# LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH NEWSLETTER

University of Leicester School of Physics and Astronomy 10th February 2021, Edition 2

### LGBT+ in STEM: Spotlight on JJ Eldridge

Today, we're highlighting the work of Prof. JJ Eldridge, from the University of Auckland.

Professor Jan (JJ) Eldridge is a theoretical astrophysicist whose work focuses on understanding the evolution of stars through numerical modelling. She received her MA, MSci and PhD from the University of Cambridge. Following her doctorate,
Eldridge worked at several
astrophysical institutions before
becoming a lecturer and
professor at the University of
Auckland, where she
continues to research stellar
evolution and structure.
Recently, Eldridge was also
elected as the Head of the
University's Physics
Department.



Today's donation link is <u>Gendered Intelligence</u>, a trans-led charity that aims to increase the visibility and quality of trans experiences in the UK & beyond, especially for young trans people. Donate to them <u>here!</u>

Eldridge is a non-binary trans woman and has been a strong advocate for LGBTQ+ inclusion within science and academia. These efforts include leading campus efforts for trans and LGBTQ+ inclusion at the University of Auckland.

She is also an active public speaker, giving outreach talks on a number of scientific topics, and has

more recently been exploring the world of science-fiction through assessing the accuracy of common sci-fi ideas. In her talks, she also often references gender issues, such as in this public lecture on mind swapping and gender diversity.

Follow Prof. JJ Eldridge on twitter or at her blog!



#### **EVENTS TODAY**

10<sup>th</sup> Feb: Film Screening: My Days of Mercy (7p.m.)

Join the University of Leicester LGBT+ Society for a screening of this 2017 romantic drama, starring Elliot Page. Join the film via the LGBT+ Society's Facebook page.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOURCES**

Book for younger readers:
Peanut Goes for the Gold
is a charming picture book
by Jonathan Van Ness. The
story follows the
adventures of Peanut, a
nonbinary guinea pig who
chases their dream of
being a rhythmic gymnast.
Available from hive.co.uk
& uk.bookshop.org.

Book for older readers: The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller is a fresh

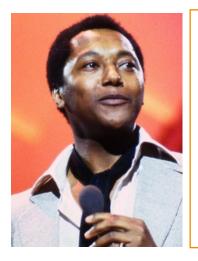
retelling of the heroic Greek tale as a quiet romance between Achilles & his comrade Patroclus.

Available from Pages of Hackney & uk.bookshop.org

Podcast: Queer as Fact is an international queer history podcast. Hosts Alice, Irene Eli & Jason explore topics & figures from around the world, and the context of those stories within queer

history. Find them on <a href="Podbean">Podbean</a>, <a href="Spotify">Spotify</a> & <a href="Acast">Acast</a>.

Livestream: shanodin is a bisexual, genderqueer streamer who is creating a friendly gaming space with an emphasis on LGBTQ+ inclusion. They play a wide variety of games, as well as hosting charity streams and community nights. Find them on Twitch & Twitter.



Today's key figure in British LGBTQ+ history is <u>Labi Siffre</u>, a gay Black singer, songwriter, musician and poet whose work has been widely covered and sampled throughout the evolution of British & international music. Born in 1945, Siffre was an active musician between 1970-1975 & 1988-1998, with some of his best-known songs including "It Must Be Love", "Crying Laughing Loving Lying" and "Something Inside so Strong". His work has been covered and sampled by artists including <u>Madness</u>, <u>Kenny Rogers</u> & <u>Kanye West</u>. Siffre met his partner, Peter John Carver Lloyd in 1964, and they were finally able to enter a civil partnership in 2005 after <u>the Civil Partnership Act 2004</u> enabled same-sex couples to attain this. He is still an active artist, and you can read his poetry & more on <u>intothelight.info</u>.

#### Contact us

To recommend scientists, events, donation links, books and podcasts for future editions, please contact the PGR Reps at the emails below:

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Special thanks to Jenni French and Rhaana Starling for their recommendations!