

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WOLFE VIDEO SET TO RELEASE DOCUMENTARY FEATURE “AHEAD OF THE CURVE” PROMOTING
LESBIAN VISIBILITY THIS JUNE**

The award-winning documentary featuring Melissa Etheridge, Lea DeLaria, Jewelle Gomez and Curve magazine founder Franco Stevens from directors Jen Rainin and Rivkah Beth Medow will debut Theatrically in NYC at IFC on May 28 and simultaneously on Home Video, Digital Platforms, DVD and STARZ on June 1.

LOS ANGELES, CA (May 21, 2021) — Wolfe Video announced today the release date for the documentary feature *Ahead of the Curve*, directed by Jen Rainin and Rivkah Beth Medow (“Bartlett,” *Being George Clooney*) and executive produced by Lindsey Dryden (“Trans in America,” *Unrest*). Featuring interviews with Melissa Etheridge (Academy Award Winner, Best Original Song *An Inconvenient Truth*), Lea DeLaria (*Orange Is The New Black*), Jewelle Gomez (*The Gilda Stories*) and Franco Stevens, the documentary is set for a Theatrical release at IFC in New York on May 28, and Home Video release on digital platforms, DVD, and STARZ on June 1, 2021.

Ahead of the Curve tells the story of Franco Stevens' wild ride as she launched Curve magazine in 1990 with a handful of credit cards and a lucky run at the horse track. A visionary and unapologetic celebration of lesbian life from cover to cover, Curve quickly became the best-selling lesbian magazine in the world. Decades later, in the wake of a disabling injury, Stevens learns that Curve will fold within the year and questions the relevance of the magazine in the face of accelerating threats to the LGBTQ+ community. To forge a path forward, Stevens reaches out to leaders working in today's queer spaces to understand how Curve can continue to serve the community. Franco explores questions of lesbian visibility, legacy, intersectionality and current day issues through interviews with contemporary LGBTQ+ tastemakers, activists and “celesbians,” along with deliciously rich archival footage recounting the formation of a true lesbian cultural institution.

Critics have praised *Ahead of the Curve* as “accomplished, insightful and deeply moving” (The Hollywood Reporter) and “a celebration; made being a lesbian feel like something to revel in” (Forbes). “Much more than a groundbreaking publication, Curve became a lifeline for the lesbian community in the 1990s. The film draws a through line to the queer BIPOC leaders doing this work today. However, like many inspirational LGBTQ+ icons and pioneers, especially women, trans and non-binary people, Franco's story remains largely unknown. Releasing in time for LGBTQ+ Pride month will bring her story to an international viewing audience, increasing awareness of Franco's legacy and encouraging conversations about the value of preserving and uplifting LGBTQ+ stories today,” says Director Jen Rainin.

“One of the reasons that Franco started the magazine was to say ‘our community is not a monolith, we are every color, every shape, every race, every size, every age, every ability – and we're all strong and beautiful!’ With this release we'll be able to reach a much wider audience and have those intergenerational conversations that are critical to creating a safer, more inclusive world,” says Co-Director Rivkah Beth Medow.

“Wolfe is honored to represent the innovation of Franco Stevens and her ‘glossy lesbian revolution,’” says Kathy Wolfe, Founder and C.E.O. of Wolfe Video.

Ahead of the Curve will be available to rent and purchase digitally on Apple TV, Google Play, FandangoNOW, VUDU and WolfeOnDemand.com. Bonus features exclusive to the DVD include extended interviews with Franco Stevens, Melissa Etheridge, Lea DeLaria and Jewelle Gomez. STARZ will premiere the documentary on their channel June 7, 2021 at 9pm ET.

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ABOUT WOLFE RELEASING:

Founded in 1985 and now celebrating over 35 years as the largest exclusive distributor of lesbian, gay, bi and transgender (LGBT) films, Wolfe Video has released some of the most popular LGBT films of the last year, including: *The Obituary of Tunde Johnson*, *Adam*; *Retablo* (a 2020 Film Independent Spirit Award nominee for Best International Film); *Jules of Light and Dark*; *1985*; *Anchor and Hope*; and *Just Friends* (Gewoon Vrienden). Wolfe Releasing has partnered with the most creative voices in the global LGBTQ film community to bring groundbreaking films to general audiences including the feature debut of Bianca Del Rio in *Hurricane Bianca*; Katherine Brooks’ romantic drama *Loving Annabelle*; Stephen Cone’s *Princess Cyd*; and *Behind The Curtain: Toderick Hall*. Upcoming releases include *Milkwater* and *Ahead of the Curve*. Wolfe’s library of beloved modern classics includes such acclaimed hits as *Reaching For The Moon*; *Cloudburst*; *Undertow* and *Big Eden*. Wolfe’s complete motion picture library can be found at WolfeVideo.com as well as at national and digital retailers including Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Hulu, Netflix, Tubi and WolfeOnDemand.com.

ABOUT FRANKLY SPEAKING FILMS:

Frankly Speaking Films is a queer women-led team, founded by Rivkah Beth Medow and Jen Rainin in 2020, to produce media that centers strong LGBTQ+ women and non-binary people to increase visibility and spark positive change. FranklySpeakingFilms.com