



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tues, June 21, 2005

Kill date: July 8

Contact: Taryn Rux

(425) 772.2306

press@inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com

“Inlaws & Outlaws” Makes Splash at SIFF

Local documentary next up at Cinerama July 7th

(SEATTLE) Local independent production company, **True Stories Project** unveiled Drew Emery’s “**Inlaws & Outlaws**,” with a highly successful premiere at this year’s **Seattle International Film Festival**. Next up, this unconventional documentary on marriage in the modern age is set to make an even bigger splash when **Vulcan Inc** and **Cinerama** host two gala screenings at **Seattle Cinerama Theatre, July 7th at 7:00 and 9:45 pm**. The two screenings are co-sponsored by **The Pride Foundation**, the **Seattle LGBT Community Center**, the **Human Rights Campaign (HRC)**, **Equal Rights Washington**, **Lambda Legal Defense** and **Statscript Inc**. Tickets for “Inlaws & Outlaws” at Cinerama are \$12 and \$15 and available at **Ticket Window**. Call (206) 325.6500 or visit www.ticketwindowonline.com.

From the start, “Inlaws & Outlaws” was conceived as a film built around intimate, first-person story-telling. Director **Drew Emery** threw out the documentary playbook with it’s over-emphasis on staking out a superior point of view and relied, instead, on a narrative core chock full of compelling characters, unexpected twists and turns and good old-fashioned conflict. Best known for his theatre work as a playwright and oral historian, (*Hidden History*, *Language of One*, et al), Emery lends a fresh theatrical flair to his feature film debut by weaving sharp observations from man-on-the-street encounters into the main subjects’ collective storyline and then throwing in an unexpected dash of musical performance from Seattle jazz and soul great **Felicia Loud**. The result is a surprising blend of honest, irreverent and thoroughly charming narrative that, while emphasizing the experiences of same-sex couples in long-term relationships, includes people of all orientations and backgrounds—married or single, divorced or widowed,

—MORE—

Inlaws & Outlaws

Pg 2 of 3

lovelorn or enamored. By offering up a refreshing take on an age-old institution, “Inlaws & Outlaws” deftly side-steps the pundits and speaks from the heart.

While the debate on gay marriage occasioned the making of the film, it’s only a small part of the resulting storyline. “To be honest,” admits Emery, “I really resisted doing anything that might be perceived as being an ‘issue’ film. I’m certainly passionate about equal rights, but my mission as an artist is all about story.” Luckily, there’s no shortage of compelling material ready for the taking.”

To defy preconceptions, both gay and straight individuals and couples were interviewed on a level playing field, and then woven into a collective narrative. The goal was to find common ground without preaching to the choir. “I just find it striking that who we choose to love is put out there as the big dividing line between gay and straight people,” Emery observes. “It seems obvious to me that it’s exactly that—our capacity to love—that connects us. It’s universal. Who can’t identify with the thrill of first love, the despair of break-up, the longing for intimacy and the devastation of losing a partner?” Producer **Lisa Halpern** concurs: “We didn’t set out to make a gay movie; this is a human story, plain and simple. Love is love. It’s really not that complicated.”

Shot in Seattle in the summer of 2004, and funded, in part, by a development grant from the Mayor’s Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, “Inlaws & Outlaws” steadily picked up steam as interest in the topic and the filmmakers’ unconventional approach to it created buzz, all of which drew the participation of dozens of interview subjects, several veteran Seattle film professionals, an army of volunteers and a mother lode of contributions, large and small, from local businesses and individuals. Key among them was the film’s community collaborator, the **Seattle LGBT Community Center**.

The Cinerama screenings mark the culmination of a year-long sprint from pre-production through post in an effort to get the timely film in front of audiences as soon as possible. In April, the producers were thrilled to be invited to premiere the film at the **Seattle International Film Festival** as one of only four locally-produced features. “It’s an incredible honor to premiere at SIFF,” noted producer **Larry Schlessinger**. “Not only is SIFF widely respected, but we made our film to *move* audiences and to get them to think beyond the headlines. But SIFF has got to have *the* best festival audience around—opinionated, responsive—they do love their movies! Getting to share the film first with the community that spawned it was icing on the cake.”

Inlaws & Outlaws

Pg 3 of 3

The excitement, apparently, was mutual. “This was one of the few films that not only sold out both screenings, but also received rapturous applause and standing ovations,” noted SIFF Director of Programming, **Carl Spence**, adding “[Inlaws & Outlaws] is groundbreaking in its honest and straightforward exploration of long-term relationships and marriage from all points of view.” To top it off, Emery went on to be chosen 4th Runner-Up as Best Director in the Golden Space Needle Awards.

“Inlaws & Outlaws” was produced by **Lisa Halpern** (“White Face,” “Inheritance” et al) and dot-com refugee **Larry Schlessinger**. Directors of photography were **Ryan Purcell** (“Kennewick Man”) in the studio and **Mark Simon** (“The Business of Fancydancing”) on location. The film was edited by Emery with **Celia Beasley**, **Michael Cutts** and **Joe Rettenmaier**. **Rebecca Luke** of Les Egoistes served as Art Director and **Steve Jones** recorded sound.

Eric Lane Barnes, best known as the front-man for vocal troupe Captain Smartypants as well as an accomplished writer for musical theatre (last year’s *The Stops*), composed the original score and supervised the music used throughout the film. **Felicia Loud**, the featured vocalist and MC, has wowed Seattle theatre audiences with her deft acting and phenomenal vocal range (*Crowns* and *Lady Day*) and also performs her own brand of R&B with her band The Soul.

On **Tuesday, June 28th** at **12 noon**, The True Stories Project will host a **press screening** of “Inlaws & Outlaws” at the Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Avenue, Seattle. To RSVP, contact **Assistant Producer Taryn Rux** at (425) 772.2306 or email press@inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com.

###



Fact Sheet: Inlaws & Outlaws at Cinerama

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

At **Seattle Cinerama Theatre**
Big Splashy Gala to follow
The Palace Ballroom, 5th & Lenora

WHO: A True Stories Project Production
Screenings sponsored by Vulcan Inc and Cinerama
Co-sponsored by the Pride Foundation, the Seattle LGBT Community Center, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Equal Rights Washington, Lambda Legal Defense Fund and Statscript, Inc.

WHEN: **Thursday, July 7th, 7:00 and 9:00 pm**

WHERE: **Seattle Cinerama Theatre**
2100 4th Avenue
Downtown Seattle

HOW: **General admission tickets are \$12 and \$15.**
Advance sale tickets 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**

PRESS SCREENING:

Tuesday, June 28th at 12 noon, Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Avenue.
Contact Assistant Producer Taryn Rux at (425) 772.2306 or email
press@inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com.

Visit: www.inlawsandoutlawsfilm.com