

VIDEO RESOURCES ON HOMOPHOBIA & HETEROSEXISM

NOTE: The BC Teachers' Federation (Information Services Division) owns many of the videos listed on these pages; they can be borrowed by BCTF members.

1. The videos described in this first section are produced and distributed by the **National Film Board of Canada (NFB)**. Most are very reasonably priced. Their web site is **www.nfb.ca** For ordering information, call the Customer Service Centre at 1-800-267-7710. These videos can all be viewed in "closed captions" format as long as the video machine has the proper decoder.

Sticks and Stones (17 min) (Grades 3-7) c2001 NFB **Highly Recommended**

This documentary looks at the lives of children aged 5 to 12, from various backgrounds, using their own words to show how homophobic language affects their lives. The two main topics in the video are family and name-calling. Children of gay and lesbian parents share their sense of isolation, their fear of discovery, and their struggle with making choices and facing intimidation. Animation sequences are added, to illustrate simple concepts and the history of homophobic slang words. Family photos of differing families are included. Information for teachers on the video liner provides background, discussion points and activities. (Secondary students could use this as a discussion starter.) **Recommended** by BC's Minister of Education, November 2001.

In Other Words (27 min) (Grades 7-12) c2001 NFB **Highly Recommended**

Language and the power of words are the specific topic here. We see the impact of homophobic name-calling on the growth and development of youth, aged 14 to 22. They share details of their lives and their struggles with their identity and their place in society. Important word definitions are given, with historical animations about the derivation of some terms. Very positive messages for LGBT youth and their friends. Information for teachers on the video liner provides background, discussion points and activities. **Recommended** by BC's Minister of Education, November 2001.

One of Them (25 min) (Secondary) c2000 NFB

Six high school students plan a Human Rights Day, and have to confront their own difficulties in addressing homophobia that is manifested in several ways. The focus is on graffiti, name-calling discrimination and stereotypes, rather than sexual activity. Some characters seem very stereotypical, but they nonetheless portray the negative reactions and behaviours often seen in high schools. This dramatization prompts viewers to examine their own feelings, easily leading into class discussion. Background information and class activities are included on the video liner.

Apples and Oranges (16 min) (Grades 3-5) c2003 NFB

During class discussions, children's paintings magically dissolve into 2 short animated stories. In one, a girl finds out that creativity, not revenge, is the best way to deal with a school bully. In the second, two friends skateboard together, until one finds out the other is gay. Stereotyping, name-calling, intolerance and bullying are all included.

OUT: Stories of Lesbian and Gay Youth (39 or 78 min) (Secondary) c1993 NFB

Issues of discrimination, racism and homophobia are sensitively addressed in this Canadian video, filmed in Toronto and Thunder Bay. It provides awareness, understanding and hope to gay and lesbian youth, parents, counsellors and educators. In candid interviews, young lesbians and gays talk about their struggle with personal identity, made more difficult by societal and familial conflicts. Additional educational resources are included in the comprehensive learning guide. 2 versions are available.

School's Out! (24 min) (Secondary) c1997 NFB

To provoke discussion about heterosexism, writer Jane Rule and 5 members of TEACH (Teens Educating and Confronting Homophobia) talk about sexuality and the issue of sexual orientation in today's society. "TEACH means having a positive attitude about your sexuality, - lesbian, gay, bi, straight or queer. ...there's nothing wrong with having a same-sex relationship and nothing wrong if you decide not to."

Taking Charge (25 min) (Secondary, Professional) c1996 NFB

This video shows teen activists "taking charge" of their lives in an increasingly violent society. With role-playing, peer discussion groups and anti-violence collectives, they're educating their peers about the many faces of violence and its effects manifested in sexism, racism and homophobia. Their message to others is that by re-examining our own attitudes and actions, we can play an important role in changing this environment.

Anatomy of Desire (48 min) (Adult / Professional) c1995 NFB

This Canadian video includes footage (mostly American) from the 1950s and 1960s. Psychiatrist Thomas Szasz and other historians present a view of how homosexuality was viewed by medical professionals prior to 1973. The question of [homosexual] causation is examined from several points of view, as well as the ramifications for society. This video gives the historical background of some current societal debates.

Forbidden Love (84 min) (Adult) c1992 NFB

Nine women paint a hilarious, rebellious portrait of lesbian sexuality, against a backdrop of tabloid headlines, book covers and dramatizations from lesbian pulp novels.

Stolen Moments (92 min) (Adult / Professional) c1997 NFB

An exhaustive look at lesbian history (Europe, USA and Canada), from the 1920s to the present. It includes old film footage and dramatic recreations, music, comic moments and memories. Featured are Joan Nestle, Judy Grahn, Audre Lorde, Leslie Feinberg, and other notable women. Although adult-oriented, the video would be useful for mature students wishing to learn more about the forces that shaped modern lesbian culture.

When Love Is Gay (48 min) (Adult / Professional) c1995 NFB

This video explores relationships between men, from longstanding monogamous partnerships to brief encounters. Men of all ages talk openly about sexuality and sensuality, their life experiences, and their process of self-acceptance. The interviews describe an evolving gay culture. Some scenes are very sexually explicit. Viewers may have strong reactions to the people and situations on-screen.

2. The following videos were all made in BC, and are available for purchase or rent, at **Moving Images Distribution** # 606, 402 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 1T6 Tel: 604-684-3014 or Toll-free: 1-800-684-3014 Online catalogue with many more film/video resources: www.movingimages.ca

Too Close for Comfort (27 min) (Secondary) c1990 Moving Images

This short drama addresses the issues of homophobia and discrimination. While David is working at a local video store, he overhears his friend Nick being fired by a supervisor who has discovered that Nick is HIV-positive. Word spreads quickly in the community. David and his friend are challenged by their fears of AIDS, homophobia and prejudices. Excellent for initiating student discussion.

Eric's Video (24 min) (Secondary) c1991 Moving Images

This video features interviews with different people about discrimination stemming from their HIV+ status and/or sexual orientation. It includes candid interviews with lesbian, gay and heterosexual individuals and couples, and examines the ignorance they face. This video, also made in Vancouver, follows logically after "Too Close for Comfort".

Gay Spirit (52 min) (Secondary, Adult) c1996 Moving Images

Six gays and lesbians talk about their struggle to be out and to be part of their faith communities. They are: a Muslim man living with AIDS, a man brought up Pentecostal, a Jewish lesbian, a Seventh Day Adventist, and two lesbian partners and former nuns. Dr. Martin Brokenleg provides insight into the challenges these individuals have faced. He stresses the importance of overcoming discrimination, and reminds viewers that about 35% of adolescent suicides are by teens questioning their sexuality.

Fighting for the Family (46 min) (Secondary, Adult) c1997 Moving Images

Alternative family configurations are appearing, creating feelings of anxiety for some people. This video profiles a number of parental arrangements to show that it is love and respect that make a family work. Two male partners maintain close friendships with their former wives and share familial responsibilities for their five children. A gay couple and a lesbian couple all provide support and resources for the child they produced. Some children are also interviewed. Persons with opposing viewpoints explain their views. A family therapist comments on what is needed to raise a well-adjusted child. A sociologist comments on how family units have changed over time.

Via Wire (5 min) (Secondary, Adult) c2001 Moving Images

Alone at night, in separate locations, two men meet in an online chat room. Unaware of each other's identity, they each move from feelings of isolation to flights of fantasy. This short animation is a poignant commentary on the escalating social isolation faced by computer users (regardless of sexual orientation).

Little Sister's vs. Big Brother (71 min) (Adult, Secondary) c2002 Moving Images

Since 1983, Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium has resisted bigotry, bombings, and books held at the border. The Vancouver bookstore pushed its battle against Canada Customs all the way to Canada's Supreme Court. Here are many key moments in their battle against censorship - book seizures, personal courage, violence against Vancouver's queer communities, and court decisions. It also delves into the passions and principles that have driven the four personalities from Little Sister's in this long struggle. Well-known writers, BC Civil Liberties Association and ACLU, all speak out in defense of the right of all Canadians to read and view what they choose.

3. **Women's Educational Media (WEM)** produced these videos. 2180 Bryant St, Suite 203, San Francisco, CA 94110 USA (415-641-4616) (Fax: 415-641-4632)
email: wemfilms@womedia.org website: www.womedia.org

It's Elementary (78 or 38 min) (Professional, Parent) c1996 WEM **Highly Recommended**

Described as "funny, touching and fascinating", this groundbreaking, award-winning production presents a powerful case for making anti-gay prejudice an educational issue. Featuring work by elementary / middle school (up to Grade 9) students and interviews with teachers of varied sexual orientations, it demonstrates how elementary schools can successfully address this sensitive area of teaching respect for all. It models excellent teaching about family diversity, name-calling, stereotypes, community-building and more. A 24-page viewing guide is included. 2 versions are available

That's a Family! (35 min) (Elementary, Middle school) c2000 WEM

This video helps elementary children see and understand the many different shapes of today's families. With courage and humour, the children take viewers on a tour through their lives as they speak candidly about what it's like to grow up in a family with parents of different races or religions, divorced parents, a single parent, gay or lesbian parents, adoptive parents or grandparents as guardians. It comes with an extensive discussion / teaching guide, with lesson plans, suggestions for facilitating classroom discussion at different grade levels, and additional resources for teachers, families and children.

Let's Get Real (35 min) (Middle School) c2003 WEM

Told entirely from a youth perspective, this video gives young people the chance to tell their own stories. It examines many issues that lead to taunting and bullying, including race, perceived sexual orientation, religion, learning disabilities, sexual harassment and others. The film not only gives a voice to targeted kids, but also to those who bully, to find out why they lash out and how it makes them feel. The most heartening stories are those of kids who have mustered the courage to stand up for themselves or a friend.

4. **The BC Teachers' Federation** helped to fund the production of these two videos. Their Lesson Aids Division sells these videos. Call 1-800-663-9163 (Ext. 2180) or 604-871-2180. The website www.bctf.ca has a link to Lesson Aids.

Shaking the Tree (55 min) (Professional) c1995 BCTF Lesson Aids

Noam Chomsky keynotes this documentary, examining how various social issues are addressed or ignored in public education. The program includes sections on racism, First Nations, poverty, gender & sexism, gender & homophobia, violence prevention, the environment. A 38-page discussion guide included.

Talk to Me (45 min) (Secondary) c1995 BCTF Lesson Aids

Secondary students of varying socio-economic and racial backgrounds discuss gender, race, and poverty issues. This is intended to provoke discussion and critical reflection about stereotypes and discrimination. Discussion guide included. **Note:** the discussions have not been edited for socially acceptable language / comments. Viewers should be cautioned to recognize stereotyped statements and treat them as discussion points.

5. Amazon Books sells these videos. Their website: www.amazon.com

Living With Pride; Ruth Ellis @ 100 (60 min) (Secondary, Adult) c1999

This documentary recreates the life of Ruth Ellis, the oldest living "out" African-American lesbian, born in 1899. In addition to exploring her rich past, we get a rare chance to experience a century of history as lived by one proud and inspiring woman.

Teaching Respect For All (52 min) (Professional) c1996

Gay, Lesbian and Straight Educators Network (GLSEN) Director and teacher Kevin Jennings explains clearly and passionately why "teachers, administrators, parents and schools need to care about issues of sexual orientation". GLSEN works to create schools where all people are valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation.

Ma Vie en Rose (My Life in Pink) (Secondary., Professional) c1997

Ludovic, 8, is a little girl in a boy's body. For him, nothing is more natural than to change his gender. Hopeful and sensitive, he believes that a miracle is going to happen. He will be a girl, no doubt about it. He's in love with the son of his father's colleague. After the initial amusement, outrage grows in their suburb when the two boys are seen playing at getting married. The family begins to realize with horror that his desire to be a girl isn't just a passing fantasy. They try to make him change his mind, to no avail. The situation turns into a drama of intense reactions from neighbors, friends, and teachers, resulting in a profoundly optimistic ending. A helpful and touching resource about gender issues.

Out of the Past (65 min) (Secondary, Adult) c1998

Kelli Peterson, 17, tells her history-making experience of forming a GSA in her high school in Salt Lake City, Utah. The protests, legislative battles and national media attention serve as a modern counterpoint to the history of the human rights movement. The struggles and triumphs of Bayard Rustin, Barbara Gittings, and other [American] civil rights activists are also profiled in this powerful film. Winner of the Audience Award at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival.

Outside the Lines: The World of the Gay Athlete (17 min) (Secondary, Adult) c2000

This ESPN video charts the journeys of two students competing as openly gay athletes in very different climates. Both students movingly reveal their courage and resilience. Great for coaches/educators, the video is accompanied by a 24-page viewing guide with lessons, discussion questions, and other resources for building equity in athletics.

6. Other miscellaneous and worthy videos, available from different sources.

Both My Moms' Names Are Judy (10 min.) (Professional) c1994 LGPA

Lesbian and Gay Parents Association, 260 Tingley Street, San Francisco, CA 94112 USA (415-337-1629)
email: LGPASF@aol.com (put "Judy" in the Subject line)

The video would be useful in anti-homophobic presentations for elementary educators. Schoolchildren (ages 7 - 11) of gay and lesbian parents talk candidly about their families, share their experiences of being teased and express their wishes for an open and accepting environment at school. The workshop manual lays out the considerations and processes for setting up a homophobia program in elementary schools.

Rewriting the Script: A Love Letter to our Families (46 min) (Professional) c2002

Distributed by Vtape www.vtape.org (for public performance rentals) and Toronto Women's Bookstore www.womensbookstore.com

This video explores the loves, lives and sexualities of lesbian, gay and transgender South Asians in Canada, and their families. The subjects, parents and other family members talk about the struggle to redefine their relationships. The sound quality is mediocre but the stories are compelling and informative. Excellent for parents. The video comes with an extensive discussion guide, for exploring issues of religion, family, community pressures, and strategies for building support.

Stand Together (124 min) (Secondary, Adult) c2002

Distributed by Vtape www.vtape.org email: distribution@vtape.org

This comprehensive documentary of the lesbian/gay rights movement in Ontario from 1967 to 1987 incorporates a rich body of documents, images and archival footage with interviews and dramatizations, to show a story of injustices, outrage and victories. Included: National Security Campaigns, the RCMP "Fruit machine", Toronto's 1981 Bath raids, the first woman to go public about her homophobic dismissal by the Armed Forces, organized gay bashing on Halloween on Toronto's Yonge Street, opposition to gay rights from conservative politicians/ police/ church groups, the gay liberation "zaps", the campaign by the Coalition for Gay Rights of Ontario, and the legislature's vote on Dec. 2, 1986 to include "sexual orientation" in the Ontario Human Right Code.

Our Faces: We'd love to show you our faces, they're just like yours (22 min) (Secondary, Adult) c2000 www.educationalvideosplus.com

"Our Faces", by Educational Videos Plus, Seattle, is a compassionate look at the lives, trials and joys of LGBT youth, adults and their families through their own eyes. It is intended to raise awareness for people of every sexual orientation and to replace stereotypes about being gay with experiences of real people. It includes a brief professional addendum of the positive experiences of GBLT youth with teachers and counselors, and of counselors speaking about working with GBLT youth.

Trevor (22 min) (Middle and Secondary) c1992 TEL: 1-212-242-8686, or www.waterbearerfilms.com (go to Main Title Listings) or wbfvideo@aol.com

This short video (with an introduction and follow-up by Ellen Degeneres) won a 1994 Academy Award, for its focus on the issues of self-esteem and identity for gay youth. Trevor, 13, narrates a series of diary excerpts. He loves to lip-sync to Diana Ross songs, has a crush on a popular boy and is quickly branded a "fairy" by classmates. The video is sad and humorous, revealing many of the issues which LGBT youth face regularly -- being isolated, ignored, humiliated, harassed and/or patronized. Trevor is resilient, and shows how some gay youth survive.