

1992

# Award Winning Films & Videos on Lesbians & Gays

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AWARD-WINNING FILMS & VIDEOS ON  
**LESBIAN  
AND GAY**  
ISSUES

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GAY & LESBIAN STUDENT GROUP  
C/O STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE  
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
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# NEW RELEASES

Adolescent homosexuality

## GAY YOUTH

Produced by Pamela Walton

**"The increased risk of suicide facing gay and lesbian youth is linked to growing up in a society that teaches them to hide and to hate themselves."**

**Kevin Berrill, NGLTF**

This is the first video to explore the emotional strain placed on gay youth by intense feelings of isolation. Adolescence is typically a time of conformity, when one needs to feel secure in a peer group. But lesbian and gay young people are acutely aware of being different and often have no one to talk to about these feelings. This isolation frequently leads them to drug and alcohol abuse, violence, homelessness and even suicide. In fact, in the recently published *Report on Youth Suicide*, the shocking fact emerged that fully 30% of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who committed suicide, were gay or lesbian.

This documentary has been designed to break the silence surrounding adolescent homosexuality. It contrasts the suicide death of 20-year old Bobby Griffith with the remarkable and courageous life of 17-year old Gina Gutierrez. Gina is not afraid to meet homophobic attitudes straight on. *Gay Youth* shows that information, acceptance, and support can make enormous differences in the lives of these young people.

- San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992
- Figleaf Educational Film Festival, Fresno, 1992
- Austin Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992
- Film Arts Festival, 1992

40 min. Video  
Sale \$295 Rental \$55

Lesbian and gay marriage

## BECAUSE THIS IS ABOUT LOVE

Produced by Shalee Ong

This is a touching profile of five lesbian and gay couples from multicultural backgrounds who have made a life-long commitment to each other by going through a marriage ceremony. Each couple tells their own story of how they met, why they decided to marry and how their family and friends responded. These funny, bittersweet and at times triumphant stories speak of the power of love.

There are no parental pressures or societal advantages persuading these couples to wed. They do not share in one another's health insurance or retirement benefits, or file a joint tax return the way conventional couples do. Without legal status or religious sanction, they are validating their commitment to one another. It is a commitment that lends joy and meaning to life, especially for one gay couple who are each infected with the AIDS virus.

The power of this film is that it portrays in warm, non-threatening terms, a revolutionary act that questions the very foundations of family structure.

- Toronto Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992
- Los Angeles Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992

28 min. Video  
Sale \$295 Rental \$55

Gay life in the USSR

## KIEV BLUE

Produced and directed by  
Heather MacDonald

When Heather MacDonald, an American filmmaker, went to Kiev to film the homosexual population there, her first challenge was how to locate them. Gay men and women have taken great pains to avoid detection, having lived with the threat of Article 121 which criminalizes homosexuality.

As the film shows, Heather's determination to make contact succeeded and nine men and women took the great risk to reveal their stories to an American audience. This film cannot be shown in any Eastern bloc country. These articulate men and women speak about their lives, fears, encounters with blackmail, government harassment and family rejection. They speak of chilling encounters with a Major Kosenko of the MVD, who uses gay informants blackmailed into his service.

One of their greatest frustrations is their inability to recognize and meet with their counterparts. While in Moscow and St. Petersburg there is the beginning of a gay culture and a gay press, in Kiev, it is still too dangerous.

Each of the people interviewed was cynical about the possibility for real change in their situation. Yet one of the positive results from trusting the filmmakers is that they have broken through their self-imposed anonymity. In this way they have become acquainted with each other, and have been able to form the nucleus of a group working for change.

- New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992
- Los Angeles Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992

28 min. Video  
Sale \$295 Rental \$55

Parenting and foster parenting in gay families

## WE ARE FAMILY

Produced by Aimee Sands in Association with WGBH

"Strips away the homophobia associated with AIDS, and provides a rich, sensitive portrait of life in homosexual families with parents as committed to their children as any heterosexual parent." **Boston Globe**

"Highly recommended." **Choice**

They walk their dogs, play Monopoly, have meals together, assign chores and work out difficulties. It all sounds like normal family life. However there is one difference that would surprise most people. The parents in these families happen to be gay or lesbian.

*We are Family* takes a look at what life is really like in homosexual families, with the focus on parenting and the well being of the children. We meet three different families—one foster, one biological and one adoptive. In one family, two gay fathers tell of their efforts to create a secure environment for their 16-year-old foster son who was on the road to delinquency. In another household, two lesbian mothers have helped their adopted 11-year-old boy overcome the emotional trauma of disability and early neglect. In the third family, we hear how two adolescent daughters have accepted their father's homosexuality.

As gay liberation paves the way for non-traditional families, questions are being raised as to how this affects the children. Is there a risk of sexual abuse? By seeing how much these gay and lesbian parents have to offer their children, we realize that good parenting is independent of sexual orientation.

- American Film Fest. 1988
- Chicago Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1987
- American Psychiatric Assoc., 1987
- National Assoc. of Women's Studies, 1988
- Certificate of Merit, Chicago Inter'l. Film Fest., 1987
- San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Fest., 1987

57 min. Video  
Sale \$445 Rental \$75

Lesbians lead conventional lives

## OUT IN SUBURBIA: The Stories of Eleven Lesbians

Produced by Pam Walton

"...a model of how to make an accessible, honest and life-affirming statement directed at mainstream viewers." **The Advocate**

This remarkably honest and revealing documentary shatters the stereotypes held by many people unfamiliar with the gay community. Eleven women discuss with heartwarming frankness their lives in local neighborhoods, covering a wide range of issues including marriage, motherhood, discrimination, and female roles. *Out in Suburbia* shows us that many lesbians have mainstream values and lead conventional lives. This film reaches out to classes on human sexuality, psychology, women's issues and lifestyles.

- Toronto Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, 1992
- Nat'l. Council on Family Relations, 1989
- AFI American Ind. Cinema, 1990
- The New York Inter'l. Fest. of Lesbian & Gay Film, 1990

28 min. Video  
Sale \$295 Rental \$55

**NEW**  
Gay bereavement

## THIS IS DEDICATED

Alleycat Productions

The feelings of bereavement suffered by a gay man or lesbian who has lost a lover are intensified by the fact that society does not recognize the depth of their loss. The straight world is often insensitive and even cruel to these survivors whose relationships are considered not quite legitimate. *This is Dedicated* is an unusual and feeling portrait of people who have had to cope with their grief in an unsympathetic world. It is a unique resource to sensitize social workers, counselors, clergy, and family members to the needs of these bereaved.

24 min. Video  
Sale \$295 Rental \$55

Challenging biases

## A LESBIAN IN THE PULPIT

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Sally Boyle, an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada, and Erin Shoomaker, executive director of an AIDS foundation, have been living together as a lesbian couple for four and a half years. Despite the opposition of many members of the Church, these two women have taken the courageous stand of going public and fighting for the right to be themselves.

The membership of the United Church of Canada has been in great conflict over the issue of homosexuality. Those who subscribe to a strict reading of the Bible believe it is morally wrong.

There is also the question of whether one chooses to be homosexual, or whether it is an inborn orientation. Sally's parents, a farm couple who are faithful church members, have spoken in support of their daughter.

On the other hand, Erin's daughter from a former marriage is a fundamentalist and has severed her relationship with her mother. Sally believes the conventional idea of family must be broadened, not only within the Church, but in society at large.

28 min. Video  
Sale \$295 Rental \$55

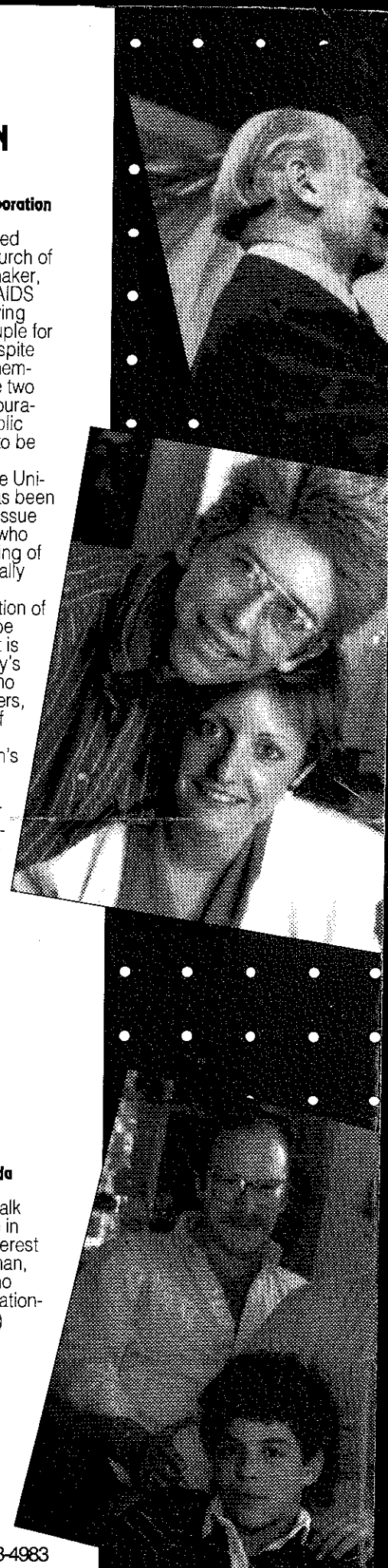
**NEW**  
Disability

## TOWARD INTIMACY

Directed by Debbie McGee,  
National Film Board of Canada

Four disabled women talk frankly about sex and love in their lives. Of particular interest is a hearing-impaired woman, active in lesbian rights, who talks about her fulfilling relationship. (With open captions.)

60 min. Video  
Sale \$445 Rental \$75  
(Ask about 16 mm.)



Gay life in rural America

## FIGHTING IN SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Produced and directed by Peter Friedman and Jean-Francois Brunet

Far from the relative tolerance of urban centers, gay people are beginning to lead integrated lives in small towns. Danny Cooper has been upfront about his homosexuality since his teens. Now he lives openly with his lover. As the local mailman in a small Louisiana town, he has come to be accepted by his neighbors, who treat him with courtesy.

Although Danny has been through fights in school, was once fired from his job, and even evicted from his home, he has never failed to stand up for his right to be himself.

Today, Danny is fighting his hardest battle — against HIV infection — with the same openness and courage. And even though his T-cell count is near zero, he describes himself as "the luckiest human in the world."

- Bronze Apple, National Educational Film Festival, 1992
- Red Ribbon, American Film & Video Festival, 1992
- New York Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, 1991
- Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, 1991
- Juror's Award, Black Maria Film Festival, 1992

27 min. Video.  
Sale \$295 Rental \$55

Gays and lesbians in the armed forces

## COMRADES IN ARMS

Director, Stuart Marshall

"...the people interviewed are noteworthy for their good humor, self-esteem and discretion."  
Landers

This entertaining film opened the New York International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Intercut with popular songs, archival film clips and period reenactments, gay men and lesbian women recall their secret lives while serving in the British armed forces during World War II.

These brave patriots were forced to hide their sexual orientation while in the service of their country. Yet with secrecy and discretion, relationships were established that enabled them to survive the fears and uncertainties of military life.

- Red Ribbon, American Film & Video Festival, 1991
- Margaret Mead Film Festival, 1990
- New York Inter'l. Festival of Lesbian and Gay Film, 1990

52 min. Video.  
Sale \$250 Rental \$75.

A gay son comes out

## MICHAEL, A GAY SON

A Film by Bruce Glawson

"Clearly points up reason why gay individuals find 'coming out' to their own families the most difficult part of being open about their orientation."  
SIECUS Report

This sensitive film reveals the feelings and needs of Michael, his parents, and his brother and sister upon learning from him that he is gay. Michael's decision to "come out" was difficult but he was supported by a peer group of homosexuals. Unprepared for his parents' inability to discuss the matter, he suggested a group session with a social worker.

This lively session, reveals the dynamics of family relationships. Michael's father is angry; his mother is worried; his brother is threatened; his sister is supportive. This sympathetic portrayal will give insight into the dilemmas facing the homosexual.

- Blue Ribbon, American Film Festival, 1981

27 min. Sale: 16 mm \$500;  
Video \$295 All rental \$55

Gay and lesbian elders

## SILENT PIONEERS

A film by Pat Snyder, Lucy Winer, Harvey Marks and Paula de Koenigsberg - in consultation with SAGE (Senior Action In a Gay Environment)

"Silent no longer, elderly lesbians and gays speak out about their reclusive former lives and satisfying present relationships in this tender documentary..."  
Booklist, Editor's Choice

"This film should be seen by everyone. It will warm hearts, raise consciousness, and inspire great admiration..."  
SIECUS

"This film could be classed as a pioneer in the field of sexuality..."  
Choice

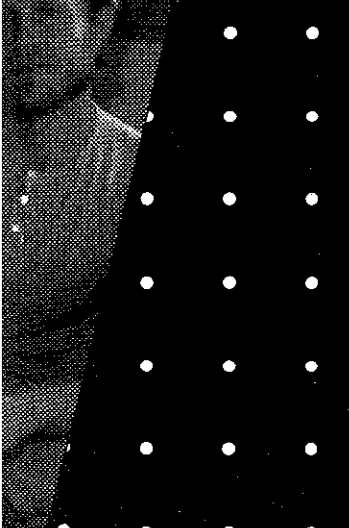
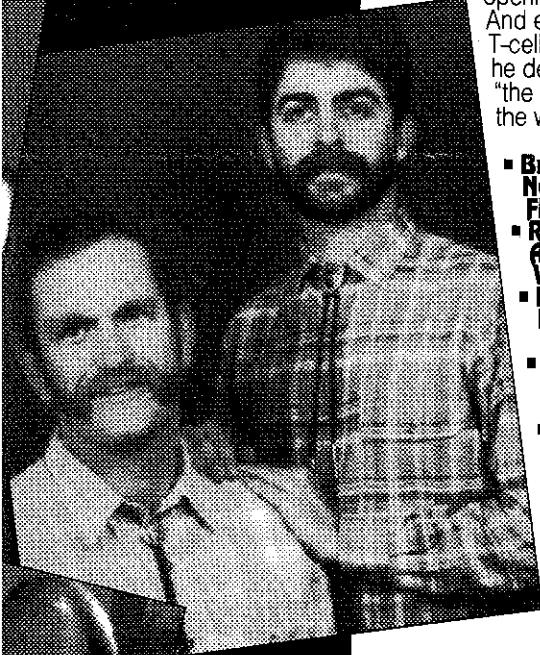
In this film we meet eight elderly gays and lesbians who lived through an era when homosexuality was not tolerated, and who battled constantly for self-esteem and survival in a "straight world." Among them are: a male couple still in love after 55 years of living together; a feminist author/political activist living in an intergenerational community in Florida; a former monk turned rancher who is in his eighties has made peace with being Catholic and gay; a black great-grandmother who revealed her lesbianism to her grandchildren; a feisty ex-waitress from Chicago.

This film challenges many stereotypes about homosexuals and shows that they have long-standing, deep-rooted commitments. And we see that older people are not asexual, as young people often believe.

*Silent Pioneers* is important for general audiences, both gay and non-gay. Counselors, anthropologists, psychologists, social service providers and gerontologists will be sensitized to the needs of gay and lesbian elders.

- Emmy Nomination, Outstanding Program, 1986
- Gold Plaque, Chicago Inter'l. Film Fest., 1985
- Gold Athena, Athens Inter'l. Film Fest., 1985
- CINE Golden Eagle, 1985

42 min. Sale: 16 mm \$650;  
Video \$395. All rentals \$65.  
A 30-min. version is available on video.



## WOMEN, HIV AND AIDS

Produced by Hummingbird Films for Channel 4, England

This hard-hitting, up-to-date documentary grapples with the special problems of women in the AIDS epidemic. It will encourage frank and open discussion on a wide range of subjects such as safe sex for both straight and lesbian women, health care for HIV positive women and advocacy efforts.

Despite attempts at education, HIV is still thought of as a male, gay disease, even by doctors and health care workers. This sometimes results in women being improperly diagnosed, although they may exhibit classic symptoms.

In addition, women have a difficult time insisting on safe sex since they are often afraid to antagonize their partners. Understanding safer sex means being clear about the level of risk of transmission in different sexual activities. This issue is explored at a safer sex workshop for men and women led by an experienced health educator. In another setting, the risk of HIV infection for lesbians is discussed.

By filming a broad cross-section of women, the social and political implications of this disease are raised.

52 min. Video.  
Sale \$445 Rental \$75

- National Women's Studies Assoc., 1992
- Women and Disability Film Festival, 1992

## NO SAD SONGS

A film by Nick Sheehan presented by the AIDS Committee of Toronto

"A strong plea for better understanding of AIDS and for victims of that disease."  
Landers Film Reviews

"It starts as a movie about AIDS but ends as a testament to human strength in the face of deadly adversity."  
The Toronto Star

This film focuses on the emotional and psychological effects of AIDS, rather than the medical aspects. It centers on Jim Black who faces an early death, and Catherine...

## NEW TURNAROUNDS A Pilot Needle Exchange Program

Produced by Susan Adler

"This video illustrates the feasibility and importance of needle exchange as a central HIV prevention measure."  
Gerald Friedland, MD,  
Yale University School of Medicine

Injecting drug use can be linked to about one-third of all AIDS cases nationwide. *Turnarounds* documents a legal needle exchange program in New Haven that is saving lives. When the state passed a bill legalizing a needle-exchange program, the New Haven Health Department supported by the Mayor and the Chief of Police began a pilot program. Since inception, over 1,000 clients have enrolled and over 30,000 needles were exchanged.

Preliminary evaluation studies conducted by Yale University show that the rate of HIV transmission by the participants was reduced by 33% without any associated increase in drug use. This pilot program is helping to change health policy and legislation in other cities. Operating out of a mobile van in areas where addicts congregate, the staff encourages drug users to exchange their used, and sometimes HIV infected needles, for clean ones. At the same time, they encourage safe sex, and whenever possible refer clients to drug treatment programs. In a nation beset with the alarming spread of AIDS and drug use, *Turnarounds* provides an invaluable example of a program that works!

- New England Public Health Association, 1992

Video, 9 min.  
Sale \$99 Rental \$40

## NEW AIDS AND LOVE AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. ELISABETH KÜBLER-ROSS

Produced by Vincent Burke

In this relaxed interview from her Virginia farm, Dr.

## AIDS AT ISSUE: Coping with an Epidemic

Produced, written and directed by Jeffrey Tuchman for The Public Agenda Foundation

While the AIDS epidemic causes immeasurable personal tragedies, it also raises a host of difficult public issues that must be answered by the society as a whole. What should be done to help people protect themselves from the AIDS virus? What measures should be taken to keep people who are already infected from spreading it to others? And how much of a commitment should we make, as a society, to care for those who have the disease?

This program gives voice to the many moral, legal, ethical and economic concerns that the epidemic raises. It presents a broad range of opinions on such issues as AIDS education in the schools, needle-exchange programs, mandatory testing, the rights of people with AIDS, condom advertising on television, and more.

The magnitude of this epidemic is forcing people with deeply held beliefs in personal freedom to confront the conflict between their principles and their fear of AIDS. This program does not take a particular point of view. Its aim is to help viewers sort through some of the issues and to come to considered judgments about how our society should deal with AIDS.

22 min. Video  
Sale \$250 Rental \$55

## DEFINING LIFE

Produced by Beverly Peterson

"This video is not only right up with current events, but challenges ones emotions and ethics like no other."  
Derek Humphry, Founder, Hemlock Society and author of "Final Exit."

What does one do when a terminally-ill person asks for help in committing suicide? This thought provoking film tells the story of three people who had to make difficult choices.

## AIDS IN AFRICA

Roger Pyke Productions in Co-production with the National Film Board of Canada

"Highly recommended."  
Choice

"Personalizes the continent's affliction."  
Booklist

This compelling documentary is the most comprehensive report from the frontlines of the war on AIDS. The disease is especially rampant in Central Africa where it is estimated that several million may be dead by the year 2000. Unlike Europe and the United States, where 90% of AIDS victims are homosexuals, drug abusers and hemophiliacs, in Africa the ratio is 40% men, 40% women and 20% children.

The health crisis is striking a continent already wracked by underdevelopment, civil strife and corruption. There are therefore huge economic and cultural obstacles to prevention efforts. In its investigation, the film takes viewers to remote and previously off-limits locations in Uganda, Zaire, the Ivory Coast, Burundi, Rwanda, South Africa and several other countries. We hear from both African and foreign public health officials who attest to the magnitude of the problem.

It is obvious that the crisis in Africa has global ramifications. If the disease is to be checked, it must be by dealing with the poverty, sexual mores and illiteracy that underly its spread. For example, if the most effective means to prevent infection is through the use of condoms, the poor in Africa simply have no access to them. The film gives voice to the Africans themselves who, with courage and dignity, face an uncertain future.

- Silver Award, New York International Festival, 1991
- First Place, Gold Award, John Muir Medical Film Festival, 1990
- Gold Hugo, INTERCOM, 1990

Video, 52 min. Sale \$445  
Rental \$75

## NEW AIDS IN

a shameful disease. Catherine tells us how open communication with her ailing brother enabled them both to bear the prospect of his death

- San Francisco Gay & Lesbian Film Fest., 1986.
- Chicago Inter I. Film Festival, 1985

30 min. Sale: 16 mm \$550; Video \$295 Rental \$55. Original theatrical version, 61 min. Sale \$900; Video \$495 Rental \$100

## BAILEY HOUSE: To Live As Long As You Can

A film by Alain Klarer

This is an intimate, sensitive portrait of the people who live at Bailey House, a 44-room residence for homeless people with AIDS. It captures the fabric of daily life, the courage, humor and kindness, as well as the fear. It's focus is not only on the residents but also on the totally committed staff, from nurses to custodians, who must deal with the frequent occurrence of death. A sensitizing film for nursing, social work, pastoral counseling, and hospice programs

- Award of Excellence, National Hospice Organization, 1990
- Finalist, Community Health, John Muir Medical Film Festl., 1990
- Berlin Film Festival, 1989

55 min. Video.  
Sale \$295 Rental \$75

for AIDS babies. After her own community prevented her from creating a home for sick mothers and babies on her property, she organized a network of foster parents. We meet people who are reaping the emotional rewards of seeing these children respond to a loving environment. Children who had languished in dismal hospital wards were now playful and responsive.

Dr. Kübler-Ross has also championed the cause of prisoners with AIDS. In the early 1980's she warned officials that they were underestimating the extent of the epidemic in correctional institutions. Later she saw how sick prisoners were denied treatment and comfort. From that time on she became an advocate for these patients, and has seen their situation improve.

Dr. Kübler-Ross is an inspiring example of a person dedicated to helping those who cannot help themselves. In speaking about the AIDS babies, her focus is not on the waste and despair, but on the warmth and love that they elicit from their caregivers

39 min. Video.  
Sale \$99 Rental \$50

## THIS IS MY GARDEN

Produced by Alex Benedict

This warm film introduces us to five gay men who have lost their lovers to AIDS. We learn how they met, what attracted them to each other, and how they handled the trials of illness. Now each is faced with the challenge of resuming life while keeping alive the memories of their loved ones

- Silver Apple, National Educational Film and Video Festival, 1990
- American Film & Video Festival, 1991
- American Psychiatric Association, 1992

26 min. Video.  
Sale \$295 Rental \$55

tors for help in attaining a good death."

Next, Bertram Harper tells of his personal struggle in behalf of his terminally-ill wife who wanted to die. For abetting her suicide, Mr. Harper was charged with murder. After an emotional trial, the court found him innocent.

On the other hand, we see the case of Luane, who was left in a vegetative state after a car accident. Her family never considered "letting her die." Sixteen years later she recovered enough to permit the removal of her feeding tubes and to sit in a wheel chair. Despite severe physical limitations, she lives each day fully.

This important film raises issues that go beyond the debate of merely withdrawing life support in a hospital

26 min. Video  
Sale \$295 Rental \$55

WVIA-TV and Produced by  
Stonescape Productions

"The variety of visual  
images is refreshing."  
AFVA Evaluations

While many people think that the AIDS epidemic is an urban problem, this documentary shows that its effects reach into small town America. Using towns in Pennsylvania as a microcosm, the program presents stories of several people whose lives have been touched by the epidemic.

One couple, married for several years, discovered they both had AIDS when their baby son became sick. The husband describes caring for his failing wife even as he knows that he will soon become sick. One mother who has stood by her dying son recounts her sense of rejection when no friends or relations would come to her house. A grass roots AIDS educator confirms that the disease is escalating while the community is still denying the reality

- Finalist, American Film & Video Festival, 1990
- Silver CPB Award, 1990
- Mid-Atlantic Emmy, 1990

30 min. Video  
Sale \$295 Rental \$55

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