

Inlaws & OUTLAWS

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Contact: True Stories Project / Drew Emery (206) 356.2373
press@inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com
Washington United for Marriage / Lennon Bronsema 425.954.3252
info@washingtonunited.org
SIFF / Cheryl Valdez, Public Relations Manager (206) 315.0676
cheryl.valdez@siff.net

“INLAWS & OUTLAWS” Film Reaches 500 Community Screenings

Award-Winning Marriage Documentary Partners with Washington United for Equality to Win Over Hearts and Minds – SIFF Cinema Hosts Kick-Off Event at the Uptown –

(SEATTLE) [SIFF Cinema](#) presents the 500th community screening of Seattle filmmaker Drew Emery’s award-winning documentary, [Inlaws & Outlaws](#) on Thursday, March 29th 7 pm at the Uptown, 311 Queen Anne N. in Seattle. The event reunites the film, filmmaker and much of the cast for this event benefitting [Washington United for Marriage](#), the state-wide coalition created to advance equal marriage in Washington – and defend it at the ballot box in November. *(See below for screening details.)*

Starting this Spring, the film’s [Hearts + Minds Campaign](#) will partner with **Washington United for Marriage** to present community screenings all over the state in support of the recently passed equal marriage bill that **Governor Gregoire** signed into law on February 13th. *“As an American, a wife, and a mother, I believe marriage equality is fair, just, and right. And it is time”* Governor Gregoire stated at the time.

Sheila Stickel, Deputy Campaign Manager for Washington United added, “Our campaign has a goal of reaching out to thousands of Washington voters this Spring to secure

their support early in this campaign season. It is fantastic to have the support of SIFF and *Inlaws & Outlaw* for this important issue.”

The film’s unusual odyssey of how it’s found its audience roughly parallels the circuitous journey that the marriage equality movement has been on in the same time frame. “When we set out to make this film, I certainly wasn’t expecting to be married to it all these years,” admits the film’s director, [Drew Emery](#). “But at that time marriage equality was largely seen as a fringe issue that concerned only the gay community. Now as equal marriage has increasingly been seen as the civil rights issue of our times, the film has found it’s feet and taken on a life of it’s own.”

[Inlaws & Outlaws](#) owes much of its wide appeal to the way it circumvents the usual rhetoric around gay marriage to present straightforward storytelling with universal themes. The film weaves together the true stories of couples and singles — gay and straight — into a collective narrative that embraces what we have in common: we love. The film premiered at the **Seattle International Film Festival** back in 2005 and for the next year and a half, went on a fairly typical route of film festivals and industry events, generating positive critical notice and winning some awards (the **Grand Jury Award** from Oklahoma’s **deadCENTER Film Fest**, **Best of Fest** from the **Palm Springs International Film Festival**, **Best Local Film** at the **Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival**.)

Unsatisfied by offers of niche distribution to gay-only audiences, Emery re-cut the film and readied it for self-distribution by unconventional means, creating the [Hearts + Minds Campaign](#), a DIY grassroots program that empowers individual activists, schools, non-profits or congregations to present the film locally and inspire change. Since launching in 2007, the Campaign has given the film an unusually long afterlife, playing in cities and small towns from Oklahoma, Indiana, Maine and, naturally, Washington.

Emery notes that **nearly half of the film's 500 screenings have been hosted by churches and synagogues.** "That's not big box office but it's a mighty big impact," he added, noting that this flies in the face of the media perception that gay rights are inherently in conflict with religious communities.

Now with the 500th screening at **SIFF Cinema**, the film's come full circle. "SIFF was thrilled to premiere *Inlaws & Outlaws*, one of the first films telling the stories behind the marriage equality movement," noted **Carl Spence**, Artistic Director of Seattle International Film Festival. "It's great to see that the film remains an important catalyst for ending marriage discrimination in our state and nation."

"Having the film play to gay audiences on the coasts would've been fine," says Emery. "But our goal was always to reach across the usual divides and create common ground. Now as the equal marriage debate has finally moved from the fringe to center stage, more and more people are moving to where the film has been all along: marriage is about love, about creating family — pretty mainstream American values."

The [Hearts + Minds Campaign](#) gives screening hosts the option of using the film to educate, advocate, raise money or just provide a social gathering for diverse audiences to come together. The Campaign provides a website full of tools to support the grassroots events and, if screening hosts choose to sell DVDs of the film at their screenings, the Campaign splits the earnings with the hosting organization to further empower their grassroots efforts.

"We want to make this as win-win as we can," says Emery. "There are a growing number of people and organizations working toward full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people but we feel that the most powerful tools we have at our disposal are our own true stories. That's not only what the film delivers but what it brings out in its audiences."

A **True Stories Project** production, [Inlaws & Outlaws](http://www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com) was originally developed with the grant from the **Seattle Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs**. Completion funds were provided, in part, by the **Pacific Pioneers Documentary Fund**. The **Hearts + Minds Campaign** is a fiscal project of **Three Dollar Bill Cinema**, a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.

For more information visit: www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com.

Press kits, high-res photos, reviews and more available here: [Press Room](#).

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Inlaws & OUTLAWS

“Inlaws & Outlaws” 500th Screening A Benefit for Washington United for Marriage

[SIFF Cinema at the Uptown](#)

511 Queen Anne Ave N., Seattle, 98109

Thu, March 29th, 7 pm

General admission tickets are \$10 and available [online](#) at at the door, starting one hour before show time.

[About the Film:](#)

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

At the top of the film, you meet real people one on one. You don't know who's gay or straight or who's with whom. As their stories unfold and stereotypes fall by the wayside, you'll find yourself rooting for everybody. With candor, good humor, great music and real heart, *Inlaws & Outlaws* gets past all the rhetoric to embrace what we have in common: We love.

A True Stories Project production, filmed in Seattle
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.

[About Washington United for Marriage:](#)

Washington United for Marriage is a coalition of organizations, congregations, unions, and businesses working together to secure civil marriage for loving, committed same-sex couples.

We believe marriage and family are about love and commitment, working together, bettering the community, raising children, and growing old together. We believe in a Washington that supports strong families and values freedom and equality. And we believe that marriage matters.