

# Inlaws & OUTLAWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **"Inlaws & Outlaws" Returns to OKC by Local Demand Churches and Gay Pride Festival Form Unlikely Alliance to Bring Back Film**

(OKLAHOMA CITY) **"Inlaws & Outlaws,"** winner of the **deadCENTER Film Festival's Grand Jury Prize**, is returning to Oklahoma City by popular demand for a limited engagement coinciding with this week's Gay Pride Festival. A documentary that plumbs the nature of love and marriage by weaving together true stories of straight and gay couples alike, the film has won a national following by skirting the oft-divisive issue of marriage equality and focusing instead on the universality of love. The exclusive Oklahoma screenings will take place at **Harkins Bricktown 16**, 150 E. Reno Ave, Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. (See attached for show times.) Tickets are \$7. Call (405) 231-4747 or visit [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com).

An independent production out of Seattle, "Inlaws & Outlaws" took an unusual route to Oklahoma when native Jim Wheeler attended a screening of "Inlaws & Outlaws" in Seattle with his daughter Amy. Moved by the film's hopeful message, Jim contacted the filmmakers and asked for a copy that he could show back home. For several months, Wheeler, an ex-pastor, hosted weekly screenings of the film in his living room and at local churches. By inviting church leaders, politicians, local activists and film buffs, his plan was to build an "Outlaws Posse" of energized folks who would help bring the film here to Oklahoma.

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## **Inlaws & Outlaws in Oklahoma**

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At one such screening, Oklahoma County Commissioner Jim Roth attended with his mother, who was moved to tears. Roth quickly got on board in support of the film. “Whether your gay or not, it’s just a great film! I’d love for as many people here as possible to see it.”

Eventually, a programmer for the deadCENTER Film Festival saw the film and soon it was invited to be part of this year’s festival. Last week, “Inlaws & Outlaws” won the festival’s Grand Jury Prize.

Since then, a grassroots campaign to bring the film back to Oklahoma City developed. Community leader Bob Lemon offered financial support. Organizers of the Oklahoma Gay Pride Festival offered their support as sponsors. The film is now scheduled for an exclusive engagement at the Harkins Bricktown 16. And film director Drew Emery, posse organizer Amy Wheeler, and two of the film’s star subjects, Pete-e Petersen and Jane Lighty, will serve as Grand Marshals of the Pride Parade.

“This is thrilling,” says Emery. “That churches, gay pride and ordinary Oklahomans have come together to make this happen is proof that, when it comes to love, the red state blue state divide just doesn’t hold water. And it’s poetic. We interviewed in-laws and outlaws because we wanted a film that spoke to everybody. So it’s wonderfully validating to have the film embraced by straight and gay folks alike in Oklahoma City.”

The director and subjects of the film will appear at select screenings of the film at Harkins Bricktown 16. On **Saturday, June 24th at 9pm**, they will appear at the Pride Festival in Memorial Park at the South Stage, along with Betsy Smittle (Garth Brooks’ sister) and her band, The Edge.

For more information on “Inlaws & Outlaws,” see the attached Press Kit, or visit: [www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com](http://www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com).

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# Inlaws & OUTLAWS

## Fact Sheet:

**WHAT:** “Inlaws & Outlaws” Marriage from the inside. And out.

**WHEN:**

Thursday	June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7:00 pm	Free community screening!
Friday	June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7:00 pm   9:00 pm	
Saturday	June 24 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm   9:00 pm	
Sunday	June 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 pm	

**WHERE:** Harkins Bricktown 16  
150 E. Reno Ave.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**HOW:** Tickets are \$7 and are available by calling (405) 231-4747 or visiting [www.harkinstheatres.com](http://www.harkinstheatres.com)

**SYNOPSIS:** As the gay marriage debate rages on, this new film by Drew Emery gets past all the rhetoric to capture the heart of the matter: **it’s about love.** Everybody has a story to tell about meeting their mate, deciding to commit and struggling with the ups and downs of a long- term (or not-so-long-term) relationship. By weaving together a series of refreshingly honest interviews, “Inlaws & Outlaws” takes a humorous and wide-angled look at real relationships of all shapes and sizes. Whether straight or gay, young or old, coupled or single, by the end, you’ll be rooting for them all . . . and falling in love with love.

### What the Critics Say:

“Captures the heart of love...” John Hartl, *The Seattle Times*

“Lovingly rendered... a timely examination of the nature of marriage, whether straight or gay.” Ken Eisner, *Variety*

“Excellent. Intelligently done... it’s impossible not be completely absorbed.” Herb Krohn, *SGN*

Visit: [www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com](http://www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com)