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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"

1997 Academy Award Nominee: "Changing Our Minds: The Story of Evelyn Hooker." Owned by Women's Studies, I believe.

"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.

PICTURES

film catalog

from the makers of *The Celluloid Closet*

NEW RELEASE

THE CELLULOID CLOSET

"Brilliantly illuminating and provocative."

John J. O'Connor, New York Times

"A remarkable and involving documentary that is literally eye-opening."

Renata Loran, Los Angeles Times

"It's hard to imagine a documentary more elegant, intelligent and absorbing than *The Celluloid Closet*... eloquent, impassioned and unforgettable."

Edward Guthmann, San Francisco Chronicle

"Fascinating... a beautifully and thoughtfully made film that touches on many areas of human sexuality and human expression beyond the obvious... a vital and artful piece of work. *The Celluloid Closet* seems of equal interest to those of every conceivable sexual identity. It's not only about how people see each other and see themselves, it's also about being human and the joy and pain and confusion that strange condition entails."

Tom Shales, Washington Post

"*The Celluloid Closet* is funny, profound, sad, and uplifting. It's an essential work for understanding our movies and our culture."

Robert Selby, Author

Movie-made America: A Cultural History of American Movies

The Filmmakers

The Celluloid Closet is the most recent collaboration of Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. Epstein, an internationally recognized filmmaker and two-time Academy Award winner, began his career in 1975 as co-director of the landmark documentary feature *Word Is Out*. He went on to win the first of his two Oscars for *The 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 road-movie *Where Are We?* for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The movies are 100 years old, and gay movie characters have been with us from the beginning—even during the Production Code years, when "sex perversion" was explicitly forbidden. By turns surprising, hilarious and disturbing, *The Celluloid Closet* tells an epic story that explodes sexual myths and explores how our attitudes about homosexuality and sex roles have evolved throughout the century. From comic sissies to lesbian vampires, from pathetic queens to sadistic predators, Hollywood has both reflected and defined how we think about homosexuality—and what it means to be a man or woman.

This film, and Vito Russo's landmark book *The Celluloid Closet* on which it was based, are the definitive works in this field. Produced and directed by Academy Award-winners Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman; narrated by Lily Tomlin; featuring excerpts from 120 Hollywood movies and exclusive interviews with many of the screenwriters, directors and actors who created them, including Tom Hanks, Susan Sarandon, Whoopi Goldberg, Shirley MacLaine, Tony Curtis, Armistead Maupin, and Gore Vidal.

An indispensable addition to the history of Hollywood.

WHERE ARE WE?

Our Trip through America

... film... As a sociological
Where Are We? is a record of the
 city in America as people took a
 the Persian Gulf war and then
 recession" - *San Francisco Chronicle*

"... charming, gorgeously photographed dialogue
 with an unexpectedly articulate America" - *Chicago Tribune*

"Spontaneous and ultimately profound...
 Crossing the boundaries of race, class and sexual
 preference as well as geography, *Where Are We?* is
 subjective reportage at its most subtly telling,
 revealing the state of the union as a fragile,
 abused, but touchingly hopeful collection of
 individuals." - *SF Weekly*

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 glitzy 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



Exhibition history (partial) - Sundance Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, San Francisco International Film Festival, Sydney International Film Festival, PBS, U.S. Theatrical Release

**An ideal catalyst
 for discussions of
 contemporary
 American culture.**



Academy Award, Peabody Award, and Emmy Award-Winner

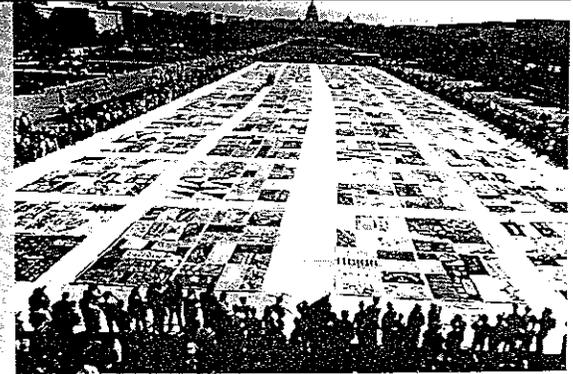
COMMON THREADS

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*

"Slams through stereotypes... Slowly, carefully, powerfully, *Common Threads* takes the cold statistics 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."
 - *Peabody Award*

"*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 Bellah, Elliott Professor of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

Changing Our Minds

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*.



Dr. Evelyn Hooker

During the repressive 1950's, Dr. Evelyn Hooker undertook ground breaking 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: \$225 VIDEO RENTAL: \$150 VIDEO SALE: \$350

FOR PREVIEWS & ORDERS:

CHANGING OUR MINDS

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television

BY ALAN FRUTKIN

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



Neighborhoods: The Hidden Cities of San Francisco
"The Castro," produced and directed by Peter L. Stein
KOED, San Francisco, premieres March 15, 7:30 p.m. Pacific time
Also available in the video arts and media center of The Advocate

EMERY RIEFF COURTESY GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA