



LOVE THE SINNER

Love the Sinner is a personal documentary exploring the connection between Christianity and homophobia in the wake of the shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

Queer filmmaker Jessica Devaney grew up deeply immersed in Evangelical Christianity in Florida. After breaking with her youth as a nationally recognized activist and leader among conservative Evangelicals, Jessica left Florida and didn't look back. She built a life that took her as far away from home as possible. Over time, her daily life became a progressive echo chamber.

The mass shooting at Pulse was a wake up call. By avoiding hard conversations with church leadership, had she missed opportunities to challenge homophobia?

Love the Sinner probes our responsibility to face bias in our communities and push for dignity and equality for all.



TEAM



JESSICA DEVANEY (Director/Producer)

JESSICA DEVANEY is a Brooklyn-based creative producer and communications strategist. Her past films include *SPEED SISTERS* (Hot Docs, 2015) following a team of Palestinian women race car drivers; the Peabody Award winning short *MY NEIGHBOURHOOD* (Tribeca, 2012) on Israeli settlement expansion in East Jerusalem, its companion web series *HOME FRONT* (2011), and Ridenhour Documentary Prize and PUMA Impact Award winning *BUDRUS* (Berlin, Tribeca, 2010). Jessica's directorial debut short, *LOVE THE SINNER* (Tribeca, 2017) explores the connection between Christianity and homophobia in the wake of the shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Her forthcoming films include *ROLL RED ROLL*, *THE RASHOMON EFFECT*, and *THE FEELING OF BEING WATCHED*. Jessica has an M.A. in religion from Wake Forest University and researched gender and nationalism in the Middle East at Georgetown's Graduate School of Foreign Service in the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. She is a founder of the Queer Producers Collective and was a 2016 Women at Sundance Fellow.



GEETA GANDBHIR (Director)

Geeta Gandbhir has been nominated for three Emmy Awards and has won two. As editor, films have been nominated twice for the Academy Award, winning once, and have also won three Peabody Awards. Most recently, a feature documentary she produced with Perri Peltz and directed with Academy Award Winning director Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, *A Journey of A Thousand Miles: Peacekeepers* premiered at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival. She is currently co-directing and co-producing a *Conversation* series on race with The New York Times Op-Docs, and she co-directed and edited the film, *Remembering the Artist, Robert De Niro, Sr.* with Perri Peltz for HBO. Additional notable works as an editor include, *Mr. Dynamite: The Rise of James Brown*, *Whoopi Goldberg Presents Moms Mabley* for HBO, which was nominated for an Emmy, *When the Levees Broke, By the People: The Election of Barack Obama*, *Music By Prudence*, *Budrus*, *If God Is Willing and Da Creek Don't Rise*, and *God is the Bigger Elvis* which was nominated for the 2012 Academy Awards. Her film, *Which Way is the Front Line From Here?* with author and Academy Award nominated director Sebastian Junger was nominated for the 2014 News and Doc Emmys.



PATRICIA BENABE (Producer)

Patricia Benabe is a documentary film producer and writer. In addition to *Love The Sinner*, Benabe produced short film *They Took Them Alive* about the Ayotzinapa missing students in Mexico, with Field of Vision. She served as Producer in *Memories of a Penitent Heart* (Tribeca Film Festival, 2016; POV, 2017), and co-producer on *The Hand That Feeds* (Audience Award, Full Frame Film Festival, 2014) and *Reportero* (Emmy nominee; POV, 2013). Patricia served as associate producer on *Roberto Clemente* (ALMA Award, 2009) and as coordinating producer on the Annenberg series *An Invitation to World Literature* (WGBH, 2010). She field produced for *The Undocumented* by Marco Williams and Aaron Lubarsky's *The Naturalized*, which was commissioned by The History Channel. Currently, Patricia is producing *Councilwoman* (Britdoc's GoodPitch, LEF, Chicken & Egg.) Her films have received support from Sundance Institute, Tribeca Film Institute, Ford Foundation, Cinereach, Latino Public Broadcasting, ITVS, POV, Chicken and Egg, and LEF. In 2016, she formed part of Impact Partner's inaugural Producers Salon. Patricia writes for the Guatemalan media outlet *Nómada*.



SAM TABET (Producer)

Sam Tabet is a Brooklyn based creative producer and cinematographer. Prior to producing *Love The Sinner*, Sam produced *Southwest of Salem: The Story of the San Antonio Four* (Tribeca Film Festival, Critics Choice Awards 2016). The critically acclaimed feature documentary had its television premiere on Investigation Discovery to over five million viewers in the fall of 2016. It was cited in the criminal court of appeals decision to exonerate the 'San Antonio Four'. Sam was also the assistant producer for award-winning feature documentary *Call Me Kuchu* (Berlin Film Festival, HotDocs 2012)

and produced *SIGNIFIED*, a multi-media archive of LGBTQ testimony featuring the work of queer artists and activists. Sam previously worked at Chicken & Egg Pictures (2010-2014), NewFest and American Documentary, POV, and hold a B.A. from Connecticut College in Film and Gender studies. Sam is a founder of the Queer Producers Collective, a Firelight Media Impact Producing fellow, and Impact Partners Producing fellow.



NADIA HALLGREN (Director of Photography)

Nadia Hallgren is an award winning filmmaker and cinematographer from the Bronx, New York with over a decade of experience working across 5 continents. She has DP'd numerous feature films including the Academy Award nominated and Sundance grand jury prize winner *Trouble the Water*, *Trapped*, *Citizen Koch*, *Tough Love*, *War Don Don*, and *The New Black*. She has worked closely with top documentary filmmakers including, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Joe Berlinger, Morgan Spurlock, and recently co-directed a short film with Laura Poitras.

Nadia specializes in cinema verite and was trained under the tutelage of Kirsten Johnson. She's a Sundance Fellow, a Cinereach fellow, and an alum of International Center of Photography. Nadia serves on the board of the Bronx Documentary Center, a non-profit organization dedicated to sharing photography and film with underserved Bronx Communities.





CREDITS

DIRECTED BY
Jessica Devaney
Geeta Gandhir

PRODUCED BY
Patricia Benabe
Jessica Devaney
Sam Tabet

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Ruth Ann Harnisch

CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
Abigail E. Disney & Gini Reticker

EDITED BY
Rabab Haj Yahya
Nandita Ahmed
Viridiana Lieberman

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Nadia Hallgren

WRITTEN BY
Jessica Devaney

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY
Angélica Negrón

CONSULTING PRODUCER
Ingrid Jungermann

STORY ADVISOR
Jen Marlowe

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY
Patricia Benabe
Jessica Bennett

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Colleen Cassingham

FINISHING
Juan Salvo, TheColourSpace

GRAPHICS & TITLES
Mary Beth Byram

SUPERVISING SOUND EDITOR
Filipe Messeder

RE-RECORDING MIXER
Ian Gaffney-Rosenfeld

VO MIXER
Stefano Campello

VO RECORDING STUDIO
Heard City

SOUND EFFECTS EDITOR
Bryn Neuenschwander



PROTAGONISTS



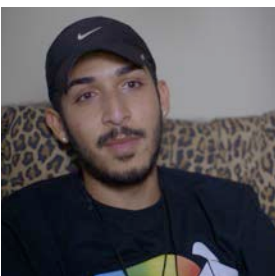
Dr. Joel C. Hunter is the senior pastor of Northland, A Church Distributed, an evangelical church based in Longwood, Florida. Dr. Hunter believes that cooperation and partnership are hallmarks of ministry and we can accomplish more together than we would on our own—without giving up our unique identities.

“I think all of us now are realizing what a cold and dead term tolerance is.”



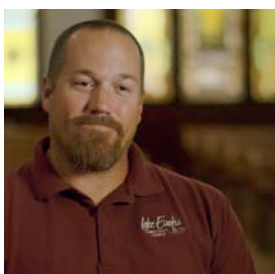
Dawn Seymour, a Central Florida hairdresser and mother of two LGBTQ children. She is a Christian who struggles to find a church home that is supportive and affirming of her children.

“I feel that it’s hard to worship with people who wouldn’t accept the people that I love.”



Norman Casiano-Mojica, is a survivor of the June 12, 2016 shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando.

“It was like a regular night for me going to Pulse on a Latin night. I was actually at the point where I’m leaving and we heard the first two gunshots.”



Brent Elliott, is the lead pastor at Lake Eustis Christian Church. He is passionate about the church making a difference in the community and helping people find a new life with Jesus.

“We have to love the sinner and hate the sin.”

CONTACT

PRESS & GENERAL INQUIRIES:

Jessica Devaney

Producer & Director

jessica@multitudefilms.com

DISTRIBUTION:

Kristen Fitzpatrick

Women Make Movies

kfitzpatrick@wmm.com

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CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

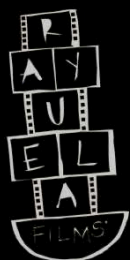
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