



OUT IN THE NIGHT

A lifetime demanding self-defense. One night, they fought back.



a documentary feature film by blair dorosh-walther



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Out in the Night is a feature documentary (75 minutes or 52 minutes) that tells the story of a group of young friends, African American lesbians who are out, one hot August night in 2006, in the gay friendly neighborhood of New York City. They are all in their late teens and early twenties and come from a low-income neighborhood in Newark, New Jersey. Two of the women are the focus – gender non-conforming Renata Hill, a single mother with a soft heart and keen sense of humor, and petite femme Patreese Johnson, a shy and tender poet. As they and their friends walk under the hot neon lights of tattoo parlors in the West Village, an older man sexually and violently confronts them. He says to Patreese “let me get some of that” as he points below her waist. When she says that they are gay, the man becomes violent and threatens to “fuck them straight”. He spits and throws a lit cigarette. Renata and Venice defend the group and a fight begins, captured by security cameras nearby. The man yanks out hair from Venice’s head and chokes Renata. Then, Patreese pulls a knife from her purse and swings at him. Strangers jump in to defend the women and the fight escalates. As the fight comes to an end, all get up and walk away. But 911 has been called and the man involved has been stabbed. Police swarm to the scene as their radios blast out warning of a gang attack. The women are rounded up and charged with gang assault, assault and attempted murder. Three of the women plead guilty. But Renata, Patreese, Venice and friend Terrain claim their innocence. They are called a “Gang of Killer Lesbians” by the media. In activist circles they become known as The New Jersey 4.

Out in the Night has screened in over 100 film festivals worldwide, winning over a dozen awards since it’s world premiere at the Los Angeles Film Festival in June 2014. It has been recognized by Alternet as one of the 12 best and most powerful documentaries of 2014, was #6 on the film critic Steven Boone’s top 10 list at RogerEbert.com, was called one of the 10 best LGBT documentaries by the Advocate. Canada’s oldest literary journal by and about women called ***Out in the Night*** one of the 14 best top feminist films of 2014.

Out in the Night kicked off the 28th Season of POV on PBS June 22nd 2014 with an unprecedented simultaneous broadcast on Viacom’s Logo Network. We have also partnered with the United Nations’ Free and Equal Campaign to decriminalize homosexuality worldwide. They chose six films to screen at their 77 sites around the world, partnering with local organizations working against homophobia.

<https://vimeo.com/128422332>

Password: OITN0808

*"This film could help influence the ongoing LGBT civil rights struggle.
Everyone should see it." - RogerEbert.com*