

LATTER-DAY GLORY

A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT LGBT MORMONS



EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS - BRANDON DEYETTE AND EDWIN SCHARLAU

DIRECTED BY BRANDON DEYETTE

PRODUCTION COMPANY - ROUTE 7 PRODUCTIONS

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LOGLINE

Two gay ex-Mormon missionaries travel across the United States to confront their past and explore their futures while discussing with other gay Mormons about the rejection, oppression and the reality of a growing number of suicides they face in the LDS community.



JONATHON LEVI POWELL -
HAIR & MAKEUP ARTIST



TERRY BLAS -
COMIC BOOK ARTIST

SYNOPSIS

Jonathon and Terry both grew up in the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. While on a road-trip journey of discovery, they meet with former and current members of the LDS community including celebrities such as Tyler Glenn, of the band Neon Trees, and Utah State Senator Jim Dabakis.

Along the journey they explore Terry's home life in Portland with his partner Scott, and Jonathon's life on the road between NYC and Miami with his partner Kai. They interview Jonathon's family, who have become extremely welcoming of his sexuality, and Terry's parents who are still active in the church.



Jonathon revisits, for the first time, the site of his mission in West Virginia and Terry returns to his site in the Bronx. While traveling to the home of the LDS church in Salt Lake City to interview LGBT Mormons they both look into the technicalities of having their names and records permanently removed from the church.

With the current rise of suicides in the gay LDS community, they address the issue through stories from survivors and people that have lost children, family members, and friends to this devastating epidemic. They discuss solutions and possible outreach to help end the suffering through interviews with activists, therapists, politicians, and experts on suicide prevention.

After the LDS policy change in November 2015, it was reported that 34 LGBT Mormon youth had taken their lives within the 3 months that followed. The majority of LGBT Mormon youth face extreme isolation, ostracization, repression, depression and suicidal thoughts from the pressure and unworthiness they feel from the policies of the church.

Low Oxygen Levels, Not Anti-LGBT Mormon Church, Blamed for Utah's Soaring Youth Suicide Rate



by JOHN WRIGHT
July 06, 2016 10:29 AM



State's Youth Suicide Rate Has Nearly Tripled Since 2007, But Health Officials Refuse to Acknowledge Impact of Anti-Gay Religious Teachings

Earlier this year, [we told you](#) how 32 young LGBT Mormons reportedly had taken their own lives in the three months after the church [announced its horrific new policy](#) declaring same-sex couples apostates and barring their children from being

Unraveling the Truth Behind Gay Mormon Youth and Suicide



Forced Out of School and Church, Watching Friends Commit Suicide: What It's Like Growing Up Gay and Mormon

Gay Mormons have three options: Enter into a fraudulent heterosexual marriage, remain celibate, or leave the church.

EPISODE 1 - "HIGH ALTITUDE, LOW OXYGEN"



Jonathon and Terry investigate the high suicide rate among LGBT Mormon youth through interviews with Utah State Senator Jim Dabakis, Therapist Chad Anderson, and *Neon Trees*' front-man Tyler Glenn. They dive into the state's claims that the increase in suicides is solely linked to the high altitude and low oxygen levels of Utah. but is there a correlation between the suicide rate and the church's views on homosexuality?

EPISODE 2 - "AM I WORTHY?"



Jonathon and Terry take a trip down memory lane and explore what it was like being gay and growing up LDS. Tyler Glenn talks about his own experiences and the pressures the church put on him to keep his secret locked away. Jonathon's and Terry's parents share their own struggles balancing their faith and loving their gay children.

EPISODE 3 - "THE WORD OF GOD"



Serving a mission in the Bronx, Terry recalls what it is like for him being of Mexican heritage and the sacrifices he made to be in NYC. Jonathon explores the dark moments of his mission in West Virginia and the consequences he faced from his actions. They speak with former missionaries about what it was like for them to be gay and delivering the word of God.

Ghetto Swirl

by TERRY BLAS

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL I MOSTLY JUST WANTED TO ESCAPE, TO GO SOMEPLACE WHERE I COULD FIGURE MYSELF OUT.

I CONSIDERED RUNNING AWAY, BUT TO PLEASE MY PARENTS, I ENDED UP BECOMING A MISSIONARY FOR THE LDS CHURCH. I GOT SENT TO **NEW YORK CITY**.

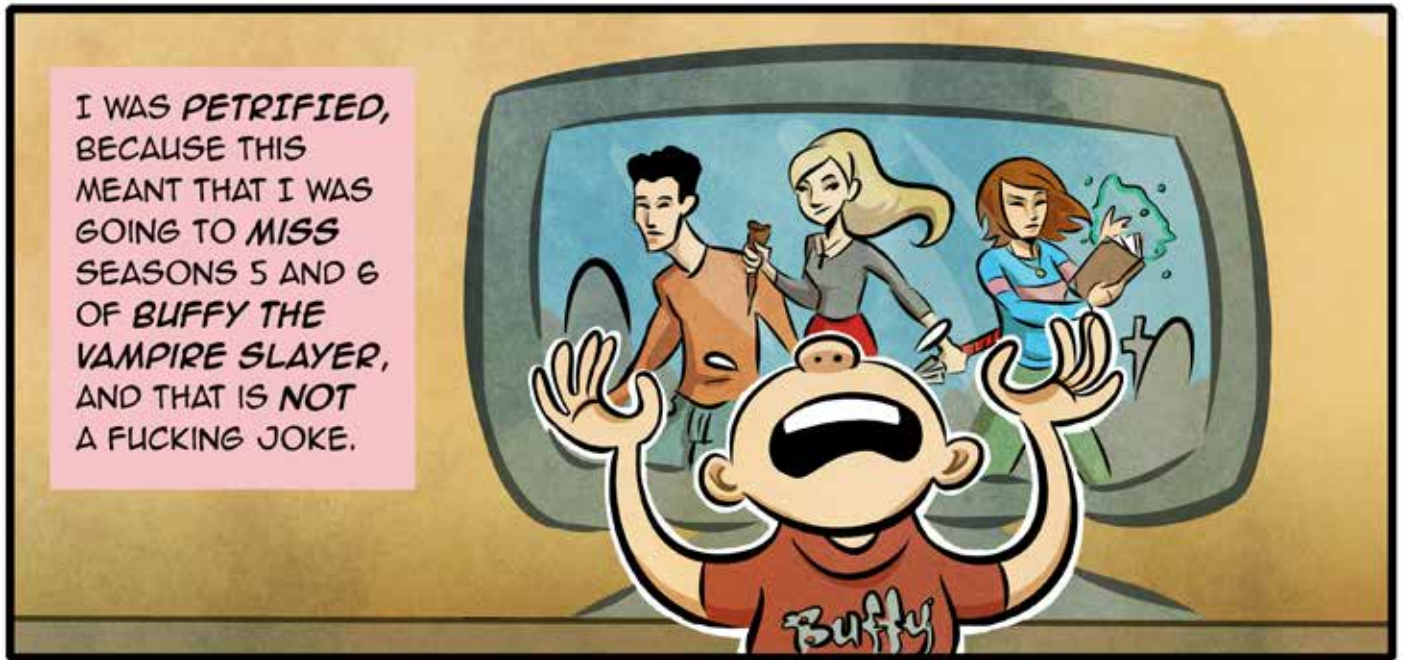


DURING THIS TIME, MISSIONARIES TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT MORMON **BELIEFS** AND BAPTIZE THEM.

TO KEEP YOU FOCUSED, YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH A COMPANION, **NEVER** TO BE OUT PAST 9 PM, AND ARE **PROHIBITED** FROM CALLING HOME, LISTENING TO MUSIC, OR WATCHING MOVIES AND TELEVISION.

THE BRONX.





EPISODE 4 - "MARRY THE MOST DEVOUT"



In high school, Terry and Jonathon both dated girls, against their own interest and knowing inside it was a lie. For them, leaving the church had its ups and downs, but for some others they had a much harder time. On their trip they meet with men and women who were pushed into heterosexual marriages, by the LDS church, which ultimately lead to their own depression.

EPISODE 5 - "CONVERSION"



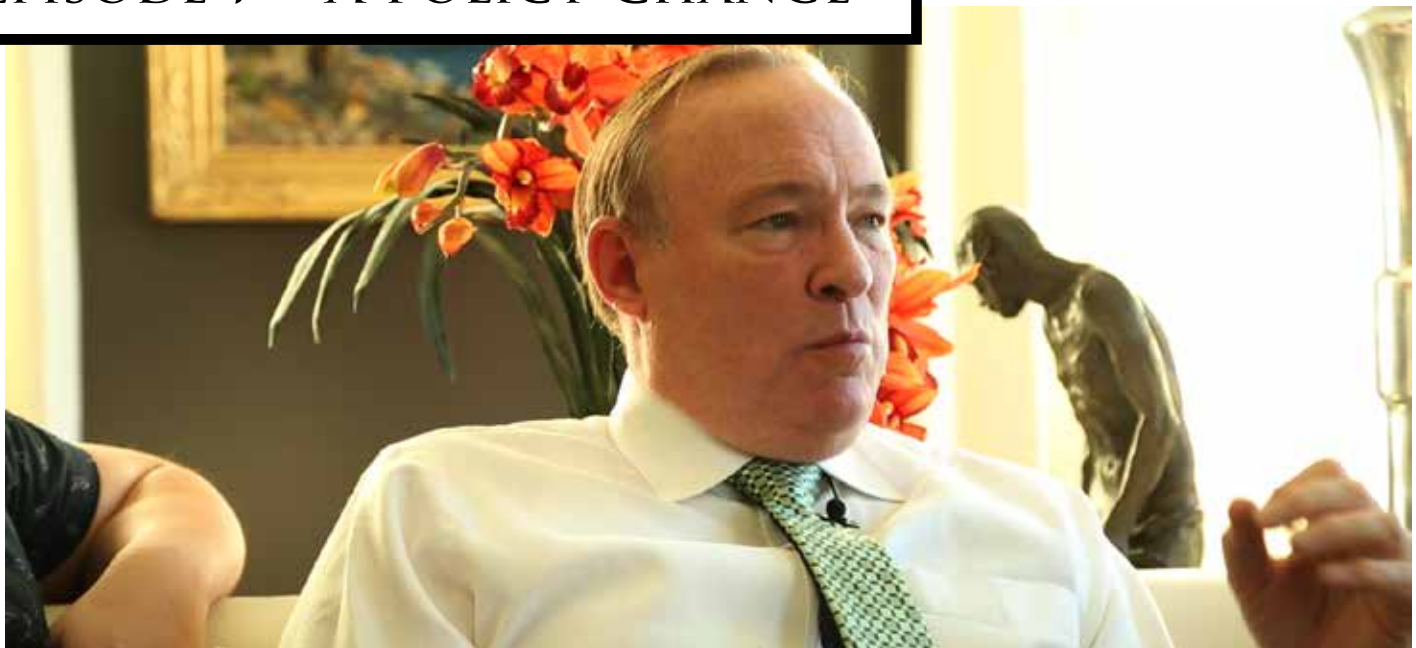
Terry's fear of coming out stemmed from the potential of being forced into reparative therapy. Jonathon was given the choice to stay in the church and seek conversion, or leave forever. And while they never had to face a day living the tortures of reparative therapy, they meet some men whose lives were forever impacted by the devastating effects of conversion.

EPISODE 6 - "NO WAY OUT"



Jonathon and Terry take a deeper look at the effects the church's stance on homosexuality has on its LGBT members. Terry recalls difficult times while Jonathon takes us further into his downward spiral on his mission. Their hearts break when they hear about the lives that were almost taken too soon and losses many families and friends painfully endured.

EPISODE 7 - "A POLICY CHANGE"



In November 2015, the LDS church released a statement about LGBT Mormon parents and their children. The news sent shockwaves through the community and ignited a mass resignation. Jonathon and Terry meet with people that were directly affected by this and speak about what hopes they have for the future.

EPISODE 8 - "CELIBACY"



Jonathon and Terry have little hope for inclusion of the LGBT community within the LDS church. The recent policy states that LGBT are welcome, but with what restrictions? Can you find true love and happiness while sacrificing who you truly are? And at what cost?

EPISODE 9 - "A CREATIVE OUTLET"



Jonathon liked to play with hair and makeup. Terry liked to draw and watch movies. They discuss how their creativity played a big part in moving past the suppression they faced in the LDS church and lead to their successes. They seek other ex-Mormons to talk about how their passions helped them through the darkness.

EPISODE 10 - "LOVE IS LOVE"



So what now? Jonathon and Terry take a look at where they've come from and where they're going. They reflect on their lives while looking into the future talking about career, friendship, and love. They also explore ways people can get involved with suicide prevention advocacy through counselors and education.

PERSONNEL



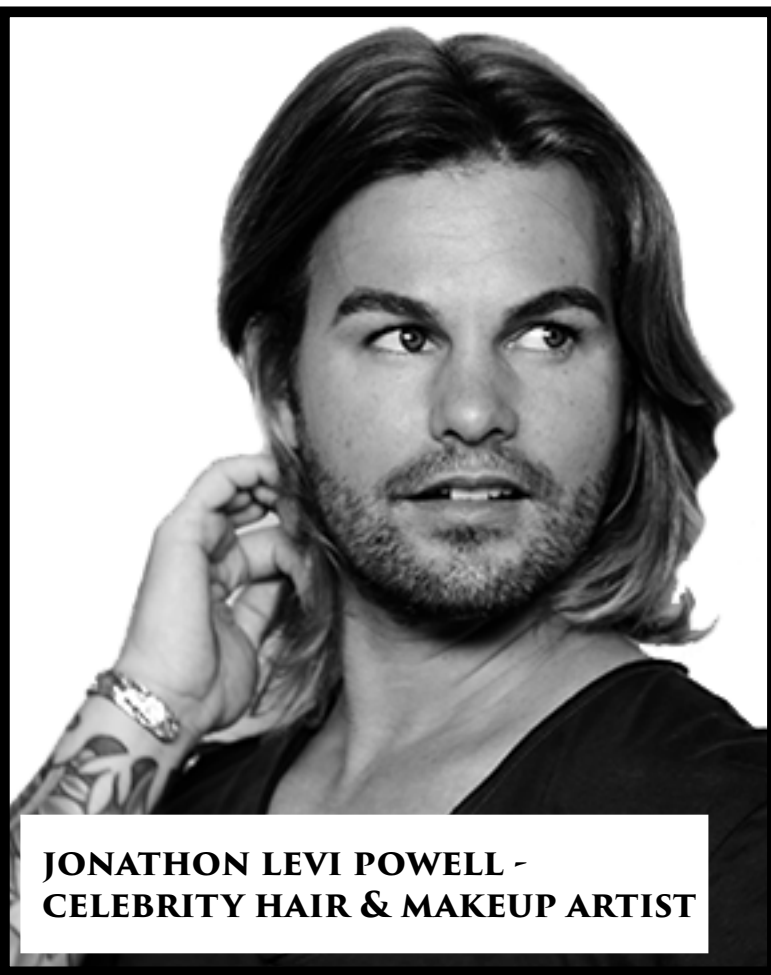
**EDWIN SCHARLAU -
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Edwin produced and co-directed the award-winning documentary “Unfit: Ward vs. Ward” that was an official selection in over fifty film festivals around the world. The documentary racked up numerous awards along the way including Jury Award Best Documentary at the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Jury Award Best Social Justice Documentary at the Kansas International Film Festival, and First Place Documentary Feature at the Athens International Film + Video Festival. He is the president of Route 7 Productions.

Brandon’s first feature film, “Proxy”, was screened at many film festivals including a World Premiere at the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The film, which he wrote and directed, won multiple awards including Festival Favorite at Cinema Diverse: Palm Springs LGBT Film Festival, Audience Award Best First-Time Director and Runner-Up Audience Best Feature at Qflix Philadelphia, and Runner-Up Jury Award Best Feature at Springfield LGBT Film Festival. He holds an MA in film from Georgia State University.



**BRANDON DEYETTE -
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER/DIRECTOR**



**JONATHON LEVI POWELL -
CELEBRITY HAIR & MAKEUP ARTIST**

Jonathon was born in Seattle and at the age of 5 his mother joined the LDS church. After serving his mission and leaving the church, Jonathon set out on a path in the hair & makeup industry. Having opportunities to work with Melinda Gates, Sandra Oh and a few other celebrities, Jonathon made his way across the country to Miami to pursue a career as a freelance editorial artist. He is now a frontrunner in the industry working with celebrities including Robin Thicke, Katy B, DNCE, and Olivia Culpo and has done work with GQ and Vogue Italia.

Terry Blas is the writer and illustrator behind the ongoing web series “Briar Hollow” and the mini comics “Ghetto Swirl” and “You Say Latino.” He grew up in Boise and several places in Mexico. He is of Mexican heritage and raised Mormon. After his mission, Terry left the church and set out to publish his comic artwork. His cover work includes “Regular Show”, “The Amazing World of Gumball”, “Adventure Time”, and “Rick and Morty.” His debut graphic novel will be published by Oni Press about a murder mystery set in a fat camp titled “Morbid Obesity.”



**TERRY BLAS -
COMIC ARTIST & ILLUSTRATOR**