



IN THE LIFE

Documentary stories from the gay experience

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PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE

IN THE LIFE TO BROADCAST ITS FIRST MINI-SERIES THIS JUNE “SUMMER OF STONEWALL”

NEW YORK, NY May 19, 2009 -- IN THE LIFE, the only national public television program documenting the people and issues shaping the gay experience, kicks-off June Pride with “Summer of Stonewall,” a summer-long three-part mini-series celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

Premiering in 1992, before “Ellen,” “Will and Grace,” or “Logo,” IN THE LIFE debuted at a time when LGBT people saw few authentic reflections of themselves on television. Next month, IN THE LIFE pays tribute to Stonewall -- the beginning of the modern lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) movement -- with the first episode in the series, “40th Anniversary of Stonewall.”

This special hour-long episode features reflections and firsthand accounts from activists, like, Cleve Jones (The AIDS Memorial Quilt), Lady Bunny (Wigstock founder, pop icon), Larry Kramer (Act-Up, GMHC), Phyllis Lyon (The Ladder), Torie Osborn (Senior Advisor, Mayor Villaraigosa, Los Angeles) who have worked in the LGBT movement over the last 40 years, and new leaders inspired by our current political climate, will begin airing nationally June 1st. Exploring the history of the movement from a variety of angles, the June special takes a look at the proliferation of LGBT social justice organizations, the cost of coming out young, and queer communication from flyers to blogs.

THE STATE OF THE MOVEMENT:

In the summer of 1969, defined by desire and united in the status of “other,” disparate groups began organizing what would become the modern LGBT civil rights movement. Early organizations such as Gay Activists Alliance and Gay Liberation Front provided the foundation for our social, legal and cultural progress. IN THE LIFE looks at our community’s defining moments and explores where we have come from and how far we have left to go.

YOUTH NOW:

Not many can say for certain who ignited the spark that led to the Stonewall Riots, but what is certain is that many of the instigators were young, some transgender, and a few homeless -- youth, with nothing to lose and everything to fight for. 40 years later, there’s been

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tremendous growth in the number and diversity of services available to LGBT youth. Yet, as providers will tell you -- at a time when the average age of "coming out" has dropped from early twenties to early teens -- these are the best and the worst of times for our young people.

THE WRITTEN WORD:

Before the 1950s, men and women who identified themselves as gay or lesbian had little print media of their own. As we began to organize, the written word proliferated in books, magazines and newspapers. Comparing the methods of the past and present, it is clear that the Internet has radically altered our ability to connect and communicate.

A CONVERSATION WITH... Larry Kramer and Lady Bunny:

These longtime partners-in-activism discuss the advances and setbacks of the LGBT movement, and share their fears and hopes for the future of LGBT activism. They reveal some little-known details about the sexual preferences of past U.S. presidents, and discuss why gay history needs to be taught in schools.

THE GAY BETSY ROSS:

Gilbert Baker is the man behind the most visible and recognizable symbol of gay pride: the rainbow flag. An unsung hero and historian of the LGBT movement, Baker was asked by Harvey Milk in 1978 to create an emblem for the community. Replacing the pink triangle, the LGBT community adopted the rainbow flag -- a symbol of its diversity and unity in the pursuit of equality for all.

In July, SUMMER OF STONEWALL continues with a focus on the history of LGBT civil rights organizations, including "A Conversation With..." Kevin Cathcart of Lambda Legal and Katherine Acey of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice. The August show looks at LGBT arts and culture, including "A Conversation With..." author Edmund White and playwright Doric Wilson.

The first episode in the series, "40th Anniversary of Stonewall," will be available for free video streaming and as a podcast from the IN THE LIFE website starting June 2nd. To find out when it will be airing in your local area, to stream or download it, go to www.inthelifetv.org.

About In The Life Media

In The Life Media provides information about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities, documents the ongoing LGBT civil rights movement, and produces diverse images of the LGBT community to create better understanding and acceptance.

About IN THE LIFE

Produced by In The Life Media, IN THE LIFE is the longest running television show documenting the gay experience. IN THE LIFE is a three-time Emmy Award nominee, a Lambda Legal Liberty Award honoree, and the recipient of the Courage Award from the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project.