

"SO YOU ARE LOOKING AT
YOUR HEARTBEAT AS A SOURCE OF
LIFE AND THEN EVENTUALLY A SOURCE OF
DEATH, SINCE ENTWINED WITH ITS TICKING IS
THE VIRUS, A SOURCE OF DEATH. I WANTED TO
PLAY WITH THAT PARADOX."

MARLON RIGGS (1957 – 1994) was a fearlessly forward African-American film and videomaker who also contributed greatly to gay rights activism, AIDS awareness, and anti-racist causes. Riggs' 1987 documentary for PBS, *Ethnic Notions*, was a comprehensive, Emmy award-winning indictment and examination of racial stereotypes in early American pop culture. After being diagnosed HIV+, the Harvard graduate decided to stop "straightening" up his work, and address the lives and struggles of gay men in the African-American community. Through this new vantage point, Riggs created his most controversial piece, the groundbreaking *Tongues Untied*, which prompted a fierce backlash of right wing bigotry. As Riggs stated in a response essay on the film and its controversy, *Tongues Untied* "unabashedly celebrates the struggles, lives and loves of black gay men in America." *Tongues Untied* went on to win many major film awards, and Marlon Riggs continued his important cinematic investigations with such later films as *Color Adjustment* and *Black Is...Black Ain't*, which was finished posthumously after Riggs died of AIDS-related complications.

CHANCES DANCES invites you to celebrate the magic of Marlon Riggs and all queer revolutionaries, deviants, and witches! These masks portray a selection of radical queers and allies, some from the past and some from the present, some recognized and others hidden. We hope their lives and work will inspire current and future generations to

SUMMON A NEW QUEER REALITY!

We offer this mask as a symbol of power through knowledge
and community through history! Please pass it on!

to see the other 26 masks and
info on Chances events, go to

CHANCESDANCES.ORG

Chances Dances is a LEZ BI GAY TRANS INTERSEX HETERO DANCE PARTY
that functions to bring together the varied queer communities of Chicago.
It happens on the third Monday of every month,
at Subterranean, 2011 North Avenue