

## This May, Community Cinema Brings a Special Presentation of 'Limited Partnership'

*Film Celebrates the 40-Year Love Story of One of the First Gay Couples to Marry and Their Decades-Long Fight for Legal Status*

*WKAR Screening to Feature Q&A*

**EAST LANSING, MI; MAY 12, 2015** -- Community Cinema, presented by the Independent Television Service (ITVS), *Independent Lens*, and WKAR and Project 60/50 at Michigan State, is excited to offer an advance screening of [Limited Partnership](#), a film by Thomas G. Miller and Kirk Marcolina.

The WKAR Community Cinema event takes place **Thursday, May 21 at 7 p.m.** at WKAR in the Communication Arts and Sciences building on the Michigan State campus. The event is free, but online [reservations are required](#) at [WKAR.org](#).

The evening begins with a screening of an excerpt from the film and continues with conversation addressing the issues as they play out in Michigan. The panelists are Susan Reed, supervising attorney with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center; Penny Gardner, president of the Lansing Association for Human Rights (LAHR); and Doak Bloss, health equity and social justice coordinator with Ingham County Health Department.

Reed will talk about the legal aspects of gay marriage and particularly immigration issues. Gardner and Bloss will be commenting on the film through their own experiences and perspective, and how it relates locally.

This screening and conversation is a free presentation in partnership with **Project 60/50** at Michigan State University.

### More About 'Limited Partnership'

*Limited Partnership* uncovers the often untold history of the activism that has led us to a historical point, as the Supreme Court imminently is set to rule on same-sex marriage. The film chronicles the 40-year love story between Filipino American Richard Adams and his Australian husband, Tony Sullivan. In 1975, thanks to a courageous county clerk in Boulder, Colorado, Richard and Tony were one of the first same-sex couples to be legally married in the world. Richard immediately filed for a green card for Tony based on their marriage. But unlike most heterosexual married couples who easily obtain legal status for their spouses, Richard received a denial letter from the Immigration and Naturalization Service stating, "You have failed to establish that a bona fide marital relationship can exist between two faggots." Outraged at the tone, tenor, and politics of the letter, and to prevent Tony's impending deportation, the couple decided to sue the U.S. government, initiating the first federal lawsuit seeking equal treatment for a same-sex marriage in U.S. history.

-- MORE --



## On the Air

**Limited Partnership** airs on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 10 p.m. (check local listings) on WKAR and PBS.

## About the Filmmakers

**Thomas G. Miller (Producer/Director)** has worked on documentaries and in public television since 1994. He associate produced the Sundance award-winning film *Licensed to Kill* (POV, PBS), and co-produced the recent award-winning film *Code Black*. He co-produced and edited *Fender Philosophers* for PBS and *Camp Out* for Logo TV. He edited the feature documentary films, *Good Kurds, Bad Kurds and Home of the Brave*. He produced and directed the award-winning feature documentary, *ONE BAD CAT: The Reverend Albert Wagner Story* (Ovation). Other credits include producing television films for Discovery, and WNET's series on disabilities, *People in Motion*. Miller is also on the board of the International Documentary Association and has been teaching editing, documentary filmmaking, and mentoring the Sloan Science films at the USC School of Cinematic Arts since 2004. He is a member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and the Writer's Guild of America, West. He is also a pediatrician and has served as medical consultant for *Sesame Street* and other film and television series. He graduated with a BS degree in zoology from The University of Michigan, an MD from the Medical College of Ohio, and an MFA from the USC School of Cinematic Arts.

**Kirk Marcolina (Producer)** has worked in television and documentary filmmaking for nearly 20 years. Most recently, he produced and directed *The Life and Crimes of Doris Payne*, an award-winning documentary about an 80-year-old jewel thief that premiered at Hot Docs in 2013. He also produced and directed the feature documentary, *Camp Out* (Logo TV) about the first Bible Camp for gay teenagers. Marcolina's television work includes co-executive producing *Boy Meets Boy* (Bravo), *Gay Weddings* (Bravo), *Switched* (ABC Family) and *That Yin Yang Thing* (TLC). Marcolina also directed the Disney Channel documentary series *Bug Juice* and has edited many reality-based and documentary series. Marcolina has taught Documentary Production at California State University, Long Beach and was a Trustee of the International Documentary Association. He received his MFA in Film and Video Production from the University of Southern California and his BA in Communication from the University of Pennsylvania.

## About Community Cinema

Community Cinema is a national civic engagement initiative featuring free screenings of films from the Emmy® Award-winning PBS series *Independent Lens*. Presented by Independent Television Service (ITVS) in partnership with local public television stations and community organizations, these in-person events and online social screenings bring community members together to learn, discuss, and get involved in key social issues of our time. For a complete lineup and more information about the Community Cinema series visit: <http://communitycinema.org>.

## About Independent Lens

*Independent Lens* is an Emmy® Award-winning weekly series airing on PBS Monday nights at 10:00 p.m. The acclaimed series features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by Independent Television Service, the

-- MORE --

series is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private corporation funded by the American people, with additional funding from PBS and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. For more visit [pbs.org/independentlens](https://pbs.org/independentlens). Join the conversation: [facebook.com/independentlens](https://facebook.com/independentlens) and on Twitter [@IndependentLens](https://twitter.com/IndependentLens).

### **About Project 60/50**

Michigan State University facilitates community conversation on civil and human rights. Learn more at [inclusion.msu.edu](https://inclusion.msu.edu)

The WKAR Network is part of Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts and Sciences. The WKAR Network provides mid-Michigan and the global community with award-winning original programming and the best from PBS and NPR via television channels WKAR-HD, WKAR World and WKAR Create; and radio broadcasts at 90.5 FM, AM 870 and WKAR Radio Reading Service. At [Wkar.org](https://Wkar.org) and [video.wkar.org](https://video.wkar.org), the network offers live audio streaming, plus local news features, TV original full episodes and the best from NPR and PBS on-demand. The WKAR Network provides additional community outreach with WKAR Ready to Learn Service and PBS LearningMedia.

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Bill Richards, WKAR (517) 432-0013 / [BillR@wkar.org](mailto:BillR@wkar.org)

### **Secondary contact**

Lisa Tawil, ITVS (415) 356-8383 x 244 / [lisa\\_tawil@itvs.org](mailto:lisa_tawil@itvs.org)

*Visit our press page for more information and downloadable images:*  
[itvs.org/films/limited-partnership/photos-and-press-kit](https://itvs.org/films/limited-partnership/photos-and-press-kit)

#####