1997

H&H Committee Outflicks Idea Proposal

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To: H & H Committee

From: Al Lott

Date: April 21, 1997

Subject: Suggestions for OUTFILCKS 1997-1998; etc.

Two new releases from Telling Pictures, Inc. (info attached).
1. "Celluloid Closet"
2. "Where Are We?"

Two past Academy Award winners from Telling Pictures (oldies but goodies).
1. "The Times of Harvey Milk"
2. "Common Threads: Tales from the Quilt"


"The Castro" - videocassetts can be ordered by contacting KOED (San Francisco), (415) 553-2135 after the program's premiere broadcast on March 15, 1997

Additional item for discussion: URI-ROTC course content on GLB information and issues.
The Celluloid Closet is funny, profound, sad, and uplifting. It is an essential work for understanding our movies and our culture.

The Celluloid Closet is a new, fresh, collaboration of Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. Both internationally recognised filmmakers and two-time Academy Award winners, they began their careers in the 1970s as directors of the landmark documentary feature Word of Our Mouth. They went on to win the first Oscar for Times of Harvey Milk. Friedman began his career as a film editor getting his training on such projects as The Exorcist, Raging Bull and Never Cry Wolf. In 1987 Friedman and Epstein formed their own production company, Telling Pictures. Their first project together was the Oscar-winning documentary Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt for HBO, followed by the non-fiction read-along Where Are We Now, for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

An indispensable addition to the history of Hollywood.
WHERE ARE WE?
Our Trip through America

Friedman and Epstein’s Where Are We? is a movie about people and places we don’t usually see on film or TV. The two filmmakers set out on a road trip through America encountering an unusual array of people with fascinating tales to tell—from the glittery New Orleans nightclub dancer to the Marines in the gay bar across the street from Camp Lejeune to the lady who fries catfish at the Blue & White Restaurant in Tunica, Mississippi. Where Are We? is about ordinary people working, playing, and just getting by—each pursuing a unique, and sometimes startlingly original version of the American dream. A marvel of personal filmmaking and reportage.

An ideal catalyst for discussions of contemporary American culture.

Academy Award, Peabody Award, and Emmy Award-Winner

COMMON THREADS
Stories from the Quilt

This Oscar-winning documentary tells the powerful story of the first decade of the AIDS epidemic in America. Creating intimate portraits of five very different individuals whose lives are memorialized in the AIDS Memorial Quilt—from an 11-year-old hemophiliac to a gay Olympic athlete to a former intravenous drug user—Common Threads cuts through boundaries of race, class, gender and sexual orientation to create a profoundly moving testament to our common humanity. Through dramatic use of TV news reports, the film recounts the awakening awareness of this mysterious new disease and the government’s early failure to respond.

Narrated by Dustin Hoffman
Original Music by Bobby McFerrin
Produced and Directed by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman

“A great documentary.”
—Tom Shales, The Washington Post

“Smashes stereotypes. Slowly, carefully, powerfully, Common Threads takes the cold statistic and gives them very recognizable faces. Very few viewers are likely to be unmoved.”
—John J. O’Connor, New York Times

“As powerful and moving a documentary as you will ever see.”
—Pe.

“Common Threads is profoundly educational because it puts a human face on the frightening phenomenon of AIDS. The film gives a personal, social, and even political context to help the viewer make sense of this continuing scourge. I would strongly recommend it for classroom use.”
—Robert Balch, Elliott Professor of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
I've seen The Times of Harvey Milk twice and wish that I had produced it. It sets the highest standard for documentary journalism.

"Brilliant and gripping... challenging, enthralling impassioned filmmaking... a film aimed neither at straight nor gay, but at an intense, immensely moving, useful film for all of us.

Sheila Brunn, Los Angeles Times.

"Highly recommended... a shattering document of discrimination."

Gene Siskel, Chicago Tribune.

"A beautiful and powerful documentary... instructive, uplifting, sad and enraging... This is not only great filmmaking, it enters the realm of life where personal and public issues intersect in history and make art."

Andrea Kopkind, The Nation.

"I've seen The Times of Harvey Milk twice and wish that I had produced it. It sets the highest standard for documentary journalism."

-Bill Moyers.

"The much heralded, Academy Award-winning documentary about the late Harvey Milk, San Francisco's first elected gay city council member, George Moscone, the city's popular liberal mayor and Dan White, the troubled city official and former policeman who murdered them in City Hall. A riveting piece of filmmaking about communities in conflict, this film is essential to any film collection. Named as one of the best two documentaries of the decade in a poll of American film critics, The Times of Harvey Milk is a passionate film seminal to the understanding and study of civil rights, journalism, sociopolitical movements, lesbian and gay culture and non-fiction filmmaking.

"Some of the most effective and emotional classes I've taught are a result of using Common Threads and The Times of Harvey Milk. It's the only time I ever see college men crying after showing a film in class. These films provide a powerful opportunity to engage students in a discussion of controversial issues in a personalized and meaningful way. I strongly recommend using them in college courses and workshops."

-Peter M. Nardi, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology.
Pitzer College, The Claremont Colleges.

"The Times of Harvey Milk tells in compelling detail a story which Americans need to hear, view, and understand. It is inspiring with its classic tale of successful grass-roots politics. It is sobering - one more American tragedy of political assassination. Most of all it is heartwarming, infused as it is with the humanity and vitality of Harvey himself."

-Marie Nafady
Head of Donnell Media Center,
New York Public Library.

Areas of Study:
The Times of Harvey Milk is a valuable teaching and learning tool which illuminates an important historical event through a compelling story "told with urgency, passion, and finally, indignation" (Janet Maslin, New York Times). It will stimulate lively and thoughtful discussions that can be focused on a variety of topics:

- American History
- American Studies
- Civics
- Community Organizing
- Cultural Anthropology
- Film Studies
- Gay and Lesbian Studies
- Humanities
- Journalism
- Minority studies
- Political Science
- Religion and Philosophy
- Social Work
- Psychology
- Human Sexuality
- Women's Studies
- Sociology
- Violence and Social Conflict

A Study Guide Is Available with your purchase.

Ordering information is on the back page.
Academy Award winning director Richard Schmiechen vividly portrays the life and work of the woman described by the Los Angeles Times as “The Rosa Parks of Gay Rights” in CHANGING OUR MINDS: THE STORY OF DR. EVELYN HOOKER.

During the repressive 1950's, Dr. Evelyn Hooker undertook groundbreaking research that led to a radical discovery: Homosexuals were not, by definition, “sick.”

Dr. Hooker's findings sent shock waves through the psychiatric community and culminated in a major victory for gay rights - in 1974 the weight of her studies, along with gay activism, forced the American Psychiatric Association to remove homosexuality from its official manual of mental disorders.

Startling archival footage of medical procedures used to “cure” homosexuality, images from the underground gay world of the McCarthy era and “home movies” of literary icon Christopher Isherwood bring to life history which we must never forget.

Dr. Hooker's insights into “gay marriage” and the “gay community” (a term she coined), and the filmmakers' winning approach make this documentary education at its most exciting and enjoyable.

LEVELS: High School, College, Adult
SUBJECTS: Sociology, Psychology, History, Human Sexuality, Gay Studies, Women's Studies
1992 USA 75 minutes color, Available in 16mm, 3/4” & VHS video
FILM RENTAL: $25 VIDEO RENTAL: $150 VIDEO SALE: $350
FOR PREVIEWS & ORDERS:
Changing Our Minds
Frameline Distribution
346 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103
TEL: 415.263.8039 FAX: 415.781.7404 E-mail: Frameline@aol.com
As the third installment in San Francisco public television station KOED's ongoing series Neighborhoods: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco, "The Castro" promises to be must-see viewing for gay-history buffs. Although no review copies were available at press time, this 90-minute documentary chronicles the emergence of one of the world's most famous gay "ghettos" — from its beginnings as a working-class neighborhood of European immigrants to its current standing as an international symbol of lesbian and gay liberation.

"What happened in the Castro was quite dramatic," says producer and director Peter L. Stein in the program's production notes. "It's the story of men and women who came to the 'Gay Mecca,' seeking a place to call home, when their own homes were often hostile to them — and in the process built a whole culture."

Stein, 37, who is openly gay himself, spoke to more than 200 individuals for this project and ended up with 70-plus hours of interview footage. Of greatest note, however, is the documentary's never-before-seen home movies of gay life in San Francisco during the '40s and '50s which were donated by a one-time resident.

Although this program airs only in San Francisco on March 15, KOED will make it available to local PBS stations later in the year (perhaps in time for Gay Pride Month). In any case, you don't have to wait for "The Castro" to come to you. Videocassettes can be ordered by contacting KOED at (415) 553-2135 after the program's premiere broadcast.

GAY MECCA