

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE NATION'S LONGEST RUNNING LGBTQ YOUTH THEATER



# THE YEAR WE THOUGHT ABOUT LOVE



DIRECTED BY ELLEN BRODSKY EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SARAH HANCOCK ASSOCIATE PRODUCER PAM CHAMBERLAIN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY AUSTIN DE BESCHE EDITED BY PETER RHODES  
ASSISTANT EDITOR LAI-SAN HO MUSIC BY CLAUDIO RAGAZZI WITH SUPPORT FROM H. VAN AMERINGEN FOUNDATION, LUCIUS AND EVA EASTMAN FUND  
THE PUFFIN FOUNDATION, NEPTUNE AVIATION SERVICES & THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

THEYEARWETHOUGHTABOUTLOVE.COM

## PRESS CONTACT

Ellen Brodsky  
34 Sherman St.  
Cambridge MA 02138  
(617) 407-9170

ellenbrodsky@comcast.net  
[www.theyearwethoughtaboutlove.com](http://www.theyearwethoughtaboutlove.com)  
[www.facebook.com/yearaboutlove](http://www.facebook.com/yearaboutlove)  
[www.ellenbrodskyfilms.com](http://www.ellenbrodskyfilms.com)

## STILLS

For higher resolution images please go to: <http://www.theyearwethoughtaboutlove.com/press-kit/>



© Ellen Brodsky Films 2014



© Joel Benjamin 2014



© Ellen Brodsky Films 2014



© Ellen Brodsky Films 2014



© Ellen Brodsky Films 2014

## ONE LINE SYNOPSIS

With wit, grace, and attitude, a diverse troupe of LGBTQ youth transforms their personal struggles into theater for social change - starting with a simple and surprising kiss in the first act.

## OVERVIEW

**The Year We Thought About Love** celebrates the powerful work of a Boston LGBTQ youth theater troupe, True Colors: OUT Youth Theater, as they write a play about love.

The power of BEING OUT may be the queer community's greatest contribution to all of us. Learning how to be true to oneself is often the first step to personal liberation and political change. Our film highlights the rehearsal room of True Colors, which brings actors together across race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, and gender identity to explore OUTNESS.

Shot in vérité style with no narration, the **The Year We Thought About Love** amplifies the voices of a diverse group of young people who help us reconsider the power of living a life honestly and out loud.

## SYNOPSIS

What happens when a diverse group of LGBTQ youth dares to be "out" on stage talking truthfully about their lives? **The Year We Thought About Love** goes behind the scenes of the oldest queer youth theater in America. In a twist on the common image of LGBTQ youth as victims, the film reveals the troupe members as artists and activists, celebrating the fullness of their lives in both thoughtful and hilarious ways.

Our camera crew slips into rehearsal rooms, kitchens, classrooms, and subways capturing the wit, candor, and attitude of these young people. Together they explore love - romantic, familial, and religious - as they write scripts based on their lives.

While the play takes shape, other challenges come hurtling at the cast. We learn more about the lives of several troupe members, highlighting both the unique and universal struggles of LGBTQ adolescence. A transgender teenager is kicked out of her house; a devout Christian wrestles with his church's homophobia; and a girl dares to wear boys' clothing at school even as she models dresses on the runway on weekends. When the Boston Marathon bombs explode outside their building, the troupe becomes even more determined to share their stories of love to help heal their city.

During the play's tour, student audiences are surprised to hear such revealing stories shared in school settings. Audiences cheer, gasp, laugh, and grow silent as they value the courage and strength these young people must have to be out and true to themselves.

## CHARACTERS

**Alyssa**, 17, begins the film as Dellandre and transitions as the film progresses. A complex relationship with her mother comes to a head, both on and offstage.

African-American **Ayden**, 17, is an experimenter—she tries on different personas (and radically different styles of dress and hairdo) in a race-and-gender-influenced quest to find her self.

Because **Chi**, 21, believes his personal relationship with God helps him to survive, he is deeply troubled by his Black church's strict condemnation of homosexuality.

Haitian-American **Giffy**, 19, can make anyone laugh and longs for a life in professional theater, but a personal tragedy and money worries cloud his vision.

Although **Roxas**, 17, has witnessed more than his share of urban violence, his Puerto Rican mother has created a safe refuge at home.

**Trae**, 15, has confidence and energy to spare and relishes her kiss on stage before her predominantly Black school.

**Nick Bazo**, troupe Director, is a Cuban-American who studied Theater Education in his home state of Florida, where he and his husband marry during the year of the film.

## SCREENING DETAILS

Run Time: 68 minutes

Formats: HDCam; BluRay; DVD

Audio: 5.1 stereo

4:3 ratio

## WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.theyearwethoughtaboutlove.com](http://www.theyearwethoughtaboutlove.com)

[www.facebook.com/yearaboutlove](https://www.facebook.com/yearaboutlove)

[www.ellenbrodskyfilms.com](http://www.ellenbrodskyfilms.com)

## CREATIVE TEAM

### Director/Producer

**Ellen Brodsky** began filmmaking after a twelve-year career in education and public health. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Democratic Republic of Congo, worked at the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, led a National Training Center on HIV prevention for the Centers for Disease Control, and did training for the Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students. Ellen co-produced "At Home in Utopia," broadcast on Independent Lens in 2009. She has directed three award-winning shorts: "What do you know? Six to twelve year olds talk about gays and lesbians," "Only One Boss," and "Dental Farmer" (with co-director, Dunya Alwan), which have played festivals in all seven continents. Brodsky has a Masters in Management from the Heller School, Brandeis University and a BA in Religion from Haverford College. [ellenbrodsky@comcast.net](mailto:ellenbrodsky@comcast.net) 617-407-9170

### Associate Producer

**Pam Chamberlain** has championed the needs of LGBTQ youth since the 1970s as a feminist teacher, administrator, government agency manager, and social science researcher. She was a founding member of the groundbreaking Massachusetts Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students, the first public project of its kind in the country. Chamberlain has successfully raised funds and coordinated planning and implementation for multiple social justice projects. She also has experience in designing attitudinal and behavior change campaigns for schools and community groups. She holds degrees from Smith College and the University of Chicago. [pamnicky@ix.netcom.com](mailto:pamnicky@ix.netcom.com) 617-686-5074

### Director of Photography

**Austin de Besche** has been a cinematographer for over forty years. His cinematography credits include: the feature films "Return of the Secaucus 7" and "Lianna" (both directed by John Sayles), "On Thin Ice," an Emmy-winning anti-drug documentary; second-unit television work for "Cheers" and "St. Elsewhere"; and corporate films and commercials numbered in the thousands. He co-photographed "Voices of the Children," a documentary on Holocaust survivors, which won a National Emmy in 1999. He has served as director/cameraman on numerous promotions for the Discovery Channel, A&E Network, The History Channel, and many other television and cable networks. He was also the senior director of photography on the national PBS children's show "Postcards from Buster." [austin@moonlightmotionpix.com](mailto:austin@moonlightmotionpix.com) 617-510-0219

### Editor

**Peter Rhodes** is a veteran editor who was trained at the BBC in London. Since moving to the United States in 1986 he has accumulated more than 50 credits for films that have appeared on PBS, the BBC, and at major film festivals. Recent work include "What do you know? Six to twelve year olds talk about gays and lesbians" for the Human Rights Campaign; "The Last Mountain," which was an Official Selection at Sundance 2011 and winner of the IDA Pare Lorentz award; Frontline: "Inside the Meltdown"; "The People vs. Leo Frank," PBS, which won a Special Jury Prize at the 2010 History Maker's Conference; "The Price of Sugar," which won the Audience Award at South by Southwest Film Festival; "Typhoid Mary: The Most Dangerous Woman in America" for PBS's NOVA. [petermrhodes@comcast.net](mailto:petermrhodes@comcast.net) 617-939-3058

## **Composer**

Argentinean film composer and guitarist **Claudio Ragazzi** has been writing award-winning music for film and television, scoring hundreds of projects and performing with some of today's most respected musicians at renowned concert halls in the world. He scored Brad Anderson's hit film "Next Stop Wonderland" featuring Brazilian singer Bebel Gilberto. The CD reached Billboard's top ten chart for more than twelve consecutive weeks. Other film scoring credits include "The Blue Diner," "Casa de los Babys," "Something's Gotta Give," "Tetro," and "The Last Mountain." Claudio has scored hundreds of TV productions for the Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, National Geographic, Telemundo, Univision and PBS. [cragazzi1@gmail.com](mailto:cragazzi1@gmail.com)

## **Assistant Editor**

**Lai-San Ho** studied International Relations and Film Studies at Tufts University. During her time at Tufts, she co-produced three short films, one of which—"The Complete Life of John Hopkins"—was nominated for Best Student Short at the Silk City Flick Fest 2010. Since graduating in 2013, she has co-edited the feature film "A Sort of Homecoming" and a soon-to-be-released web series called "Old Guy." As an assistant editor, she has worked on the feature film "By the Sea" and the short film "Tap Shoes & Violins," in addition to "The Year We Thought About Love." [laisanh312@msn.com](mailto:laisanh312@msn.com)

## **The Theater Offensive and True Colors: OUT Youth Theater**

The Theater Offensive's mission is to present the diversity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender lives in art so bold it breaks through personal isolation, challenges the status quo, and builds thriving communities. The Theater Offensive serves its mission through the development and performance of original, groundbreaking and interactive works by, for, and about the LGBT community. The programmatic approach to its work is called OUT In Your Neighborhood (OUT'hood). Celebrating 25 years of queer theater, OUT'hood reflects the diversity of the city of Boston, gives voice to underserved LGBT community members, creates avenues for cross-cultural dialogue, and breaks down the barriers of homophobia, bigotry and hate. The heart of OUT'hood is True Colors: Out Youth Theater – that uses a proven community-based theater approach to train and activate LGBTQ and allied youth leaders. Throughout the program, youth will receive high quality theater training, leadership development and performance opportunities across the greater Boston area. [www.TheTheaterOffensive.org](http://www.TheTheaterOffensive.org)