



IN THE LIFE

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PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT EDWARD ALBEE GIVES HIS REGARDS TO BROADWAY ON APRIL'S IN THE LIFE

ACTRESS KATHLEEN TURNER INTERVIEWS EDWARD ALBEE



NEW YORK – IN THE LIFE, the three-time Emmy Award nominated program documenting the lives and experiences of gay people nationally and abroad, presents its new episode, “Challenging Convention.”

Among the variety of stories airing in its April show, IN THE LIFE features A Conversation With actress Kathleen Turner interviewing Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee. Turner received a Tony nomination for her portrayal of Martha, in the critically acclaimed, 2005 revival, of Albee's “Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” In this episode, these two theatrical dynamos “dish” about themselves, and talk about Albee’s plays, the reviews, his sources of inspiration, and what he considers the emerging “commercialism” of Broadway theatre.

“The problem about live theatre is it costs so damned much to put on,” says Albee. “So, what’s happening is, we’re not getting the complexity of the audience that we really need; we’re getting rich people. And most people aren’t writing specifically or only for that audience.” Among the many challenges to getting their work produced, Albee laments, young playwrights – early on – are being asked to compromise, and conform their work to commercial norms. “... An audience that goes to the theatre for escapism, is a different audience than one that goes to engage and think about stuff,” says Albee.

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And Tango Makes Three

Focusing on the highly controversial children's book "And Tango Makes Three," IN THE LIFE visits an elementary school classroom to observe a teacher and her 2nd graders discuss gay relationships and alternative families. Topping the American Library Association's list of the most challenged books in 2006, this book, based on a true story, tells the tale of how two male Chinstrap penguins, Roy and Silo, hatched an egg all of their own. Like other penguins, they share a nest, they cuddle, and, in zoological-speak, "pair-bond" with one another. But when they bring an egg-shaped rock into their nest and try to hatch it, they're met with little success, until an observant zookeeper decides they deserve a chance at the real thing and switches the rock for a real egg. Critics of the book claim it's subversive, and should be banned from public school. The 2nd grade teacher is against censorship, and views the book as an opportunity to engage her students in critical thinking.

Coming Out in Poland

In America, as the modern LGBT movement approaches its 40TH anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969, the deeply entrenched and condoned public hostility heaped on the daily lives of our community seem incomprehensible to today's generation of LGBT people. But in Poland, a former Soviet bloc state, and one of the largest and most recent ones to join the European Union (EU), social acceptance of LGBT people is still lagging far behind that of its other EU neighbors. Profiling a leading radio personality, who came out officially as a gay man during the filming of the story, and a lesbian couple, where one of the partners lost her job as a teacher, IN THE LIFE examines what it was like to come out in Poland between 2005-2007, and during the ultra-conservative rule of the Kaczynski brothers.

Camp Oneida

In our last story, "Camp Oneida," we look at the tight-knit communities that develop at rural gay campgrounds. It's a trend that's blossomed over the past few years, with nearly 100 camps around the country. Through the personal stories of five men, this story explores body image, finding community away from the city, aging, and something that connects each of them to one another: love.

IN THE LIFE can be seen on American public television stations, and is available on the Web for streaming and as FREE downloadable podcasts. To learn more about when Challenging Convention will be airing in your area, or to watch past episodes, go to: www.inthelifetv.org

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IN THE LIFE is the pioneering documentary series telling powerful stories about the people and issues shaping the gay experience, nationally and abroad. IN THE LIFE has a 15-year heritage of producing in-depth segments on a myriad of issues – politics, public policy, health, education, religion and spirituality. IN THE LIFE's mission is to create programming fostering better understanding and acceptance of the LGBT communities.

IN THE LIFE is a three-time Emmy Award nominee and the winner of numerous awards, including a Lambda Legal Liberty Award, the prestigious Barbara Gittings Award "for contributions to LGBT media" from GLAAD, and the Seigenthaler Award from the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association for "excellence in network television." IN THE LIFE is produced by In The Life Media, Inc., the national not-for-profit organization dedicated to provocative documentary storytelling about the gay experience.