Acknowledgements

I now know that the originary moment of this book was one Saturday evening in Pittsburgh as I sat mesmerized by Sébastien Lifshitz’s masterful Wild Side, about fifteen years ago. It was a film that I could not stop thinking about and one that led me to many other queer cinematic places. Largely written during the Covid lockdown, this book might be my only silver lining of the global pandemic. During the decade and a half from origin to finish, I talked to a number of friends, colleagues, and students about these films. For help with this queer production, then, I thank those who read parts of the book or otherwise helped me with the writing process, including especially Thérèse De Raedt, David Pettersen, Florian Fricard, and Jonathan Devine. Some of these ideas were tested with PhD students at the University of Pittsburgh, including Cole Cridlin, Yacine Chemssi, and Brooke Wyatt. The first part of the Sciamma chapter on Water Lilies was presented at a colloquium on Sciamma at the Sussex Contemporary Directors Symposium. Thank you to the organizers of that event. Two anonymous readers helped me consider new ideas productively. I also appreciate the support from series editors Diana Holmes and Robert Ingram and from Manchester’s commissioning editor Matthew Frost. Comme toujours, my partner Tom McWhorter helped develop many of the ideas presented between these two covers, frequently during the apéritif hour. Thanks to him for taking yet another academic ride with me on this LGBTQ+ road trip through time.

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This book is dedicated to beloved academic, family member, and feminist Sonja Boos, whose loss haunts my family.