

Movie Club 1

Date: 08.07.2006

Venue: Inclusive Foundation Office

Film Title: Sexual Dependency

Audience: 15 male and 8 female participants, 1 Female to Male transgender (FtM)

Representatives of the IF introduced movie club activity to the community and explained that this activity similarly to the discussion club is designed to address problematic issues for the community, yet through the more in depth insight that movies help to achieve. Activity also helps to consolidate community and share information on regular basis.

Introduction to the movie Sexual Dependency was short and gave very basic details of the movie.

Discussions:

The idea of showing this movie was welcomed by most of the audience. Was noted that movie is a very good combination of the attempt of director's and camera work. As movie output is to simultaneous screens and texts it gives very interesting perspective on the events in it.

As participants of the discussions noted, multiple number of short stories very unexpectedly tied up at the end of it gave a very powerful impression.

Most important messages of the movie were:

- Homophobia, racism, sexism and xenophobia is very effectively merged in the rhetoric of characters;
- Mainstream sexuality is shown as the act of prevalence on the other, or proof of physical maturity or the act of violence; and as the act of humiliation;
- Most severely suffering victims are those who prefer to live double lives with concealed sexuality and forced play of roles;
- Relatively open people on the movie, such as, gay activist avoid direct violence by facing the challenge and by relating himself to the bigger and stronger community than individuals facing challenge in a closeted manner.

Movie Club 2

Date: 28.07.2006

Venue: Inclusive Foundation Office

Film Title: The Sum of Us

Audience: 12 male and 5 female participants, 1 Female to Male transgender (FtM), 1 Male to Female transgender (MtF)

Representatives of the Inclusive Foundation presented movie "the Sum of US" and mentioned that apart from other topics, this movie gives basic differences of relations within families.

After the brief introduction movie was screened

Introduction provided by facilitator of the discussion can be summarized in several principle points:

Discussions:

Community representatives expressed different opinions of the cinematographic value of the movie. Some of participants did not quite like the movie because it was simple. Others expressed idea that they liked movie for the same reason and that movie club is not the place to arrange retrospective of masterpieces of cinema, yet those films that can give some stimulus for thinking on certain problematic topics.

Some representatives regarded open attitude of father with his son and son's boyfriend as surreal and forced openness that is caused by concealed homophobia. Others disagreed and stated that father having other family members (mother) practicing sexual relationship with same sex partner was well aware on homosexuality and therefore had a tolerant attitude.

On the director's choice of portraying homosexuals very regularly opinions were also split. Most concluded that they never felt made fun of, or being extraordinary throughout the movie as they related to the characters.

All concluded that this movie shall be shown to general public and will by all means have a positive impact on public opinion.

There was an attempt to bring burden discourse into the discussion as the gay guy needs to take care of his newly paralyzed father after he broke up with his girlfriend as she behaved in a very homophobic manner. However, community preferred to express opinion in round and conclude the discussions.

In general, movie provoked very active discussion and number of different opinions were expressed.

at the end of discussion the IF representatives summed up the summer activities and disseminated questionnaires to collect feedback from community on discussion and movie clubs. 15 questionnaires were returned. Results are summarized and attached in separate format.

(See: Inclusive Foundation discussion and movie club evaluation summer 2006)

Movie Club 3

Date: 21.09.2006

Venue: Inclusive Foundation Office

Film Title: Kinsey

Audience: 7 male and 4 female participants, 1 Male to Female transgender (MtF) – among them 4 new attendees.

Introduction:

Before introduction to the movie "Kinsey", representative of IF introduced short-length film "Without Love" made by young Georgian director.

Movie shows the story of lesbian love, while physically strong man appears to be weak and cannot do anything without a real love. The title reflects on the verse by famous Georgian poet. The fact that that young straight director touched upon this topic and had courage to use traditional poetry sample was welcome by the community. Though, some spectators had a critical points regarding the drama line, use of color and music from their professional point of view. It was agreed that the director needs to be sensitized more in relation to gender issues. Young director took comments constructively and expressed interest to cooperate with some of participants, who possess expertise in gender issues as well as in movie making.

The IF representatives thanked young director and invited him and the actor to stay for the basic movie screening.

Introduction provided by facilitator of the discussion can be summarized in several principle points:

- Kinsey was the revolutionary researcher in sexuality studies, who proved that sexuality has many trends and is very diverse;
- Kinsey's researches are said to be one of grounds of the sexual revolution in 1960th;
- Such topics often generate protest and aggression from religious institutions and closed society.

Discussions:

After movie screening floor was given to community representatives to share their points about the film. General tendency of the discussion confirmed an assumptions that Kinsey indeed provided an incredible load of information in the era of sexual darkness. He revealed many prejudices that did not had to do anything with the reality.

Movie Club 4

Date: 07.10.2006

Venue: Inclusive Foundation Office

Film Title: The Summer of My Love

Audience: 12 male and 12 female participants, 1 Female to Male transgender (FtM), 2 Male to Female transgender (MtF) – among them 8 new attendees.

Introduction:

Before introduction to the movie “The Summer of My Love”, representative of IF introduced partner organizations’ representatives from Moldova and Netherlands participating in HIV/AIDS prevention workshop in Georgia to the audience.

Facilitator of the discussion chose the film because of its light plot, just to sit together and watch it. Film was about love affair of two females and their individual stories on how they got together. This film was purposefully chosen as it does not require much discussions that would have been almost impossible in three languages.

Movie Club 5

Date: 03.11.2006

Venue: Inclusive Foundation Office

Film Title: Transamerica

Audience: 10 male and 9 female participants, 1 Female to Male transgender (FtM), 1 Male to Female transgender (MtF) – among them 5 new attendees.

Introduction:

Introduction provided by facilitator of the movie club focused on the principle points that choice of the transgender topic for the movie club was substantiated by the results of an exercise conducted during the previous discussion club that revealed that this segment is perceived as most vulnerable by the community. Facilitator also mentioned the positive side of the movie to be free of stereotypes portraying life of transgender person in unexpected pace and colors.

Discussions:

After the movie screening floor was given to community representatives to share their points about the film "Transamerica". General tendency of the discussion confirmed several assumptions:

- The film can be considered as a sample of sensitive and gender correct work free of stereotypes;
- Female actor plays the role of MtF professionally;
- Interest in how do transgender, gay, lesbian, bisexual and heterosexual people feel themselves has always existed in every person. What the psychological state of transsexual person is? –is a very interesting question as no one can quote absolute factors contributing to origination of transsexuality;
- Frequently, transgender people are discriminated against even within the LGBT community;
- Until now, transgender people are most hardly accepted in the society;
- In addition, the nature of transgender persons is considered as a deviation and can be said that it is not sufficiently studied yet;
- Men and women's traditional behavior and manners are easy to adopt and do not determine persons self-perception.

By the end of discussion points were summarized and audience of the movie club continued discussion and interaction between each other in informal atmosphere. It was agreed that the second discussion topic will be about transsexuity/transgender people.

Movie Club 6

Date: 17.11.2006

Venue: Inclusive Foundation Office

Film Title: A New Land

Audience: 8 male and 11 female participants, 1 Female to Male transgender (FtM), – among them 4 new attendees.

Introduction:

Before introduction to the documentary film "A New Land" (36 min. 2004. Russia, Germany), produced by German film director Kerstin Nickig, representative of the IF introduced film director and representative of Heinrich boll Stiftung to the audience, who offered film and invited the film director.

Facilitator of the movie club provided introduction to the movie:

- Documentary is about relationship of two circus instructors - lesbian couple, whose relationships are led to marriage. Director was making the film over the period of six months.

Discussions:

After movie screening floor was given to community representatives to share their points about the film "A New Land". General tendency of the discussion confirmed several assumptions:

- Are they still married? – It was the first question to the director. After two years of marriage Astrid and Natasha divorced;
- One of the participants told about sense of importance of marriage for one of the actor and the nihilistic attitude to that from the beloved. As one of the female was German and the other – Russian, the latter one had phobia of bureaucracy that might have link to Soviet routine.
- Majority of the audience agreed that same-sex marriage was not the reason of the divorce, as frivolous stand of Larisa towards stable relationships was visible even in the film;
- Proportionally, homosexual men are tend to change partners more frequently than homosexual women;
- In hetero marriages, there are some other factors (children, social factors), that contribute somehow to retaining a stronger ties, whereas in same-sex marriages absence of such factors can often play a negative role.

Audience switched to the local matters of marriages afterwards.

- There are many aspects when divorce becomes challenging for women in Georgia (lack of financial independence, social position, shelter, etc.); Woman is seen successful when she is a mother, and the most important thing women have is the ability to give birth, while society is less concerned with their participation in other fields of social life;
- One more remarkable stereotype is that women are always considered guilty of infertility in childless couples. In addition, after conducted survey in childless married couples, 70% of women were fertile and they could not persuade spouses to take a test.

By the end of discussion, points were summarized and agreed that further discussion topic will be about marriage.

P.S. In early January, main character Astrid visited movie director, her friend in Tbilisi and was invited to the meeting in Inclusive Foundation. Producer group of IF's future project a feature movie "the dress you wear" and manager of British Georgian cultural exchange foundation were also invited to the meeting. Participants discussed issues pertaining to the LGBT specific topics in cinema and art in general. Representatives of the Inclusive Foundation interviewed actress and director. Interview will be published in the 2007 first issue of 'Me' magazine, which will have a strong lesbian focus.

Movie Club 7

Date: 08.12.2006

Venue: Inclusive Foundation Office

Film Title: Stonewall

Audience: 15 male and 19 female participants, 1 Female to Male transgender (FtM), 2 Male to Female transgender (MtF) – among them 9 new attendees.

Introduction:

Before introduction to the movie “Stonewall”, representative of the IF informed the audience about organization’s plans for the year 2007 and IF’s recent involvement in Council of Europe’s “All Different, All Equal” campaign and its main purposes.

Introduction provided by facilitator of the movie club can be summarized in several principle points:

- The Stonewall riots were a series of violent conflicts between New York City police officers and groups of gay and transgender people that began on June 28, 1969, and lasted several days. The clash was a watershed for the worldwide gay rights movement, as gay and transgender people had never before acted together in such large numbers to forcibly resist police harassment directed towards their community.
- Stonewall is a fictionalized account of the weeks leading up to the Stonewall riots, a core event in the modern American gay rights movement the initial part of which was eventually entitled a Stonewall Era.

Discussions:

After movie screening floor was given to community representatives to share their points about the film “Stonewall”. General tendency of the discussion confirmed several assumptions:

- The film can serve as an encouraging element for the community;
- Some participants claimed that it was still not easy to be openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender in a country such as Georgia, since coming out acceptance still remains quite a difficult process;
- Lesbian couple who live together for more than one year told about predicament of cohabitation and openly same-sex partnership in Georgia;

By the end of discussion points were summarized, new participants showed interest in taking part in discussions and movie clubs. The IF shared information about new article of labor code that says that sexual orientation shall not be the ground for discrimination or dismissal. It was noticeable that number of participants increased considerably and reached a pick. To come to the point, audience of the movie club continued discussion and interaction between each other in informal atmosphere.

