



IN THE LIFE

Documentary stories from the gay experience

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE

Congressman Barney Frank Talks to IN THE LIFE About the Politics of “Coming Out” in Congress and the Future of LGBT Leadership



New York, NY December 15, 2009 – The January episode of IN THE LIFE, “Profiles In Leadership,” highlights LGBT civil rights pioneers making strides towards LGBT equality, from the church pulpit to the halls of congress to the stages of Broadway.

In an earnest and intimate A CONVERSATION WITH..., longtime friends and colleagues, Congressman Barney Frank and Andrew Tobias discuss politics, Frank’s “coming-out” as a member of Congress, and what they’ve learned about the future of LGBT leadership.

“I was a closeted member of Congress for seven years. Being a closeted member of Congress is no way to live ...,” said Frank. Offering some advice to aspiring LGBT politicians, he said, “If you’re gay, don’t worry about the people who are antigay. They’re not going to vote for you, don’t waste your time There will be people who will say of you, as they used to say of black people, as they would say of woman, as they would say of any member of a minority group at that point, it’s kind of a soft bigotry, ‘well I’m not against him, but aren’t you afraid that that’s all he’ll care about?’ Show the fact that you’re gay does not mean that you only care about gay issues.”

CALL FOR INCLUSION

“Sinful” is how conservative preachers and politicians describe, demonize, and justify opposition of full equality for LGBT people. Progressive religious leaders provide a vital counterweight, preaching full LGBT inclusion to their congregations, threatening an establishment that would prefer policy come from the pulpit.

In our lead story, we profile Emily Eastwood, an elder of the LGBT-faith movement and Interfaith Alliance President, Rev. Dr. Welton Gaddy, both, leading the call for tolerance, inclusiveness and religious freedom for all.

BROADWAY IMPACT

In 2008, three young Broadway professionals, cast members of the Tony Award-winning musical, HAIR, decided to take action in response to the passage of Proposition 8, a California state constitutional amendment limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples. Inspiring the Broadway community to raise their voice for equality, BROADWAY IMPACT took a simple approach. Keep it fun, and with a singular focus: marriage equality in New York State.

IN THE LIFE's "Profiles In Leadership" is available for free video streaming and as a podcast from the IN THE LIFE website. 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 produces change through innovative media that exposes social injustice by chronicling lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender life and providing our audiences with effective ways to advance equality within and beyond our communities.

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.

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