

Group A

In an eye-opening new documentary, director Josh Howard reveals the horrifying state-sanctioned homophobia that once plagued the US. [...]

“I did see the lavender scare as an important historical moment that needed to be documented, but I did not anticipate that some of the messages in it would have the relevance that they do have today,” says Howard, a veteran television news producer making his directorial debut with this film. “It did take me nearly 10 years to finish this film, and I'd like to say that I was planning all along that it would have this additional resonance. But I do think it is valuable that it is coming out now, when we're able to discuss these issues with a little bit of historical context.”

That context, meanwhile, remains relatively little known: although the lavender scare was closely allied with the anti-communist campaign led by Joseph McCarthy, it has received far less historical exposure and analysis than its red counterpart. Somewhat sheepishly, I tell Howard that prior to watching his film, I hadn't heard of its heroic central figure Franck Kameny, a gay astronomer who, after being fired from the US army map service in 1957, devoted his life to gay rights activism, leading picket lines outside the White House in 1965. Howard in turn admits that he knew little of Kameny (or the discrimination campaign in general) before reading the historian David K. Johnson's book *The Lavender Scare* in 2009 - and swiftly deciding there was a film to be made from it.

“I thought I knew American history, and I've lived through a lot of the gay rights movement, but the idea that the government had this systematic programme of eliminating gay men and lesbian women from the workforce was something I knew nothing about,” he says. “There are few people who contributed as much to the movement as Frank Kameny did. But gay history is not taught in schools, and there hasn't been a huge amount written about him. So I was hoping a film would help bring him the wider recognition he deserves.”

Guy Lodge “The Lavender Scare: the shocking true story of an anti-LGBT witch-hunt”, *Guardian News & Media Ltd*, 2019.

Read the text carefully and fill in the following categories.

Who ?	What ?	Where ?	When ?	What for ?
Howard J. J. McCarthy F. Kameny, a gay astronomer David K. Johnson	anti-communist campaign a film discrimination campaign "The Lavender Scare" American history	White house in school	1957 1965 2009 2005	gay rights activism and Lesbian (LGBT)

Pick out the two colours associated with witch hunts and say what they correspond to :