

# Inlaws & OUTLAWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AS GAY MARRIAGE TIDE TURNS, INDIE FILM CONTINUES TO FUEL GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

**In Washington state alone, 249 Screenings of award-winning “INLAWS & OUTLAWS” documentary wins over hearts and minds church by church, community by community**

**November 8, 2012 [Seattle, WA]** — A true grassroots success story, the indie documentary *Inlaws & Outlaws* has been credited with changing hearts and minds about same-sex marriage since its release in 2007. This week, as four states break the 30-state losing streak on public votes on same-sex marriage, the film again takes the spotlight. In Washington, where all of the film's storytellers reside, public television broadcasts and a whopping **249 grassroots screenings** have brought the film to tens of thousands of Washingtonians in the years leading up to Election Day making an incalculable impact on the public sentiment.

Most surprising is the degree a film about same-sex couples has been embraced by the faith community. Of the 530+ screenings of the film presented through the film's own **Hearts + Minds Campaign**, fully half have been presented in congregations. **Rev. Debra Peevey**, the Faith Director for **Washington United for Marriage** explains the film's appeal: "The people we meet in *Inlaws & Outlaws* travel a path of rejection, self-acceptance & redemption. Their stories move us to tears and to shouts of joy! We see ourselves and we see how inclusion is afoot! This movie will invite you to think and even more, it will invite you to open your heart."

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Among the first to use the film in her community was **Kathy Reim**, the Pacific NW Coordinator for **PFLAG** (Parents, Friends & Family of Lesbians & Gays) and a long-time activist statewide for LGBT rights in Washington. In 2006, Kathy rented out the historic Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon and corralled over 400 community members to attend the film and meet some of the storytellers. This was just the first of several events that Kathy has built around *Inlaws & Outlaws* and she has been tirelessly encouraging others to use the film in their classrooms, churches and meeting rooms.

Today Kathy is ecstatic that her daughter Rachel is finally free to legally marry her partner, Tammy. She gives a great deal of credit to the film. "There is no doubt in my mind that *Inlaws & Outlaws* has made all the difference in the world in making people in Washington understand what's at stake with marriage equality. From young people in our schools to elders in our churches, I have watched first-hand faces light up and hearts open as people understand what the film presents so beautifully: marriage is about love, about choosing your family. This isn't just a movie and it's not just about equality. It's the most powerful tool we've had to get people to open up to one another about something so fundamental to making us all whole."

Starting now, a lot more PFLAG moms, church leaders and community activists around the country will get an opportunity to use *Inlaws & Outlaws* to spark discussion, inspire activism and raise money for the cause of equality. With funding solely from its dedicated fan-base, the film has been picked up for broadcast on public television and has already been scheduled for 16 markets across the nation. Seattle PBS affiliate **KCTS 9** began broadcasting the film in 2008, receiving terrific feedback from its audiences. Other stations around the nation began requesting

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it and, this summer, Emery was approached by **NETA** (National Educational Television Association) to consider national distribution.

**KCTS' Executive Director of Programming Randy Brinson** isn't surprised by the film's success. He calls it, "an elegant film with memorable characters who engage us right away. We care about these people. Their stories shine a new (and very welcome) light on what it means to be in a committed relationship. An important film for anyone following the public debate on same-sex marriage."

Today, to celebrate the passage of Referendum 74, the film's director **Drew Emery** has released ***Just Marriage: from Outlaws to Inlaws***, a 14-minute update of the film's stories and a companion piece to the feature in it's public television presentation.

"No one is more thrilled than I am that interest in this film has only grown," notes Emery. "For the past seven years, I've watched *Inlaws & Outlaws* be embraced and sustained by such a diversity of supporters, many in some very unexpected places. Perhaps I shouldn't be surprised; this phenomenon merely reflects the film's primary message that love is universal."

For press inquiries, please contact **Chris Kelly**, Fifth House Public Relations, at 617/532-0574 or [ckelly@fifthhousepr.com](mailto:ckelly@fifthhousepr.com). For broadcast dates, screenings, and more about *Inlaws & Outlaws*, visit [www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com](http://www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com) or see attached **Fact Sheet**.

A True Stories Project production, *Inlaws & Outlaws* and the Hearts + Minds Campaign is a fiscal project of Three Dollar Bill Cinema, a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.

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## Faith Leaders Embrace *Inlaws & Outlaws*

*Inlaws & Outlaws* has played at over 530 community screenings across the US so far – with fully half hosted by faith communities of several faiths and denominations. Some feedback:



*Inlaws & Outlaws* is a moving and persuasive account of the REAL "gay lifestyle": real people, in real relationships of fidelity, mutuality and self-giving commitment. It shows that gay and lesbian people are every bit as serious about their relationships, and that those relationships are every bit as deserving of society's acknowledgment, as their straight counterparts. This is a film that will change people's minds by changing their hearts. It is a "must see."

### **Bishop Gene Robinson**

Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire



The people we meet in *Inlaws & Outlaws* travel a path of rejection, self-acceptance & redemption. Their stories move us to tears and to shouts of joy! We see ourselves and we see how inclusion is afoot! This movie will invite you to think and even more, it will invite you to open your heart.

### **Rev. Debra Peevey**

Faith Director, Washington United for Marriage



Our screening at our church was such a success with a gathering of 60+ that laughed and cried at all the right places! There was agreement that this was a very powerful film for all audiences. Most importantly, this has finally allowed our Welcoming Committee to move past the abstract and consider the lives of all of our church members. I have hope.

**Clare Elizabeth**, Des Moines United Methodist Church, Des Moines, WA



*Inlaws & Outlaws* is a treasure. It's candid glimpse into the lives of actual people is an excellent implement for dispelling myths surrounding the lives of lesbian and gay persons. It contrasts with the imaginary caricatures formed in the minds of those who experience the sexual minority community only through queer jokes, news clips of pride parades and crime shows on TV.

The film illustrates a variety of experiences that make the struggles of minority persons real and demonstrates some of the ways they respond to challenges. Most significantly, it humanizes gay and lesbian people and shows them to be no different than straight people in their responses to relationships and commitment.

With each showing, my congregation has found *Inlaws & Outlaws* helpful in initiating conversation and helping members develop informed understandings of gay and lesbian persons. It is a gentle and natural introduction to a potentially conflicted topic.

**Rev. Dr. Melvin R. Woodworth**, First United Methodist Church of Tacoma

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## **About the Film:**

*Inlaws & Outlaws* cleverly weaves together the true stories of couples and singles — both gay and straight — into a collective narrative that's as hilarious as it is heartbreaking.

At the top of the film, we meet a variety of storytellers one on one. We don't know who's gay or straight or who's with whom. As their stories unfold and stereotypes fall by the wayside, love conquers all — and we find ourselves rooting for everyone.

There's the story of two Mormon women, secretly college sweethearts until one follows the path her parents have chosen for her and marries — with her beloved serving as her bridesmaid. There's the ex-Marine who has no idea what a happy relationship looks like until he stumbles across his future partner one night at a bar. And there's the nice girl from Brooklyn who somehow always picks the guys who don't treat her right — until she finds and marries a fellow almost too good to be true.

With remarkable honesty, good humor, great music and real heart, *Inlaws & Outlaws* gets past all the rhetoric to celebrate what we all have in common: we love.

A True Stories Project production  
Produced and Directed by Drew Emery  
Produced by Larry Schlessinger & Lisa Halpern  
Executive Producer: Robert D. Lemon

*100 minutes. Not rated. Suitable for mature teens on up.*

## ***Broadcast Schedule:***

<http://www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com/pbs/tv-schedule.php>

## ***Screening Events:***

<http://www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com/go/index.php>

## ***Press Kit & Photos:***

<http://www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com/press/index.php>

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