

# Inlaws & OUTLAWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wednesday, May 3, 2006**

Kill date: May 12<sup>th</sup>

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## **Marriage Documentary Storms Ohio in “Hearts & Minds” Tour Local Churches, PFLAG Ohio and Equality Ohio Host Filmmaker on 6-City Tour**

(SEATTLE) Next week, “**Inlaws & Outlaws**,” Seattle filmmaker Drew Emery’s award-winning documentary on marriage, launches the first leg of its **Hearts & Minds Tour** in battleground state, Ohio — where the license plates read “Ohio: the heart of it all.” More than 30 community organizations and local PFLAG chapters in Ada, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Columbus, and Yellow Springs are co-sponsoring local screenings of the film in independent theatres.

comes to Kirkland for two screenings hosted by RCE (Religious Coalition for Equality) and PFLAG (Parents, Friends & Family of Lesbians & Gays). Presented at Lake Washington High School, 12033 NE 80th Street, Kirkland, the screenings take place **Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm and 7 pm**. The high school is where anti-gay minister Ken Hutcherson hosts his controversial **Antioch Bible Church**. Advance sale tickets are \$9 general admission and \$5 for students, seniors and unemployed, and are available, in person, by phone or online through **Ticket Window**. Call (206) 325.6500 or visit [www.ticketwindowonline.com](http://www.ticketwindowonline.com).

Reverend **Monica Corsaro**, spokesperson for the Religious Coalition for Equality, is enthusiastic in her support of the local film, a documentary that weaves together the true stories of both gay and straight committed relationships. “Regardless of one’s faith, surely if you believe in God, you believe in love. We want everyone to see this film because we can’t think of a better way to celebrate the fact that love is love and it’s a beautiful thing. Those that have actually studied the Bible know that it’s central message is one of love and inclusivity, not judgment and exclusivity.”

**“Inlaws & Outlaws” Comes to Ohio to Change Hearts & Minds**

## PFLAG Ohio, Equality Ohio, & Local Churches Team Up to Present Film

Dayton, OH – The award-winning documentary “Inlaws & Outlaws” will be showing at **The Neon theatre in Dayton on May 11** as part of the six-city “Hearts and Minds” tour sponsored by PFLAG Ohio and Equality Ohio Education Fund. CRUCIAL: put where (incl address), when, ticket price and how to get tickets at end of every first paragraph! On a separate sheet, list ALL the screening info.

More than 30 community organizations and local PFLAG chapters in Ada, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Columbus, and Yellow Springs are co-sponsoring their local showing of the film.

Drew Emery, the film’s director, as well as Heather Andersen, who appears in the film with her partner of 17 years, will be traveling to many of the venues across Ohio promoting the film’s central theme: love unites, fear divides.

“We wanted to debunk the lie that love — and the pursuit of it — is somehow something that divides us, rather than the essential human characteristic that connects us, no matter how hard we try to deny it,” said Emery. “What better place to do that in than Ohio, the heart of it all?”

The film includes stories of diverse relationships including gay, straight, married, single, divorced, and widowed. Rather than focusing on the controversy around same-sex marriage, the it emphasizes the commonality of the human experience with humor and honesty. The result is an intimate film that *Seattle Times* critic John Hartl says “captures the heart of love.”

[If I’m understanding you right, the red will be a local quote from a presenter. I would have them say something PERSONAL about how the film affected them. It needs to sound like a fun, touching good film experience, not a civics lesson.]

**“This film has the potential to affect change,” said Dan Tepfer of Dayton PFLAG. “It can inform straight viewers of the validity of gay relationships and invigorate gay viewers with the need to tell their stories.”**

Equality Ohio Education Fund spearheaded the effort to bring “Inlaws & Outlaws” to a statewide audience.

“At a time when Ohio is last in the nation in terms of equal rights for its lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens, we are thrilled to bring a film that seeks to dispel the myths about their relationships,” said Lynne Bowman, Executive Director of the Equality Ohio Education Fund. “Love, commitment, and heartbreak are universal across humanity,” said Bowman. “Every Ohioan should see this film.”

Equality Ohio Education Fund envisions an Ohio where everyone feels at home, living in families and communities where equality, diversity and inclusiveness are universally valued; and where government protects all people and responds to their needs, regardless of sexual orientation and

gender identity or expression. Visit the website at [www.equalityohioedfund.org](http://www.equalityohioedfund.org).

Director Drew Emery echoes the sentiment: “Some opportunists have tried to create a false divide around love and marriage by cynically exploiting some people’s fears about gay people and the changing face of our society. The film tries to set us all on the same level playing field, and express through some wonderfully poignant and entertaining (cont’d)

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stories, that love is human and universal and anyone who tries to tell you otherwise is banking on fear and ignorance to divide us against each other.”

Emery’s feature debut, “Inlaws & Outlaws” premiered to two sold-out screenings at last year’s **Seattle International Film Festival**, garnered great reviews from Ken Eisner of *Variety*, and John Hartl of the *Seattle Times*, and then when on to sell out the venerable **Cinerama** in July at a special event for the film. Since then, the film has had an astonishing run in the festival circuit, playing at the Palm Springs Film Festival (chosen Best of Fest), the Santa Fe Film Festival, the Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (chosen Best Local Film), the IFP Market in New York, the Martha’s Vineyard Film Festival, the Ashland Independent Film Festival and, just last week, the True/False West Film Festival in Bellingham.

Starting May 9th, Emery takes the film on a **six-city tour of Ohio**, an inaugural effort in what he expects will be a nation-wide “Hearts & Minds Campaign.” Partnering with Equality Ohio, local PFLAG chapters and several open and affirming churches, the tour is an opportunity to bridge the false divide on love by bringing diverse audiences together to acknowledge and celebrate the common human experience of falling in love. Joining him on the tour will be **Heather Andersen**, one of the name plaintiffs in Andersen vs. Sims, a civil suit now before the Washington Supreme Court. Sometime in the coming weeks or months, the court will decide whether or not King County or the State of Washington can deny marriage equality to same-sex couples given the equal protection clauses under the

state's constitution.

Initial funding for “Inlaws & Outlaws” was provided by the Seattle Mayor’s Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs through their ArtsUp initiative. Additional funding came from the Pacific Pioneer Documentary Fund. 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.

**WHO:** Presented by the RCE (Religious Coalition for Equality), and PFLAG (Parents, Friends & Families of Lesbians & Gays)  
Co-Sponsored by Lambda Legal

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm | 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** Lake Washington High School Auditorium  
12033 NE 80th Street, Kirkland, Washington

**HOW:** Tickets are \$9, general admission; \$5 for students, seniors and unemployed, and are available through **Ticket Window**, located in the Broadway Market, the Pike Place Market and the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. Call (206) 325.6500 or visit [www.ticketwindowonline.com](http://www.ticketwindowonline.com)

**SYNOPSIS:** As the gay marriage debate rages on, this unique documentary by Drew Emery goes beyond the rhetoric to explore just what it means to be married. From a time when marriage was expected of virtually everybody, to today when the very definition is in question, this film reveals the extraordinary stories of couples and ex's, friends and lovers, all pursuing the same simple dream. Whether loving inside or outside of marriage, struggling to get in or suing to get out, we follow the lives of ordinary folks as they figure out their own path to happily ever after - with more than a few surprises along the way.

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

# The Inlaws & OUTLAWS Story

**May 2005** **World Premiere** at SIFF, playing to **two sold-out houses**. Drew Emery is selected as a runner up for Best Director in Golden Space Needle Awards.

**July 2005** **Big Splashy Gala** at Cinerama, courtesy of Vulcan, Inc. The film gets the red carpet treatment to another **sold-out house** in the venerable 835-seat theatre. Ron Sims greets the crowd before and jazz vocalist Felicia Loud and the Inlaws & Outlaws Band wow them afterward.

**Sept 2005** **IFP Market in New York**. The film is one of only 8 feature documentaries invited to screen at the Independent Film Project's annual Market in New York.

**Oct 2005** **Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival**. The first screening of "Inlaws & Outlaws" **sells out** in advance and a second screening is added at Cinerama. The film goes on to win "**Best Local Film.**"

**Nov 2006** **Santa Fe Film Festival**. The film screens twice as an official entry.

**Jan 2006** **Palm Springs International Film Festival**. After screening twice to two large and enthusiastic crowds, audiences pick "Inlaws & Outlaws" as one of the **Best of Fest** films, where it receives an encore screening.

**Feb 2006** **GLEAM (Gay & Lesbian Employees at Microsoft)** hosts two special screenings at the Broadway Performance Hall. **Another sell-out!**

**Mar 2006** **Martha's Vineyard Film Festival**. The film is given one of the few coveted spots in this fiercely independent film festival.

**Apr 2006** **Ashland Independent Film Festival**. Four sold-out screenings at Oregon's hippest fest.

**True/False West Film Festival**, Bellingham. The venerable docu film fest included the film in its inaugural program.

## 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*

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