Coming Out to the Mainstream is a collection of essays written from a range of perspectives, from scholars to film producers, who seek to contextualize and reframe New Queer Cinema from a 21st century perspective—decades after Stonewall, the emergence of the HIV-AIDS crisis, and the initial years of the gay marriage movement.

These essays situate themselves in the 21st century as an attempt to assess what appears to be a mainstreaming of New Queer Cinema, a current wave of New Queer Cinema film that holds potential for influencing film viewers beyond the original limits of an independent film audience, critics, and the academy.

Specifically, these essays examine whether and how the filmmaking styles and themes of New Queer Cinema have been mainstreamed—rendered familiar as points of interest in popular culture of the 21st century, challenging a queer-phobic cultural climate, and providing an incisive set of visual representations that can help inform continuing debates over queerness in public culture. For instance, what do we make of the burgeoning number of queer-themed shows and films on mainstream media? How does this trend represent, and often reproduce, the commonly understood bifurcations within the queer community?

The editors of this collection aim to achieve success in addressing and developing a new set of observations on queer cinema.

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