

Safe Zones Recommended Films on Religion

Call Me Malcolm. Dir. Joseph Parlargreco. Perf. Malcolm Himschoot, Matt Kailey and Calpernia Addams. 2005. DVD

This documentary tells the story of a transgender student in a United Church of Christ seminary who struggles to reconcile his gender identity as a transman (female to male) with his faith. It also chronicles his cross-country journey after graduation in which he comes to self-acceptance and spiritual affirmation.

Camp Out. Dir. Kirk Marcolina. Perf. Jay Wiesner, Brad Froslee, Ross Murray. Liberation Ent, 2008. DVD.

Camp Out follows ten mid-western teenagers through their first summer in a gay-positive Christian youth camp. The camp provides an open and affirming environment with supportive counselors so that they can return to their communities and help overcome the homophobia that is often present in Christian churches and families.

Fish Can't Fly: Conversations about God and Struggling to Be Gay. Dir. Tom Murray. T Joe Murray Videos, 2005. DVD.

This documentary depicts eight small-town gay men's and lesbians' painful experiences with conservative Christian programs that aim to turn gays and lesbians into successful heterosexuals. The film tells their personal stories and also includes commentary by mental health experts and religious leaders.

For The Bible Tells Me So. Dir. Daniel Karlake. Perf. Gene Robinson, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Imogene Robinson. First Run Features, 2008. DVD.

This film features several prominent Christians in the U.S. and internationally who support LGBT rights in their churches and attempt to interpret the Bible in a way that rejects homophobia and allows churches to treat all people equally.

God & Gays: Bridging The Gap. Dir. Luane Beck. Perf. Jason Stuart, Rev. Mel White, Mary Lou Wallner. Indican Pictures, 2008. DVD.

Gods and Gays attempts to get into the heads, hearts and lives of people who have worked to avoid the choice between believing in God and being gay. Like the film listed above, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, it includes interviews with prominent religious figures, mainly Christian.

In God's House: Asian American Lesbian and Gay Families in the Church. Dir. Lina Hoshino. 2007. DVD.

This documentary deals with the fact that Asian American lesbians and gays have been largely invisible in Christian churches. It aims to end this silence and give voice to LGBT Asian American Christians, their families, and their supporters.

A Jihad for Love. Dir. Parvez Sharma. Perf. Muhsin Hendricks, A.K. Hoosen and Mazen. First Run Features, 2007. DVD.

In view of Islam's Sharia Law, which is interpreted as requiring the death penalty for homosexuality in some countries, this documentary follows several gay Muslims in oppressive situations who hope to find a place to live and love freely.

Mississippi Queen. Dir. Paige Williams. Perf. Paige Williams, Judy Williams. Porch Productions, 2010. DVD.

This award-winning film is directed by Paige Williams, an out lesbian whose conservative Christian parents run a program to convert gays into ex-gays in Mississippi. Paige interviews both LGBT supporters in her native South and those whose Christian beliefs condemn homosexuality unequivocally.

Rock Haven. Dir. David Lewis. Perf. Sean Hoagland, Owen Alabado, Laura Jane Coles. TLA, 2007. DVD.

Rock Haven is a fictional portrait of a budding romance between Brady, a devout young man headed for a Christian college, and his gay neighbor Clifford. When Brady comes to acknowledge his sexual orientation he faces rejection from his family and his religious community.

Save Me. Dir. Robert Cary. Perf. Judith Light, Chad Allen, Robert Gant. First Run Features, 2007. DVD.

This is a movie about a drug-addicted and suicidal young man who is forced by his family into a Christian-run treatment center that attempts to treat his addiction but also cure him of being gay. Ultimately it is a story of how the road to recovery from addiction cannot be successful unless he learns to accept and love himself as he is.

Through My Eyes. Dir. Justin Lee. The Gay Christian Network, 2009. DVD.

This documentary made by the Gay Christian Network depicts many young gay and lesbian Christians discussing their views on homosexuality, and the responses of their churches, friends, and families when they realized their sexuality and decided to come out. (It should be noted that there is a difference of opinion among some of the participants in the Network whether a non-celibate gay identity is compatible with Biblical and Evangelical Christian values, but for others, an understanding of LGBT identity must not simply entail what kind of sex people have.)

Trembling Before G-d. Dir. Sandi Simcha Dubowski. Perf. Yaakov Meir Weil. New Yorker, 2009. DVD.

In this film gay Orthodox Jews speak about their faith and their sexual orientations and their quest to make them compatible. Also included is commentary by Orthodox Rabbis who grapple with their tradition's rejection of homosexuality with the reality of gay Jews amongst them.

Unlearning Homophobia Series: Award-Winning Documentary Films. Woman Vision and EyeBites, 2004. DVD.

This is a trilogy of three award-winning short documentaries.

Straight from the Heart explores parents' journeys to a new understanding of their queer children by telling stories about real and diverse families across the country.

All God's Children documents efforts by Black political and religious leaders and churches to embrace African-American LGBT people as full members of their families and community. Rev. Jesse Jackson, Prof. Cornel West, and Senator Carol Moseley-Braun are among those who speak out about the importance of equal rights and social justice for everyone.

De Colores is a bilingual film presenting Latino families and communities breaking down cultural prejudice against LGBT people and reaffirming love for each other across differences.

8: The Mormon Proposition. Dir. Reed Cowan. Perf. Dustin Lance Black. Wolfe Video, 2010. DVD.

This documentary was directed by a former member of the LDS or Mormon Church. It attempts to show how the passage of Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage in California, was successful in large measure because of the Church's decades-long campaign against LGBT rights.