1993

Gay Youth in Filmakers Library

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Gay Youth
Produced by Pam Walton

New

This is the first video to explore the emotional strain placed on gay youth by intense feelings of isolation. Adolescence is typically a time of conformity when one needs to feel secure in a peer group. But lesbian and gay young people are acutely aware of being different and often have no one to talk about these feelings. This isolation frequently leads them to drug and alcohol abuse, violence, homelessness and even suicide. In fact, in the recently published Report on Youth Suicide, the shocking fact emerged that fully 30% of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who committed suicide were gay or lesbian.

This documentary has been designed to break the silence surrounding adolescent homosexuality. It contrasts the suicide death of 20-year old Bobby Griffith with the remarkable and courageous life of 17-year old Gina Gutierrez. Gina is not afraid to meet homophobic attitudes straight on. Gay Youth shows that information, acceptance, and support can make enormous differences in the lives of these young people.

San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival 1992
40 min Video Sale $295 Rental $55
Released 1993

Out in Suburbia: The Stories of Eleven Lesbians
Produced by Pam Walton

This remarkably honest and revealing documentary shatters the stereotypes held by many people unfamiliar with the gay community. Eleven women discuss with heartwarming frankness their lives in local neighborhoods, covering a wide range of issues including marriage, motherhood, discrimination, stereotypes, and female roles.

Toronto Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, 1992
AFI's American Independent Cinema, 1990
American Film and Video Festival, 1989
National Educational Film and Video Festival, 1989
Women in the Director's Chair, 1989
Best Doc., San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, 1989
National Council on Family Relations, 1989
28 min Video Sale $295 Rental $55 Discussion guide available
Released 1990

A Lesbian in The Pulpit
Produced by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Sally Boyle, an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada, and Erin Shoemaker, executive director of an AIDS foundation, have been living together as a lesbian couple for four-and-a-half years. Despite the opposition of many members of the church, these two women have taken the courageous stand of fighting for the right to be themselves.

The membership of the church has been in great conflict over the issue of homosexuality. Those who subscribe to a strict reading of the Bible believe it is morally wrong. Sally believes the conventional idea of family must be broadened not only within the church but in society at large.

28 min Video Sale $295 Rental $55
Released 1991
Far from the sophistication and relative tolerance of urban centers, gay people are beginning to lead integrated lives in small towns throughout rural America. Danny Cooper has been upfront about his homosexuality since his teens. Now he lives openly with his lover. As the local mailman in a small Louisiana town, he has come to be accepted in a friendly and courteous manner by his neighbors.

Although Danny has been through fights in school, was once fired from his job, and even evicted from his home, he has never failed to stand up for his right to be himself. In the end, he is changing the face of anti-gay prejudice in his town.

Today, Danny is fighting his hardest battle—against HIV infection—with the same openness and courage. And even though his T-cell count is near zero, he describes himself as "the luckiest human in the world."

We Are Family
Parenting and Foster Parenting In Gay Families
Produced by Aimee Sands in Association with WGBH

Highly recommended Choice

Stripes among the homophobia associated with AIDS and provides a rich sensitive portrait of life in homosexual families with parents committed to their children as any heterosexual parent.

The Baron Globe

intelligent choice for public library and special interest group audiences

Booklist

They walk their dogs, play Monopoly, have meals together, assign chores and work out difficulties. It all sounds like normal family life. However there is one difference that would surprise most people: The parents in these families happen to be gay or lesbian.

**We Are Family** takes a look at what life is really like in homosexual families, with the focus on parenting and the well-being of the children. We meet three different families—one foster, one biological and one adoptive. In one family, two gay fathers tell of their efforts to create a secure environment for their 16-year-old foster son who was on the road to delinquency. In another household, two lesbian mothers have helped their adopted 11-year-old boy overcome the emotional trauma of disability and early neglect. In the third family, we hear how two adolescent daughters have accepted their father's homosexuality.

As gay liberation paves the way for non-traditional families, questions are being raised as to how this affects the children: Is there a risk of sexual abuse? Will they be raised to be gay themselves? What about gender role models? By seeing how much these gay and lesbian parents have to offer their children, we realize that good parenting is independent of sexual orientation.

**LEBRIAN AND GAY ISSUES**

**Fighting in Southwest Louisiana
Gay Life in Rural America**
Produced and directed by Peter Friedman and Jean-Francois Brunet

Legal program will strike a responsive chord and will greatly help to educate, enlighten and broaden our views of gay life in America

Library Journal
Because This is About Love
A Portrait of Gay and Lesbian Marriage

Produced by Shulee Ong

This is a touching profile of five lesbian and gay couples from multicultural backgrounds who have made a life-long commitment to each other by going through a marriage ceremony. Each couple tells their own story of how they met, why they decided to marry and how their family and friends responded. These funny, bittersweet and at times, triumphant stories speak of the power of love.

There are no parental pressures or societal advantages persuading these couples to wed. They do not share in one another's health insurance or retirement benefits, or file a joint tax return the way conventional couples do. Without legal status or religious sanction, they are validating their commitment to one another. It is a commitment that lends joy and meaning to life, especially for a gay couple who are each infected with the AIDS virus.

The power of this film is that it portrays in warm, non-threatening terms, a revolutionary act that questions the very foundations of family structure.

- Toronto Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992
- Los Angeles Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992

28 min Video Sale $295 Rental $55

Silent Pioneers
Gay and Lesbian Elders

A film by Pat Snyder, Lucy Winer, Harvey Marks and Paula deKoenigsberg in consultation with SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment)

In this film we meet eight elderly gays and lesbians who lived through an era when homosexuality was not tolerated and who battled constantly for self-esteem and survival in a "straight world." Among them are: a male couple still in love after 55 years of living together; a feminist author/political activist living in an intergenerational community in Florida; a former monk turned rancher who in his eighties has made peace with being Catholic and gay; a black great-grandmother who revealed her lesbianism to her grandchildren; a feisty ex-waitress from Chicago

This film challenges many stereotypes about homosexuals and shows that they have long-standing, deep-rooted commitments. And we see that older people are not asexual, as young people often believe.

Silent Pioneers is important for general audiences, both gay and non-gay. Counselors, anthropologists, psychologists, social service providers and gerontologists will be sensitized to the needs of gay and lesbian elders.

- Award Winner, Black Maria Film Festival, 1986
- Emmy Nomination, Outstanding Program, 1986
- Gold Plaque, Chicago International Film Festival, 1985
- Gold Athena, Athens International Film Festival, 1985
- CINE Golden Eagle, 1985

42 min Sale: 16 mm $650; Video $395 All rentals $65 A 30 min version is available on video

AIDS: No Sad Songs

A film by Nick Sheehan presented by the AIDS Committee of Toronto

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This film focuses on the emotional and psychological effects of AIDS, rather than the medical aspects. It centers on Jim Black who faces an early death, and Catherine Hunt, whose brother is ill. Jim's crusade is to bring AIDS victims "out of the closet." He does not regard it as a shameful disease. Catherine tells us how open communication with her ailing brother enabled them both to bear the prospect of his death.

- San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1986
- Chicago International Film Festival 1985

30 min Video Sale $295 Rental $55 Original theatrical version

61 min Sale $495 Rental $100

Released 1985
When Heather MacDonald, an American filmmaker, went to Kiev to film the homosexual population there, her first challenge was how to locate them. Lesbians and gay men have taken great pains to avoid detection, having lived with the threat of Article 121 which criminalizes homosexuality. As the film shows, Heather’s determination to make contact succeeded and nine men and women took the great risk to reveal their stories to an American audience. This film cannot be shown in Eastern European countries or former Soviet republics. These articulate men and women speak about their lives, fears, encounters with blackmail, government harassment and family rejection. They speak of chilling encounters with a Major Kosenko of the MVD, who uses gay informants blackmailed into his service. One of their greatest frustrations is their inability to recognize and meet with their counterparts. While in Moscow and St Petersburg there is the beginning of a gay culture and a gay press, in Kiev leadership has not yet emerged. Each of the people interviewed were cynical about the possibility of real change in their situation. Yet one of the positive results from trusting the filmmaker is that they have broken through their self-imposed anonymity. In this way they have become acquainted with each other, and have been able to form the nucleus of a group working for change.

*New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992*
*Los Angeles Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992*

28 minutes Video Sale $295 Rental $55  Released 1993

The feelings of bereavement suffered by a lesbian or gay man who has lost a lover are intensified by the fact that society does not recognize this loss. Whether the death occurs due to an accident, or an illness such as cancer, there are no traditions for expressing sympathy. The straight world is often insensitive and even cruel to the survivors whose relationships were not considered quite legitimate. Three who have gone through the grieving process share their thoughts.

*This is Dedicated* is an unusual and feeling portrait of people who have had to cope with their grief in an unsympathetic world. It is a unique resource to sensitize social workers, counselors, clergy, and family members to the needs of these bereaved.

24 min Video Sale $295 Rental $55  Released 1993

This entertaining film opened the New York International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Intercut with popular songs, archival film clips and period re-enactments, gay men and lesbian women recall their secret lives while serving in the British armed forces during World War II. These men and women were both patriotic and brave. They were forced to hide their sexual orientation while in the service of their country. Yet with secrecy and discretion, relationships were established that enabled them to survive the fears and uncertainties of military life.

This heretofore undocumented story of gay men and women’s contribution to the war effort will interest sophisticated audiences everywhere.

*Red Ribbon American Film & Video Festival, 1991*
*American Psychological Association, 1991*
*New York International Festival of Lesbian & Gay Film, 1990*
*Margaret Mead Film Festival, 1990*

52 min Video Sale $250 Rental $75  Released 1991
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