

Inlaws & OUTLAWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Karen Besserman: (206) 274-5858
karen@bessermanassociates.com

SPAWNED AT SIFF: GAY-THEMED FILM FINDS SURPRISING HOME AT CHURCHES FROM OKLAHOMA TO SEATTLE

Congregations Screen the Film in Advance of Cinerama Premiere and Two-Week Run at the Uptown Theatre

(SEATTLE) Fresh on the heels of a successful run in the festival circuit, starting with a premiere at SIFF, Seattle filmmaker Drew Emery's award-winning documentary, **Inlaws & Outlaws**, gears up for the red-carpet treatment at **the Cinerama, Thursday, June 14th** — followed by an exclusive two-week engagement at **the Uptown Theatre** in Queen Anne, beginning June 15th — just in time for Pride season.

Leading into this theatrical run, however, is an unusual alliance between the filmmaker and the progressive religious community — namely in the **Religious Coalition for Equality (RCE)** and member churches of the **Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)**. Just this past Saturday, the **Ravenna United Methodist Church** pulled out all the stops to host a screening of the film for their congregation and neighbors. “I thought this would be a great way for us to spread the word that our congregation is welcoming to all people, regardless of sexual orientation,” says Pastor Dan Shelly. “We ended up having a great movie night and a terrific discussion with the filmmaker afterwards.” Proceeds from that screening benefit the church's outreach program for at-risk youth.

The next two screenings are hosted by the Religious Coalition for Equality (RCE), an interfaith association of lay persons and clergy committed to educating and advocating for marriage equality for all couples and civil rights for all. RCE has set an goal of bringing **Inlaws & Outlaws** to at least fifty congregations across Washington state this year.

On May 18th, the University Congregational UCC (4515 – 16th Avenue NE in Seattle’s University District) **will kick off this grassroots campaign** by hosting a screening for both church members and the community at large. **Drew Emery, the film’s director, will be in attendance at the 7 pm event** and will conduct a question and answer session after the film. A suggested donation of \$5 is requested with all proceeds going to RCE.

On Saturday, May 19th, 7 pm, a second church screening will be held at **Seattle First Baptist Church** (1111 Harvard Avenue on Seattle’s First Hill). This screening will also feature the film’s director as well as two key subjects of the film, Pete-e Petersen and Jane Abbott Lighty. Petersen and Lighty were married at Seattle First Baptist a year and a half ago.

The partnership with RCE is a preview of the film’s **Hearts + Minds Campaign**, which empowers local congregations, non-profits, schools and individual activists or film enthusiasts to host screenings of the film in their community. In Washington state alone, there are screenings slated in the coming months in Port Townsend, Vancouver and Bellingham. And in Indiana, in the heart of the Bible Belt, a local progressive network of churches is planning a statewide tour of the film throughout the summer.

“We’ve have found tremendous audiences for this film in progressive congregations,” explains Drew Emery, the film’s director. “That’s the story of this film. The media would have us believe that gay and straight folk are irreconcilably at odds on so-called “lifestyle” issues — and they would have us believe that gay folks and religion are like oil and water. But my own

preconceptions were challenged when churches started coming to me and, sight unseen, requested the film.”

Inlaws & Outlaws premiered at the **Seattle International Film Festival** in 2005 and then captured Best of Fest at the Palms Springs International Film Festival and the Grand Jury Award at the deadCENTER Film Festival.

The film’s success is owed in great part to it’s ability to get past all the divisive rhetoric on gay marriage to look at **real relationships**, gay and straight, and capture the heart of the matter: **it's about love**. By weaving together a series of refreshingly honest true stories from couples and singles, divorced and widowed, **Inlaws & Outlaws** takes a humorous and wide-angled look at what it takes to find a mate — and keep them. At the top of the film, you don’t know who’s gay or straight and who’s coupled with whom. By the end, you won’t care and you’ll be rooting for them all.

The film’s Hearts + Minds Campaign is a fiscal project of Three Dollar Bill Cinema. For more information on the Campaign and how to sponsor a screening, contact Lindsay at (206) 274.5858 or lindsay@inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com.

Inlaws & Outlaws
Marriage from the inside. And out.

For more information see the attached Fact Sheet, or visit: www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com.

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- WHAT:** “Inlaws & Outlaws” Hearts + Minds Screenings
Hosted by the Religious Coalition for Equality
- WHEN:** May 18th at 7 pm at the University Congregational UCC
4515 – 16th Avenue NE in Seattle’s University District
- May 19th at 7 pm at Seattle First Baptist
1111 Harvard Avenue on Seattle’s Capitol Hill
- HOW:** Screenings are open to the public. A suggested donation of \$5 will benefit the Religious Coalition for Equality.
- WHO:** A True Stories Project production, filmed in Seattle
Produced and Directed by Drew Emery, his debut feature

About the Film: **Inlaws & Outlaws** is a film about love. We set out to create a film that bridges the usual divides and speaks to everybody. We interviewed couples and singles, gay and straight, and wove their true stories into a collective narrative that shows that we all have in common. We love. We lose. We long for family. We’re all human and we all want to belong.

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.**”
Seattle Gay News

“An **excellent documentary** about people who personify everything that is right about the phrase “I do.” *NewsOK*, Oklahoma City

“A **timely, often affecting documentary** [that] investigates with subtlety and insight... a heartfelt and surprisingly tender story...” *Cincinnati City Beat*

“An effective treatise on love... **honest and heartfelt.**” *Kitsap Sun*

Visit: www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com