1961, dividing the city of Berlin in two. The city of Berlin was in the geographic area of East Germany, so when the city was divided, West Berlin became what was considered an “island” of the West, surrounded by East Germany on all sides. Those who attempted to cross the Berlin Wall from East to West Berlin risked death.

The Berlin Wall fell in 1989. In 1990, Germany was officially reunified as a liberal democratic state with a market economy.

ON IDENTITY AND VOCABULARY

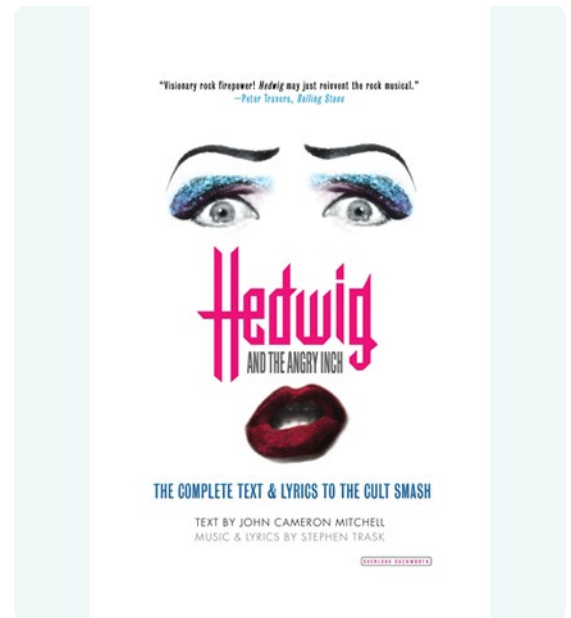
John Cameron Mitchell has said that Hedwig is genderqueer, meaning Hedwig’s gender exceeds or does not fit within binary ideas of gender. In the 1990s when *Hedwig* was created, the term **genderqueer** was used in LGBTQ communities both as an umbrella term for identities outside the gender binary and to describe unique gender identities, somewhat like how the term **non-binary** is used today. Today, some people use the terms *genderqueer* and *non-binary* interchangeably, and some define them differently. Since identity terms are constantly evolving based on individuals’ lived experiences as well as community and societal contexts, these terms don’t have static or rigid definitions.

THE ORIGIN OF “THE ORIGIN OF LOVE”

The “origin of love” creation myth told in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* was inspired by the myth told by Aristophanes in Plato’s *Symposium*, which explores Plato’s ideas about love.

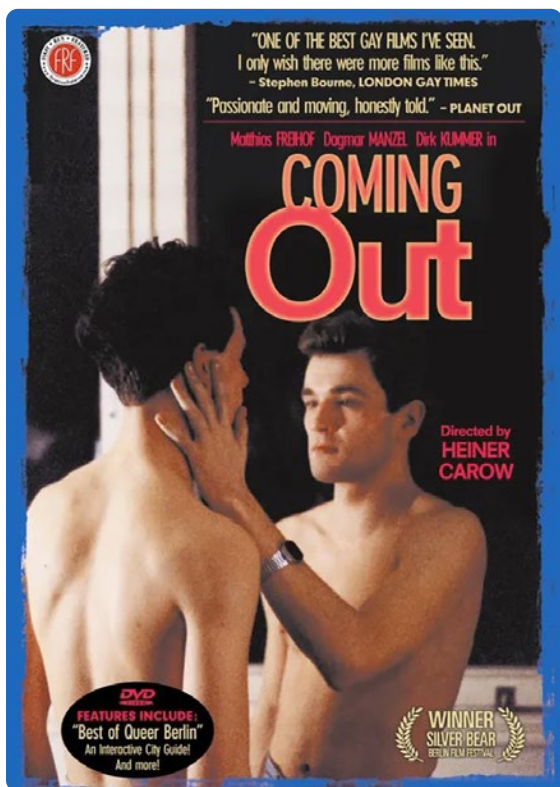
MUSICAL INFLUENCES

“To say Lou Reed had an influence on the songs I wrote for the show is like saying Hedwig might wear a little make-up,” wrote Stephen Trask in *Out* magazine. In addition to Reed, some of the major musical influences on the *Hedwig* soundtrack are David Bowie, Iggy Pop, and even Debby Boone.





The musical podcast series *Anthem: Homunculus*



Monica Bill Barnes & Company: *The Running Show*

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- ◉ The podcast *Anthem: Homunculus*
A new podcast musical by John Cameron Mitchell and Bryan Weller, available on Apple, Spotify, and other platforms
- ◉ ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at the USC Libraries
one.usc.edu
- ◉ The Wende Museum in Culver City, which holds a large collection of art and artifacts from East Germany
wendemuseum.org
- ◉ The 1989 film *Coming Out*, the only LGBTQ-centered feature film made in the former East Germany
Available to stream on Kanopy (USC students, staff, and faculty have access to a [limited subscription](#))
- ◉ The documentary *Disclosure*, about representations of trans people in film and TV
- ◉ Upcoming Visions and Voices events
9/29/22 [Monica Bill Barnes & Company: *The Running Show*](#)
9/30/22 [Live Artists Live: Sings of Freedom](#)
10/11/22 [Interstitial: A Book of \(Musical\) Stories](#)
10/25/22 [Lido Pimienta in Concert](#)

DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

RACHEL BEATTIE of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

BOOKS

- ◉ Judith A. Peraino, [Listening to the Sirens: Musical Technologies of Queer Identity from Homer to Hedwig](#) (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2005).
- ◉ Fiona Harris Ramsby, [Language and Power on the Rhetorical Stage: Theory in the Body](#) (Milton: Taylor & Francis, 2021).
- ◉ Caridad Svich, [Mitchell and Trask's Hedwig and the Angry Inch](#) (Abingdon: Routledge, 2019).



LIVE ARTISTS LIVE

Live Artists Live: Sings of Freedom

- Stephen Trask and John Cameron Mitchell, [*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*](#) (New York: Overlook Duckworth, 2013).
- Elizabeth L. Wollman, [*The Theater Will Rock: A History of the Rock Musical, from Hair to Hedwig*](#) (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 2010).

ARTICLES

- Henry Matthew, "A One-Inch Mound of Flesh: Troubling Queer Identity in Hedwig and the Angry Inch," *Journal of American Culture* 39, no. 1 (2016): 64–77.
- Holly M. Sypniewski, "The Pursuit of Eros in Plato's Symposium and Hedwig and the Angry Inch," *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* 15, no. 4 (2008): 558–86.
- Jillian Sandell, "Transnational Ways of Seeing: Sexual and National Belonging in Hedwig and the Angry Inch," *Gender, Place and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography* 17, no. 2 (2010): 231–47.

MIXED MEDIA

- John Cameron Mitchell et al., [*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*](#) (New Line Home Entertainment, 2001).
- Stephen Trask et al., [*Hedwig and the Angry Inch: Original Broadway Cast Recording*](#) (Atlantic, 2014).
- Stephen Trask et al., [*Hedwig and the Angry Inch: Original Cast Recording*](#) (Atlantic, 1999).

