

# LGBT+ History Month

Founded by:

**SCHOOLS  
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**Lindsay Cooper**  
1951-2013

Bassoon and oboe player, composer  
for TV and film

Lindsay Cooper was an English  
bassoon and oboe player and  
composer. A composer is someone  
who writes music to help film and TV  
tell their stories.

Right up to the end of her life, Cooper  
remained a highly respected and  
influential figure in the musical world.  
She made great contributions to  
avant-garde and progressive rocket  
music. She began playing the bassoon  
at a young age and went on to study  
at the Royal Academy of Music.

She was best known for her band  
Henry Cow as well as collaborated  
with a number of musicians and co-  
founded the Feminist Improvising  
Group.

She wrote scores for film and TV and a  
song cycle Oh Moscow which was  
performed live around the world in  
1987.

She also recorded a number of solo  
albums, including Rags (1980), The  
Gold Diggers (1983), and Music For  
Other Occasions (1986).

Cooper was diagnosed with multiple  
sclerosis in the late 1970s, but did not  
disclose it to the musical community  
until the late 1990s when her illness  
prevented her from performing live.

In September 2013, Cooper died from  
the illness at the age of 62.

“  
An inspiring  
figure to young  
composers  
”



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## Ismail Merchant 1936-2005

Film producer, director and  
screenwriter

Ismail Merchant (born Ismail Noor Muhammad Abdul Rahman) was an Indian film producer, director and screenwriter. At age 13, he developed a close friendship with actress Nimmi, who introduced him to studios in Bombay (now Mumbai) and inspired him to go into the film industry.

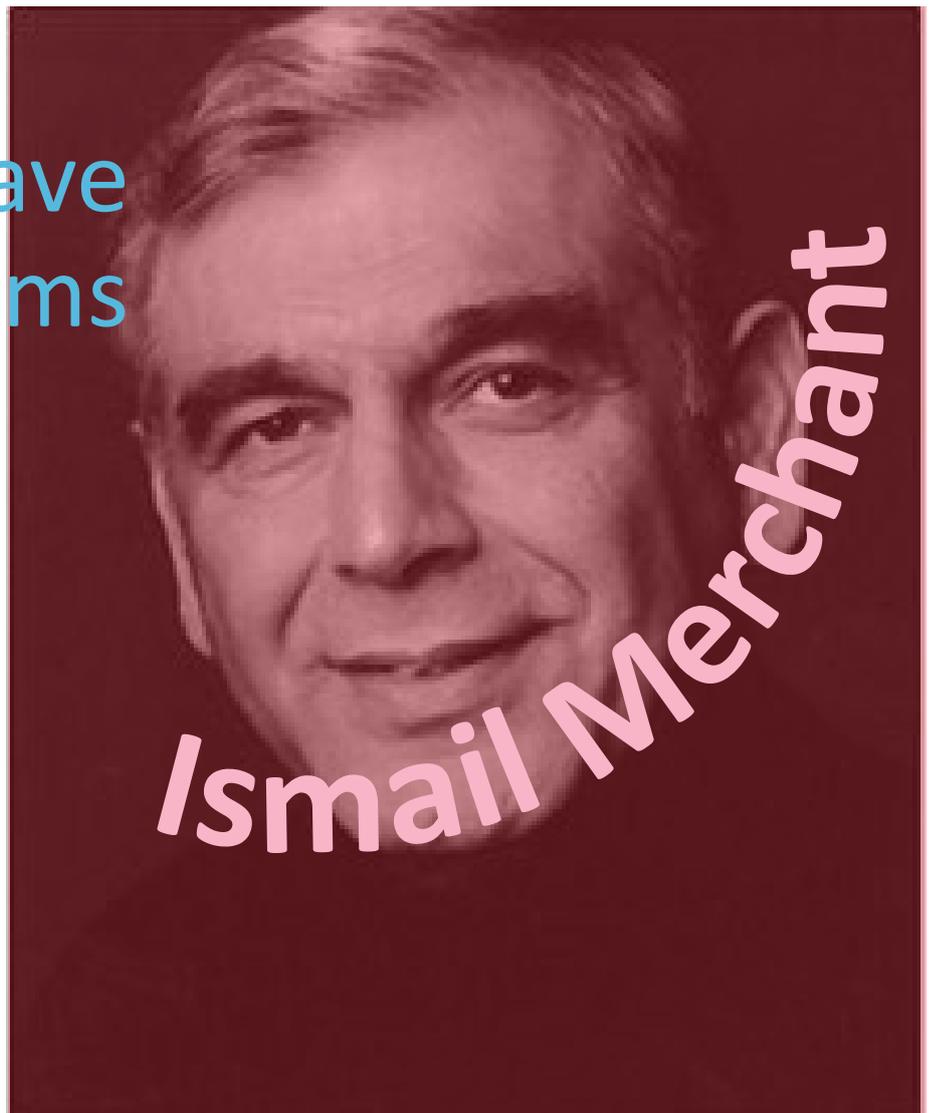
Merchant met American movie director James Ivory at a screening in New York of Ivory's documentary *The Sword and the Flute* in 1959. In May 1961, Merchant and Ivory formed the film production company Merchant Ivory Productions. Merchant and Ivory were long-term life partners. Their professional and romantic partnership lasted 44 years from 1961 until Merchant's death in 2005.

The Guinness Book of World Records says theirs was the longest partnership in independent cinema history. Until Merchant's death in 2005 they produced nearly 40 films, many of which won awards.

Merchant died in Westminster, England aged 68, following surgery for abdominal ulcers. He was buried in Bada Qabrastan Mumbai in Marine Lines, Mumbai, India on 28 May 2005.

Ismail Merchant did different jobs in the film industry. For example, as a film producer he was able to make sure films run on time and make sure there is enough money; as a film director he was able to help the actors tell the story using the script; and as a screenwriter, he created ideas for new movies.

“  
In these 40  
years we have  
made 46 films  
”



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