

JustMarried

The Heroic Love Stories of Marriage Equality



Created by Frankie Frankeny
GoodDoxie Studios 2023

www.justmarried.us

"We never expected, once we'd won, we might have to fight all over again. But that seems to be the way when it comes to human rights.

When you think the war is won –think again."

Kris Perry and Sandy Stier, who beat California's Prop 8 at the US Supreme Court

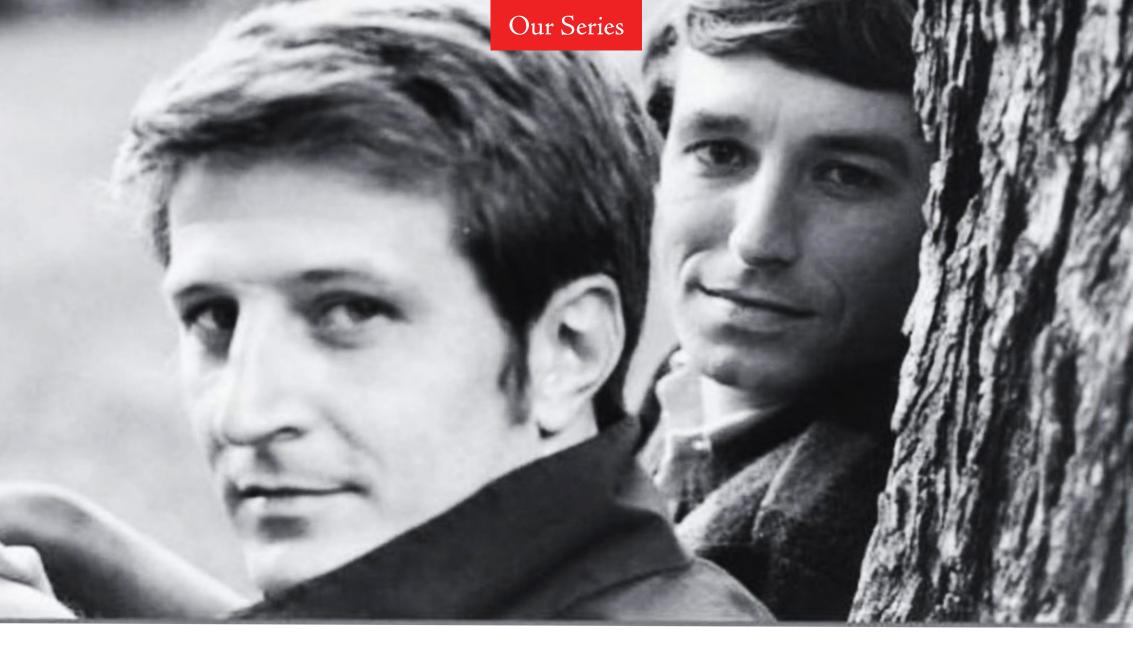
8 Episodes

Original Limited Series based on a book by the same name

JustMarried weaves together the love stories capturing the compassion and consciousness of our nation winning marriage equality and those preserving it now.

A moving, and at times, heart-breaking look at the extraordinarily brave, across 7 decades through today, who come out and open their private lives—to the scrutiny of a nation—in order to convince politicians, preachers and the public of their right to history's most cherished institution—marriage.

A human right that we must protect.



JustMarried, an 8 episode, character driven scripted series, tells the true love stories of couples who inadvertently become part of a movement, one small step at a time. It shines a light on lesser known heroes, such as Karen Thompson & Sharon Kowalski, a couple struggling to stay together after a tragic accident or Jack and Michael, believing they were just as good as anyone else, score the first legal LGBTQ+ marriage license in the world.

Not all the love stories come from court cases, but from higher profile couples who give the movement power, visibility and seek to preserve this right today.

These stories of love, family and the need for protections for LGBTQ+ people are vitally important, maybe more now than ever.

"Marriage" isn't just a word or just a civil institution. Marriage is an exclusive club, where membership has its privileges—1,138 rights and benefits to be exact.

Joint & family-related rights

JOINT FILING OF BANKRUPTCY PERMITTED • JOINT PARENTING RIGHTS, SUCH AS ACCESS TO CHILDREN'S SCHOOL RECORDS • NEXT-OF-KIN STATUS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL DECISIONS OR FILING WRONGFUL DEATH CLAIMS • FAMILY VISITATION RIGHTS FOR THE SPOUSE AND NON-BIOLOGICAL CHILDREN, SUCH AS TO VISIT A SPOUSE IN A HOSPITAL OR PRISON • CUSTODIAL RIGHTS TO CHILDREN, SHARED PROPERTY, CHILD SUPPORT, AND ALIMONY AFTER DIVORCE • DO-MESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION • ACCESS TO "FAMILY ONLY" SERVICES, SUCH AS REDUCED RATE MEMBERSHIPS TO CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS OR RESIDENCY IN CERTAIN NEIGHBORHOODS • PREFER-ENTIAL HIRING FOR SPOUSES OF VETERANS IN GOVERNMENT JOBS • TAX-FREE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY BETWEEN SPOUSES (INCLUDING ON DEATH) AND EXEMPTION FROM "DUE-ON-SALE" CLAUS-ES · SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO SPOUSES OF CITIZENS AND RESIDENT ALIENS · SPOUSE'S FLOWER SALES COUNT TOWARDS MEETING THE ELIGIBILITY FOR FRESH CUT FLOWERS AND FRESH CUT GREENS PROMOTION AND INFORMATION ACT • THREATS AGAINST SPOUSES OF VARIOUS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IS A FEDERAL CRIME • RIGHT TO CONTINUE LIVING ON LAND PURCHASED FROM SPOUSE BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WHEN EASEMENT GRANTED TO SPOUSE • COURT NOTICE OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS • DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDERS • EXISTING HOMESTEAD LEASE CONTINUATION OF RIGHTS • REGULATION OF CONDO-MINIUM SALES TO OWNER-OCCUPANTS EXEMPTION • FUNERAL AND BEREAVEMENT LEAVE • JOINT ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE • JOINT TAX FILING • INSURANCE LICENSES, COVERAGE, ELIGIBILITY, AND BENEFITS ORGANIZATION OF MUTUAL BENEFITS SOCIETY • LEGAL STATUS WITH STEPCHILDREN • MAKING SPOUSAL MEDICAL DECISIONS • SPOUSAL NON-RESIDENT TUITION DEFERENTIAL WAIVER • PERMISSION TO MAKE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR A DECEASED SPOUSE, INCLUDING BURIAL OR CREMATION • RIGHT OF SUR-VIVORSHIP OF CUSTODIAL TRUST • RIGHT TO CHANGE SURNAME UPON MARRIAGE • RIGHT TO ENTER INTO PRENUPTIAL AGREEMENT •

The beauty of this series: The love stories.

The magic: Witnessing individuals who, taught since childhood to keep quiet-speak their truth, realize dignity in their own lives and find acceptance from a great number of their fellow Americans.

The urgency: If the US Supreme Court repeals marriage equality, which it is openly asking to do, 29 states can refuse to marry LGBTQ+ people. Like Roe. V. Wade, it will become a taking away of not just rights but inclusion and dignity.

Many of these stories moved a community, sometimes a nation, individually a few years ago— we believe collectively, alongside current narratives, they have the power to do it again. The **JustMarried Project** will be a positive force for our community and against our history's erasure.

Each of **JustMarried's** personal tales represent the long fight for societal inclusion and its precious companion: dignity. **These stories are about love and courage— at a time when we may need them most.** It is a historical collection that resonates, educates and inspires future generations to understand why people fought for our rights— and how easily those rights can be lost. We believe the best way to fight is to remain defiantly visible and with our stories, reach into the hearts of everyday Americans.

With JustMarried, we intend to do just that.





Our series, like the documentary *Crip Camp*, is an inspiring tribute to the triumph of the human spirit

Like Ava DuVernay's *13th*, it's the exploration human dignity and inequality in history

And, like the Mister Rogers film, *Won't You Be My Neighbor*, it is a touching look into people making the world a better place



From the 1950s through the late 1990s, brave LGBTQ+ couples come out, sharing their their stories of love, committed relationships and the desire for community dignity. In the late 90s, the Netherlands announces the possibility of same-sex marriages while a US couple attempts to marry in Hawaii. The latter sparks a US backlash. Both ignite a global movement. Between 2001 and 2015, 17 countries legalize marriage equality. Seven years later, these relationship narratives continure to bring an astounding 34 countries around to marriage equality—the most rapid, global civil rights change in history.

Each episode grips its viewers via major events from the lavender scare, civil rights, AIDS, Don't Ask Don't Tell, the de-criminalization of being gay, the Defense of Marriage Act to winning Marriage Equality and currently– the potential stripping away of this newly found right. Each storyline gracefully captures the effect of these events on the lives of the featured couples and how they fostered an understanding for the need for true, full equality.

Isolation and self-erasure are themes explored throughout—as many had to find themselves before they can be free to fight for the dignity of equal marriage. Sans family, friends or clergy to confide in, the closeted deal with being different on their own—often having to figure out if there was anyone else in the world like them. Love's win is inseparable from the larger community movement of proudly coming out to say, "Yes, I am."

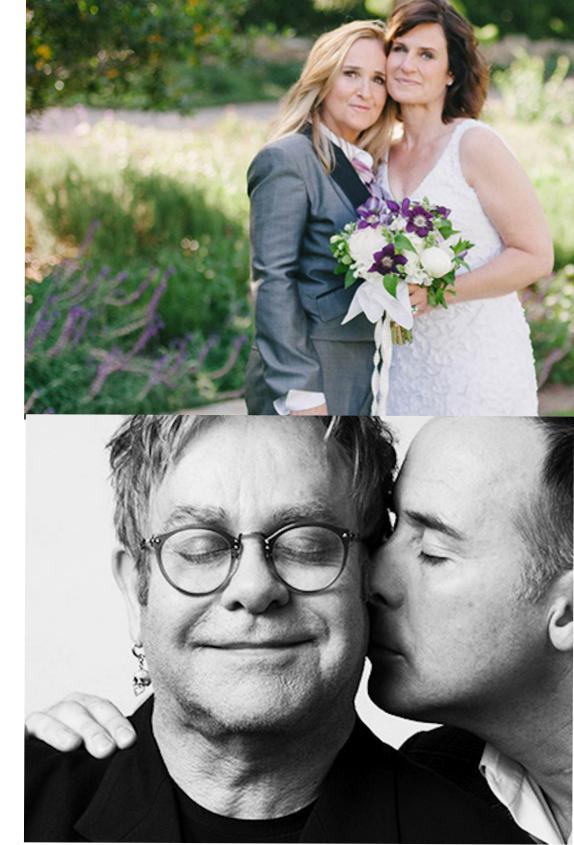
'Separate but not equal' is a theme that manifests throughout the series. The children of LGBTQ+ parents are vocal, wondering why their families are treated differently. As the media and the courts deliberate on this question, the series moves to the final question: Are we ALL equal under the law?

Until now, the full and complete heroic love stories of marriage equality have not been gathered into an interconnected collective like JustMarried. Together, these audaciously stout-hearted couples sparked immense joy into the LGBTQ+ community by producing the most important civil rights wins of this new century–encouraging Americans to fall in love with love.

Music, plays a particular importance in this series not just to the themes of love and pride but also isolation. Most in this series were closeted at least until the age of 18 and music was a crucial way to express their feelings for their crushes and desires—unable to tell anyone.

The artists and lyrics give the protagonists hope there might be someone out there like them. Performed by LGBTQ+ artists and allies like Dolly, Cindy Lauper, Cher, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Lady Gaga, Luther Vandross, Elton John, Melissa Etheridge, KD Lang, Depeche Mode, Bronski Beat, Tracy Chapman, Hoizer, Rufus Wainwright, George Michael, Indigo Girls, Queen, Sia, Ricki Martin, Brandi Carlyle and yes, Barry Manilow. Notably most of the LGBTQ+ artists featured are in the closet themselves while their songs hit the top of the charts.

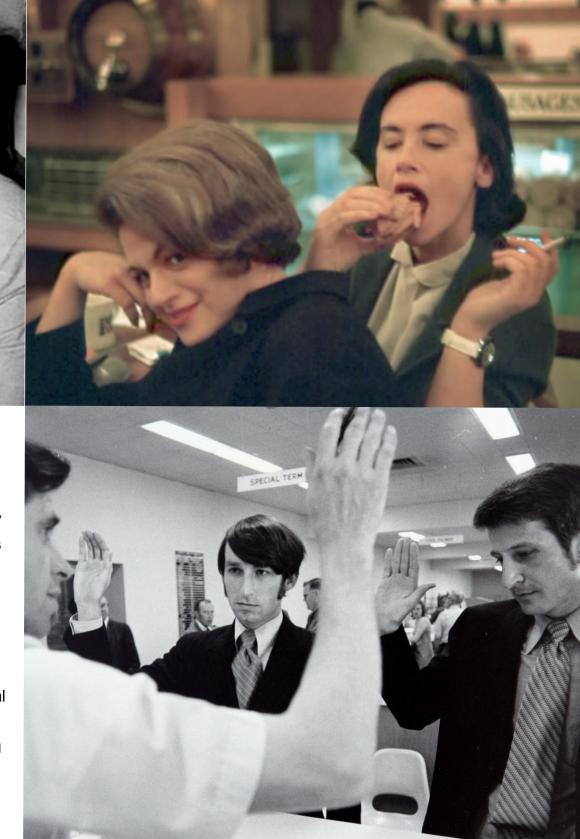
From small, isolated groups of people to a world-wide movement where same-sex marriage is now currently legal in 34 countries, this series, supported by a seralized podcast and book, documents profound changes via real personal stories. We see how love conquers fear when people stand up and defend humanity. We feel, through the lives of real, courageous couples and allies the magnificence of love's win. We are left cautioned, that these civil rights so many came out for and braved, must be preserved and protected.





Episode 1: Dearly Beloved, We Are Gathered Here

Shirley Tan is arrested by ice agents in front if her American family while awaiting news of her asylum petition. California voters overturn the right for LGBTQ+ couples to marry, igniting the marriage equality movemet nationally while leaving Phyllis and Del along with 18,000 other legally married couples in limbo. Fifty years earlier, the couple fallsl in love and boldly forms the first secret lesbian social club in the US in a time when it is dangerous to be out. Edie and Thea, whose families each escaped the Nazis, secretly become engaged. During the tumultuous era of civil rights and women's rights, the gay community rises up seeing a pathway their own. Mildred and Richard are harrassed, criminally charged, and forced to leave the Virginia. Interracial marriage opponents tactics become the anti- gay rights playbook. Michael and Jack are arrested in a police raid, fall in love and go on a multi-year long caper to legally marry.









Episode 2: To Love And To Cherish, In Sickness And In Health

A gay plague rages through the global community empowering a new Christain Coalition targeting gay people. NYC drag queens are on the frontlines fighting for LGBTQ+ rights, Edie and Thea become take charge and support. Tom and Mark film themselves dying of AIDS and their real life footage becomes a gut wrenching film. Sharon becomes a quadriplegic and Karen spends years fighting to see her bringing about new legal understanding for LGBTQ+ couples. Phillys and Del fight for lesbian rights against pushback from top US feminists. Hillary and Julie work on having a family within the confines of what society will allow. Shirley falls in love with Jay and seeks asylum in fear for her life.



Episode 3: I Pledge My Faith, For Better, For Worse

After a 9 year legal battle, Sharon and Karen are reunited. John, a realtor, goes into respiratory arrest, and his financial advisor boyfriend, Jim, looks for a sympathetic nurse to let him in the hospital room. Shirley and Jay raise twins, while waiting for her asylum claim to be approved. Together 20 years, Edie and Thea finally celebrate a legal domestic partnership, only to discover Thea has MS. A couple in Hawaii ignite a political storm getting married while the Netherlands and Belgium grant the right to marry. Emboldened, Ellen comes out and her show is cancelled but becomes a harbinger for the future of LGBTQ+ rights fueled by a horrendous hate crime. A trans women in Texas is denined her legal marriage status, while another in Maine confounds antiequality with her legal marriage and the nation listens. John and Tyron are arrested for sodomy in his Houston home but the police report is shady.



Episode 4: According to God's Holy Ordinance

Vermont legalizes civil unions as couples in Canada, Belgium the Netherlands tie the knot. John and Tyrone use the police report's 'big lie' to nationally decriminalize LGBTQ+ relationships—changing the landscape for equality. Ellen wins multiple Emmys for her standup, lands a talk show and Portia de Rossi. Hillary and Julie become the first legally married samesex couple in the US fighting off the Pope and the President. California opens the door for couples to walk down the aisle, including Phyllis and Del, George and Brad and now parents of twins, Shirley and Jay. Unthinkable celebration and joy are short-lived as couples are given refunds for their marriages. Livid and tired of celebrity closeted living, George busts out of the closet bringing along others. Thea's illness worsens—she and Edie marry in Canada. Spain and South Africa surprise by legalizing marriage. The UK gives civil partnerships bringing Elton John and his partner into the world-wide debate on marriage. Gene becomes the first out and partnered Episcopal Bishop—his ceremonial robe concealing a bulletproof vest.







Episode 5: To Have and To Hold

After 44 years together, Thea dies. Their Canadian marriage, not recognized by the federal government, Edie, vulnerable and hit with a colossal tax bill, files a suit. Gene and Mark have a civil union, but merriment turns to disbelief as Gene is disinvited to the church's world conference. San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and CA Attorney General Kamala Harris reopen the doors to marriage as a California ballot initiative, funded by several large religious denominations, threatens to permanently ban the right to marry. Couples in Norway, Sweden, Argentina, Iceland and Portugal are granted full marriage rights, Iowa and Vermont follow suit. Many rush to wed, including Phyllis and Del, George and Brad and Jay and Shirley. Ellen and Portia share their love with millions of fans. Shirley and Jay 's full story is revealed as US Senators getting involved to help keep their family together.



Episode 6: I Thee Wed, Til Death Do Us Part

Dennis, a Missouri highway patrolman is killed in the line of duty while Kelly, his life partner fights the state over Dennis' pension. His grief causes a stroke. Prop. 8 passes, ignites the nation and Kris and Sandy are approached by Hollywood producer and actor Rob Reiner to help fight the new law. Jim and John are devastated to learn John has a progressive terminal disease. As Denmark, Brazil, New Zealand and France join 14 countries with equal marriage, Edie takes her case all the way to the US Supreme Court and overturns DOMA. The Obama administration begins to extend other 1138 federal rights, privileges, and benefits to married same-sex couples in 32 states. But Shirley and Jay are not fully at ease. Inspired by Edle's win and a terminal illness, Jim and John decide to get married.





Episode 7: I Take This Man

Jim and John, unable to marry in Ohio, fly in a medical jet to Maryland, where they wed on the airport tarmac. Jim and John file suit when Ohio will not recognize their marriage. After John dies, their case reaches the US Supreme Court. Scotland, Luxembourg, England and Wales solidify full marriage rights. The truth comes out about the law enforcement's 'big lie' after John and Tyrone both pass away. Missouri refuses to grant Kelly spousal benefits and he dies after years of legal battles and grief related strokes. Jim Obergefell's case commences with the magical ending of marriage equality for all across the country. A nation rejoices and hundreds of thousands of couples walk down the isle with unimaginable dignity and heart-stopping passion. Elad and Andrew, a bi-national, legally married couple living in the US, have twins via a Canadian surrogate. They are shocked to learn the state department will only grant one twin citizenship.





Episode 8: From This Day Forward

Andrew and Elad begin a national media blitz to win citizenship for both twins. Jason and Joe must see three different judges in order to have both their names on the kids birth certificates. Edie dies and lives on as an LGBTQ+ icon. Mayor Pete becomes the first gay, married presidential candidate. Long-time ally Ruth Bader Ginsburg passes away and SCOTUS swings further to the right. Minnesota recognizes the validity of Jack and Michael's marriage license, 50 years later. Biden-Harris become the first President and Vice-President elected while in full support of marriage equality. With 29 countries now recognizing LGBTQ+ marriages, and 5 more on the way, SCOTUS overturns Roe v Wade. Justcie Clarence Thomas specifically asks for cases to overturn marriage equality. Democrats pass an act protecting marriage equality for those already married. But if Obergefell is over-turned, rights can still fall to the states.

Episode 9: Potential Extra Episode



Kris Perry & Sandy Stier - Married by then CA Attorney General Kamala Harris, with their four boys in tow, after San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom opens up marriages once again. They joined Jeff Zarillo and Paul Katami in the fight against the state's anti-marriage law (Prop. 8) after witnessing the virulent homophobic rhetoric against marriage equality. It will be 5 years until they know the validity of their vows.



Phyllis Lyon & Del Martin establish a secret society for lesbians in the 50s to safely gather during the McCarthy Era witch hunts. They barely survived their first year as a couple, staying together 'only for the cat'. They helped lesbians understand their identity through publications and tireless efforts to advance rights and freedom. They legally marry 55 years after first falling in love.

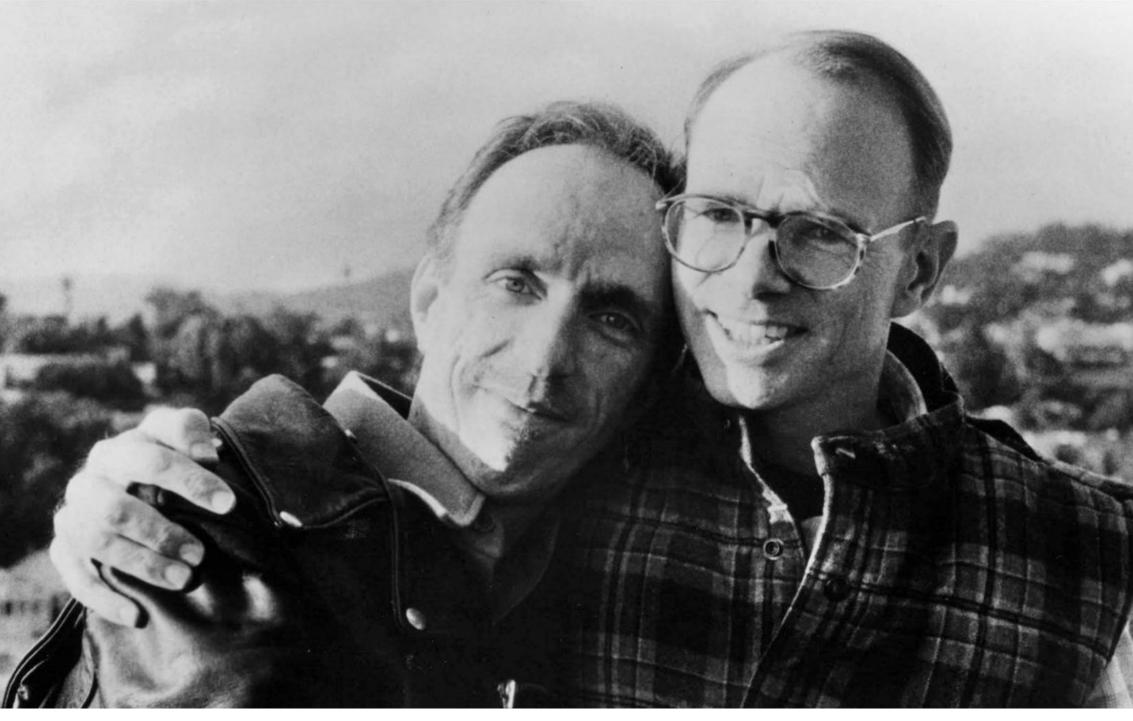


A trans woman in Texas, **Christie Lee Littleton**, is denied a court settlement after her husband, **John** dies of medical malpractice. Despite having full gender reassignment surgery and getting married –with a Texas marriage license– the state court system claims Christie's male chromosomes invalidate her marriage. With her marriage voided, her eligibility to sue as John's next of kin becomes nullified. This case though will be revisited and later allow two lesbians in Texas to wed, as one of them, a transgender woman, has the required chromosomes.

This complicates the system for those looking to define marriage rights simply by genetic makeup.

Author Jennifer Finney Boylan was born James Boylan in 1952 and married long-time partner Deirdre in 1988. In 2000, Jenny began her transition to female and was certain her marriage would be over. To the contrary, Deedie stood by her. Their marriage 'in the end, is about a lot more than what genders we are, or were' Jennifer penned. She wrote proudly about their family life and appeared on TV shows discussing being a 'differently married' couple legally stumping opponents that use male and female chromosomes to define marriage laws. Jennifer's writings and musings on their married life becomes, for most of the nation, a first look into a transgender person's marriage.





A 1993 documentary, **Silverlake Life: The View From Here**, hits the theaters and shocks the nation. A wrenching recording of **Tom Joslin and his partner Mark Massi**, during the last months of the couple filming themselves dying of AIDS is unflinching in its honesty. The film highlights their struggle, unafforded the protections and dignity of a federally sanctioned marriage. The audience leaves in tears, witnessing for the first time long-term gay domesticity– somberly– through the devastation and isolation of AIDS.



Texas police arrest **John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner** then literally drag them off to jail. John, an ex-army vet, discovering the cops' astoundingly inaccurate arrest report, becomes angry enough to allow civil rights attorneys to take on their case. And it is a doozy– involving closeted gay law enforcement, the future first openly gay mayor of Houston and a 'big lie' by the cops.

A big lie that goes all the way to the Supreme Court and poetically decriminalizes being LGBTQ+ across the nation.



Shirley Tan & Jay Mercado find themselves torn apart after 24 years together when Shirley is taken from her home in handcuffs by US ICE agents carrying out a deportation order. She is denied asylum, she sought for decades, the victim of horrific violence in her home country.

Demoralized and humiliated, US Senators intervene to keep the family together.

Julie & Hillary Goodridge sue for marital rights and protections after almost losing their daughter to an illness. They become the first legally married same sex couple in the US and the poster couple for equality, catching the ire of the President, the Pope and community members who fear a public backlash that will set back the movement for decades.





Gene Robinson, the son of Kentucky sharecroppers, rocks the religious world when he becomes the first openly gay married bishop in Christendom. His election and consecration cause a furor. His husband-to-be **Mark** is disguised as clergy in the procession—Gene and his family wear bulletproof vests.



After exchanging rings every year for 20 loving years, **Jim Obergefell & John Arthur's** quiet life is turned upside-down when John is diagnosed with ALS. Friends and family pool together for a chartered plane to Maryland, the only way John can travel and the closest state they can legally wed. The ceremony is held on the airport tarmac.

Upon returning home they decide to fight for marriage recognition so their love will not be erased after death.



Devout Christian and ex-war vet, **Pete Buttigieg** learns to love himself as a gay man before becoming a mayor, falling in love and legally marrying school teacher **Chasten Gelsman**. His bravery fighting in Iraq, then coming out, leads Mayor Pete to the national stage as the first out, gay-married Presidential candidate. During Pete's run and postiion as Secretary of Transportation, the couple perpetually counter gay family stereotyping via their children's books and media interviews.



'Love Is The Most Powerful Force In The Universe-It Can And Does Transform Everything'

Jack Baker + Michael McConnell
The First LGBTQ+ Couple in the US to Get a Legal Marriage License
Legally Recognized 47 Years After They Had It in Hand

THE JUSTMARRIED TEAM

FRANKIE FRANKENY JUSTMARRIED CREATOR/ DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Named by Entertainment Weekly as one of the 100 Most Creative People in the U.S., Frankie worked diligently in the fight for marriage equality as a director/producer and content creator since 2006. Frankie scripted and directed a film short to Nina Simone's ballad *Everything Must Change* for GLAAD's Marriage Equality work. Earlier equality works include scripting and directing *Fell*, a film short that was part mock commercial with lesbian love theme. Part commentary on the lack of LGBTQ+ inclusion in mainstream marketing Fell appeared in six LGBTQ+ festivals world-wide, and was excerpted in sociology, psychology and marketing books. Frankie has helped produce over 80 books including multiple national and international award winners.

JOHN CASEY WRITER

John Casey is the Senior Editor for The Advocate, the oldest and largest LGBTQ+ news site in the United States. For the past five years, John has been an Editor-at-Large writing a twice-a-week column about societal, political and topical news issues of interest to the LGBTQ+ community. The columns have featured discussions with top-tier newsmakers including Dr. Tony Fauci, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Emmy winners Neil Patrick Harris, Ellen DeGeneres, Billy Porter, Colman Domingo and Jennifer Coolidge, Oscar winners Jamie Lee Curtis, Shirley MacLaine, and Travon Free, entertainers Adam Lambert,, Johnny Mathis, and Pamela Lee, political leaders, Senators John Fetterman, Sherrod Brown, and Tammy Baldwin, Congresspersons Jamie Raskin, Zoe Lofgren, Adam Smith, and all of the LGBTQ+ members of the House. MA Governor Maura Healev. NY Attorney General Letitia James and American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten.

JIM OBERGEFELL PRODUCER

Jim is the named plaintiff from the landmark U.S. Supreme Court Marriage Equality case *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Following the decision on June 26, 2015, he embraced a new career as an LBGTQ+ activist. Jim sits on the Board of Advisors of the Mattachine Society of Washington, DC, the National Advisory Council of the GLBT Historical Society and served on the Board of Directors of SAGE and is on the board of Family Equality.

LYNN MUETING EXECUTIVE CREATIVE PRODUCER/ SPONSORSHIPS

Lynn has 15+ years of experience as a senior level marketing consultant, brand strategist and advisor to large companies and design firms. Prior to this, she spent 14 years in marketing for Conde Nast Publications and IDG Entertainment. Lynn is also a member of the International Circle of Wine Writers and a regular contributor to a number of wine related publications.

JASON DORN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/ EXPERIENTIAL EVENTS

Jason joins JustMarried with over 15 years of experience in Sponsorships and Activations. Jason and husband Brian toured Washington State during the marriage equality movement, discussing the need for equal rights. An expert at creating the perfect activation highlighting a brand's product or services allowing consumers, and/or potential consumers, a unique and memorable way to mesh with the brand working alongside celebrated LGBTQ+ talents like Janet Mock, Wilson Cruz and Johnny Weir.

LESLIE STOKER PUBLISHING DIRECTOR/ EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Leslie Stoker is the founder and principal of *Stoker Literary*, a boutique agency representing writers and photographers. She launched Artisan Books, for Workman, and was Publisher for five years before becoming President and Publisher at Stewart, Tabori & Chang. When STC was bought by Editions de La Martiniere and integrated into Abrams, Leslie assumed responsibility for the lifestyle list. Her books have garnered awards from the James Beard Foundation and IACP, including three 'Best Book of the Year' awards.

JIM CHAPDELAINE SOUND EDITOR/ ENGINEER

13-time Emmy Award-winning musician, producer, composer and sound engineer, Jim specializes in music for long form documentary. He has also mixed music for Tori Amos, Ricki Lee Jones, Aimee Mann, Wilson Phillips, Cowboy Junkies, Shelby Lynn and Los Lonely Boys.

MINDY RABINOWITZ PRODUCTION/ RESEARCH

Mindy has directed complex projects such as Southwest Airlines brand activation/partnerships with Disneyland and SeaWorld. At Caesars Entertainment, she produced Gourmand International's Best Corporate Book in the U.S., "The Seven Stars Cookbook" and managed a national bus tour with celebrity novelist Jackie Collins.

Additional Participants (Alphabetical)

Beth Bye + Tracy Wilson - Beth is an American politician and Connecticut State Senator. They were were the first gay couple to be married in Connecticut.

Stuart Gaffney + John Lewis - Plaintiffs in California's In Re: Marriage and head of the public education organization Marriage Equality.

Al Gerhardstein — Lead council for Obergefell v. Hodges

Maira Kalman — Writer/illustrater for over 30 books for adults and children and a frequent contributor to The New York Times and The New Yorker. Maira collaborated on a colorful reissue of *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* by Gertrude Stein.

Sean Kosofsky — Former Executive Director at The Tyler Clementi Foundation, co-chair of the North Carolina Marriage Equality Campaign, Director of Policy for The Triangle Foundation, Michigan's leading LGBTQ+ civil rights organization.

Kate Kendall – Former Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Right (NCLR) for 22 years. Aided in former San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's 2004 and 2008 initiatives to marry same sex couples.

Beth Kerrigan + Jody Mock - 2008 lead plaintiffs that won Connecticut's legalization of same sex marriage.

Geoff Kors: - Former Executive Director of Equality California for nine years and member of the boeard of directors for Freedom To Marry.

Joseph Mello - PhD, Associate Professor, DePaul University, Department of Political Science. Author of: The Courts, the Ballot Box, and Gay Rights: How Our Governing Institutions Shape the Same-Sex Marriage Debate.

Paulette Roberts — Aunt of John Arthur and officiant of his marriage to Jim Obergefell.

Marc Solomon-Former National Campaign Director of Freedom to Marry, the foremost organization that advocated marriage equality in the US. The author of the book Winning Marriage: The Inside Story of How Same-Sex Couples Took on the Politicians and Pundits—and Won. As Executive Director of MassEquality from 2006 through 2009, he led the campaign to defeat a constitutional amendment that would have reversed the right to marry in Massechesuettes.

Judith-Kasen Windsor – Edie Windsor's surviving spouse and American journalist, philanthropist and LGBTQ+ advocate. Judith heads the Edie Windsor Foundation.

Evan Wolfson-The Founder and **President of Freedom to Marry**, Considered the architect of the movement strategically in legal, media and political activism and one of the most influential attorneys in the US. Author of **Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry** the most authoritative book on the subject. Winner Barnard Medal of Distinction alongside President Barack Obama for his work securnig marriage equality.

Dianna Lee Johnson — Clinical Psychologist and authority on the lives of Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin.

M. Sue Wilson — Lead council for the Sharon Kowalski case, representing Karen Thompson.

Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta — PA State Representative, 18th District.

