

Section 6: Heterosexism

Further Resources

Video Resources

“*A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde*,” Ada Gay Griffin and Michelle Parkerson, Directors, 1995, 60 minutes, Third World Newsreel.

An epic portrait of the eloquent, award-winning Black, lesbian, poet, mother, teacher and activist, Audre Lorde, whose writings spanning five decades articulated some of the most important social and political visions of the century. From Lorde's childhood roots in NYC's Harlem to her battle with breast cancer, this film explores a life and a body of work that embodied the connections between the Civil Rights movement, the Women's movement, and the struggle for lesbian and gay rights. At the heart of this documentary is Lorde's own challenge to “envision what has not been and work with every fiber of who we are to make the reality and pursuit of that vision irresistible.”

“*A Jihad for Love*,” Parvez Sharma, Director, 2007, 81 minutes, First Run Features.

The first-ever feature-length documentary to explore the complex global intersections of Islam and homosexuality, filmed in twelve countries and nine languages. With unprecedented access and depth, Sharma brings to light the hidden lives of gay and lesbian Muslims from countries like Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, Turkey, France, India, and South Africa.

“*Bi the Way*,” Directed by Brittany Blockman and Josephine Decker, 2008, 93 minutes, Liv Films.

Documentary about the changing nature of sexuality and sexual identity in U.S.-America today and how the next generation is redefining its sexual mores. The directors travel across the country talking mostly to young people about their new definitions of sexual identity. It is an eye-opening film, because it really begins to break down our normative dichotomous definitions of heterosexuality and homosexuality.

“*Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World*,” John Scagliotti, Director, 2005, Narrated by Janeane Garofalo. 60 minutes. First Run Features.

The first documentary to deeply explore the lives of gay and lesbian people in non-western cultures. Traveling to five different continents, we hear the heartbreaking and triumphant stories of gays and lesbians from Egypt, Honduras, Kenya, Thailand, and elsewhere, where most occurrences of oppression receive no media coverage at all.

“*Fatherhood Dreams*,” Director/Executive Producer Julia Ivanova, 2009, Interfilm/Fatherhood Dreams Productions in association with Global Television, 126 minutes.

The film invites people into the day-to-day lives of gay dads Scott, Steve, Randy and Drew, who are fathers through adoption, co-parenting, and surrogacy. Their private journey through fatherhood forces them to deal with much larger issues that affect gay fathers, including the legal aspects of

surrogacy, the complexity of "open adoption," and the human rights battles concerning the official recognition of LGBT and multi-parent families.

"Freedom to Marry: The Journey to Justice," Carmen Goodyear and Laurie York, Directors, 57 minutes, Turtle Time Productions.

Documents highlights of a momentous historical milestone when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom engaged in ground-breaking civil disobedience as he allowed same-sex couples to marry at San Francisco City Hall. Includes speeches by comic Margaret Cho, and top marriage equality leaders, and interviews with seven long-term same-sex couples.

"For the Bible Tells Me So," Daniel G. Karlake, Director. 2007.

We meet five Christian families, each with a gay or lesbian child. Parents talk about their marriages and church-going, their children's childhood and coming out, their reactions, and changes over time. The stories told by these nine parents and four adult children alternate with talking heads—Protestant and Jewish theologians—and with film clips of fundamentalist preachers and pundits and news clips of people in the street. They discuss scripture and biblical scholarship. A thesis of the film is that much of Christianity's homophobia represents a misreading of scripture, a denial of science, and an embrace of quack psychology. The families call for love.

"It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School," Debra Chasnoff, Director. 1996. Women's Educational Media.

Most adults probably don't see why schools should teach young children about gay people, and they can't imagine how teachers could possibly present this subject matter in an age appropriate way. The filmmakers produced this film to explore what does happen when experienced teachers talk about lesbian and gay men with their students.

"Out of the Past," Jeff Dupre, Director, 1997, Zeitgeist Films.

This documentary chronicles the difficulties faced by the "Gay-Straight Alliance" formed by Kelli Peterson at a Salt Lake City High School in 1996. Interspersed are vignettes of gay/lesbian activists from history.

"Paragraph 175," Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, Directors, 2000.

A harrowing, lyrical look at the persecution of homosexuals during the Third Reich. German historian and member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Klaus Muller interviews the dozen or so surviving victims, now frail and wizened, who recount their experiences. Jewish resistance fighter Gad Beck recalls how he posed as a Hitler Youth in an ultimately vain attempt at saving his lover. One man was freed from a sentence at Dachau only to be interned again at Buchenwald. Another recalls hearing, in the distance, a "singing forest"—the sound of gays bound and tortured by Nazis in a local grove.

"Straightlaced—How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up!?" Debra Chasnoff, Director, 2009. Grounspark, 67 minutes.

The film takes a powerful and intimate look at how popular pressures around gender and sexuality are shaping the lives of U.S.-American teens. The film proudly showcases the diverse and unscripted voices of more than 50 youth from a wide range of high schools, who speak with breathtaking honesty, insight, and humor about gender roles and the struggle to be who they really are.

“The Celluloid Closet,” Rob Epstein, and Jeffrey Friedman Directors, 1995, Sony Pictures Classics and Telling Pictures.

Documentary depicting the treatment of gay and lesbian characters in movies. Adapted from the book by film historian, Vitto Russo.

“The Times of Harvey Milk,” Robert Epstein, Director, 1984, October Films and Telling Pictures.

Academy Award winning documentary chronicles the life of San Francisco's first openly gay supervisor, who, along with SF Mayor George Moscone, was murdered in 1978. Offers a compelling and nostalgic vision of an historic period in San Francisco's gay rights movement.

“Tongues Untied,” Marlon Riggs, Director, 1989, 55 minutes, Frameline Films.

Presents a broad spectrum of black gay male lives and experience. A pioneering film that powerfully grapples with the complexity of being gay and a person of color.

“Trembling before G-d,” Sandi Simcha DuBowski, Director, 2001, 84 minutes, New York Films.

The documentary look at gays and lesbians in Hasidic and Orthodox Judaism. Made over several years in New York, California, Israel, Britain, and Florida, the film follows the lives of several people struggling to express both their faith and their sexuality. The film also features some footage with various doctors and religious leaders, including the progressive psychotherapist Shlomo Ashkinazy and the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi, Steve Greenberg.