

Open Meeting: *In Good Conscience*



Tuesday,
February 22nd



NEWS

FEBRUARY 2005

In Good Conscience: Sister Jeannine Gramick's Journey of Faith

Produced and Directed by Barbara Rick

In Barbara Rick's acclaimed documentary, *In Good Conscience*, a most unlikely and very funny rebel—an American nun—finds herself at the center of a human rights storm with leaders of one of the world's most revered institutions, the Roman Catholic Church.

The film chronicles the true story of Sister Jeannine Gramick, who is defying a Vatican edict that she shut down her compassionate ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics, and silence herself permanently on the subject of homosexuality.

Sister Jeannine has worked within the church for more than thirty years on behalf of the LGBT community and its fight for acceptance, recognition, and equality. When Pope John Paul II recently issued her an ultimatum: denounce homosexuality or lose everything, quietly and with respect, she refused.

"I choose not to collaborate in my own oppression by restricting a basic human right," she says. "To me this is a matter of conscience."

Legendary filmmaker Albert Maysles was so moved by Sister Jeannine's story he volunteered to shoot it. Executive produced by Humanitas Prize winner Tom Fontana, the film has won support from patrons Ellen DeGeneres, Susan Sarandon, Trudie Styler, Agnes Gund, Deborah Santana, among many others.

Called 'a masterpiece' by Oscar-winning filmmaker Barbara Kopple, a 'must-see' by *TimeOut NY*, and 'absorbing... excellent' by *Variety*, audiences are embracing *In Good Conscience* with standing ovations at sold-out screenings around the world.

The film debuted at IFP/Lincoln Center's Independents Night series. It won the Audience Favorite Award for Best Feature Documentary at the Philadelphia Int'l Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, and received Honorable Mention at NewFest for its 'inspirational and stirring portrait of a woman who has defied censorship to speak out against homophobia and discrimination.' It was selected as the Closing Night Film at the Queer Screen Documentary Festival in Sydney, Australia and will be featured in an upcoming segment of PBS' *In The Life* broadcast.

As global debate continues to explode over gay civil rights, this laugh-out-loud film follows Sister Jeannine throughout the U.S. all the way to Rome where she faces grave consequences to her life-defining decision to defy the Vatican.

Barbara Rick is president and founder of the independent documentary company Out of The Blue Films, Inc., dedicated to the production of films that explore, articulate, and celebrate humanity. A Peabody and Emmy award-winning filmmaker/journalist for more than twenty years, Rick has helmed a number of acclaimed films. Among them, the PBS documentary, *SHE SAYS/Women In News*, which was awarded a 2001 Emmy for 'Outstanding Informational Programming' and was a 2002 Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia awards finalist. Since 1994, Rick has been a freelance writer and producer for ABC News,



Sister Jeannine Gramick

including *World News Tonight* with Peter Jennings and the *World News Tonight* weekend broadcasts.

Rick will be joined by Sister Jeannine Gramick for a panel after the screening.

Co-sponsored by the Media Studies and Film Department at The New School and the Wolfson Center for National Affairs at The New School. Special thanks to Carol Wilder.

Produced by Lynda Hansen.

Tuesday, February 22nd • 6 p.m. Reception; 7 p.m. Screening & Panel
The New School Tishman Auditorium • 66 West 12th Street (bet. Fifth & Sixth Avenues)
Free to NYWIFT members & students (w/ ID)
RSVP: 212-679-0870, ext. 3
\$5 to International Documentary Association & Lesbian Cinema Arts members
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(See page 13 for details)

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Paula Heredia completed the edit of *No Place To Hide* for Peter Jennings Productions. *No Place To Hide* is a documentary about data technology and the partnership between government and private industry in the name of security.

Megan Cogswell won an Emmy for Best Report in a News Magazine as co-producer (with Peter Meryash) of *Inside The Pentagon* for *NOW* with Bill Moyers.

Alexandra Isles' *Scandalize My Name: Stories from the Blacklist*—a documentary about blacklisted African-Americans—will air on the closing evening of Thirteen/WNET's "Black History Month" programming in February. Introduced by Morgan Freeman

and featuring Ossie Davis, Harry Belafonte, and Rosetta LeNoire, the film will be shown on February 28 at 9:00 p.m. Isles' last film, *Porraimos: Europe's Gypsies in the Holocaust*, was shown on Thirteen in 2003. She is currently in post-production on her newest documentary, *The Healing Gardens of New York*.

Gita and Curt Kaufman recently returned from a month of videography in Vienna and Salzburg, Austria, where they were in production on *Letters*, a documentary for Austria's German-speaking school system, under contract with the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Art. Final shooting and editing are being done in New York City. The project is based on Gita's family history.

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