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JACK

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FRITSCHER

Jack Fritscher is an ex-seminarian who introduced cigars as a pop-culture fetish into the leather press.

Jack was born in Jacksonville, Illinois and was educated by Jesuits, the Marines of the Catholic Church, for 11 years. As a seminarian, he wanted to be like a social-justice French worker-priest and not like a coddled American priest living fat in a rich rectory.

Even though Jack parted ways with the Jesuits, he maintains a Marine mentality and has always fought in the front lines of LGBTQ rights.

From 1975 through 1999, Jack was the catalyst for *Drummer* magazine, the most successful and influential gay, leather magazine of all time. *Drummer* focused on gay leather culture and broke several earth-shattering, gay artists. Jack assigned his old boyfriend, the iconic, homo photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, his first magazine cover. *Drummer* was crucial to exploring and documenting the “Daddy” and “Bear” gay groups, and Jack was the first person to publish the word “Bear” on a magazine cover.

In 1984, Jack started Palm Drive Video for where he directed more than 150 pornos.

It seems Jack’s academic articles often predicted the future. When I asked him about this, he responded, “I am a pop culture scholar. You know, that’s sort of the job, predicting shit”—a gentleman and a scholar!

Even though it’s quarantine, let’s squeeze into our leather pants and light up to Episode Five of the QueerCore Podcast!

