

A FILM BY EMILY CLARK

# IS GAY MARRIAGE NEXT?



FEATURING LAUREN LESLIE, ELISABETH NOEL JONES AND MARCUS MABRY  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY GARETH SMIT EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JULIA RUNAGALL COLORIST ANDREW CEEN EDITOR J.P. DAMBORAGIAN MUSIC JOANNA STARLING

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY EMILY CLARK

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## Overview:

**Title:** Is Gay Marriage Next?

**Genre:** Short Documentary

**Running Time:** 16 minutes

**Language:** English

**Format:** HD

**Director & Producer:** Emily Clark

**Original Score:** West Channel

**Website:** [IsGayMarriageNext.com](http://IsGayMarriageNext.com)

**Contact:** 202-288-4188  
[emilyclark1@gmail.com](mailto:emilyclark1@gmail.com)

*"Is Gay Marriage Next?" artfully navigates the ebb and flow of LGBTQ rights in America through the lens of a 2003 Newsweek cover that changed the director's life.*



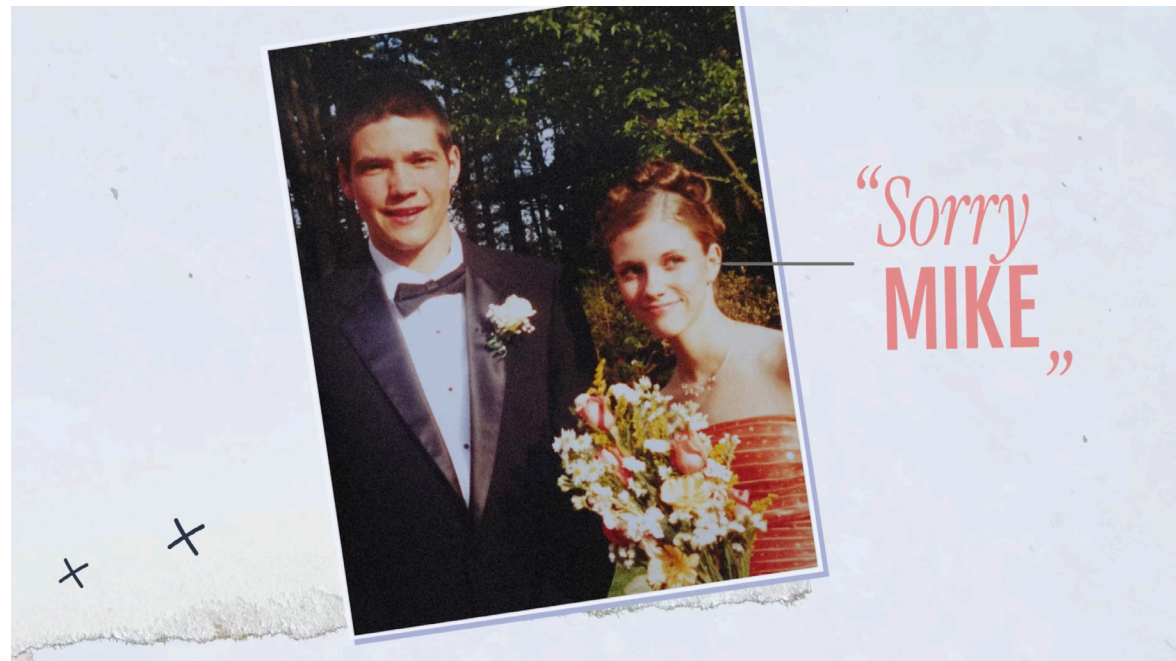


Production still 1

Production still 2



Production still 3





Production still 4



Production still 5



Production still 6





## Synopsis:

Responding to a Supreme Court case in 2003, a groundbreaking cover of Newsweek featured a lesbian couple and asked: Is gay marriage next? A young, closeted woman saw the magazine and found the courage to come out. Two decades later, she searches for the couple who gave her hope.

Together, they explore the LGBTQ political landscape then and now. In a post-Roe era, this compelling story asks a familiar question with a haunting twist: is gay marriage next—to go?

## Main Crew:

|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Director / Producer:</b> | Emily Clark                |
| <b>Executive Producer:</b>  | Julia Runagall             |
| <b>Cinematographer:</b>     | Gareth Smit                |
| <b>Editor:</b>              | J.P. Damboragian           |
| <b>Music Supervisor:</b>    | Joanna Starling            |
| <b>Custom Music:</b>        | West Channel               |
| <b>Motion Graphics:</b>     | Parth Dake & Ryan Pattison |
| <b>Art Director:</b>        | Bodhi Ray                  |
| <b>Colorist:</b>            | Andrew Ceen                |
| <b>Mixer:</b>               | Macey Estes                |

## Featuring:

|                      |
|----------------------|
| Lauren Leslie        |
| Elisabeth Noel Jones |
| Marcus Mabry         |
| Jess Kimball Leslie  |
| Beckett Leslie-Jones |

## Director's Statement

At its core, this film is a love letter to our queer ancestors, bound to us solely by the common thread of a shared struggle.

Coming out can be exceptionally difficult. I had it pretty easy all things considered, but in 2003 I struggled so much with accepting myself and hoping my friends and family would accept me. At the time, inspiration and positive examples were few and far between... which is why one issue of *Newsweek* magazine featuring Lauren and Lis had such an impact on me. I simply didn't know happiness was possible until I saw them.

Finding and thanking the women who, without knowing it, showed me who I could be, has been one of the most beautiful experiences of my life.

## Director / Producer Bio:

Emily Clark is a queer documentary filmmaker. She grew up in Philadelphia, but luckily escaped the accent. After graduating from American University, she moved to NYC where she discovered the ad industry. This eventually led to directing award-winning branded content and making festival-worthy short docs. She wants to see more diversity in the film industry, and on screens, in her lifetime, and is currently pitching her short as proof-of-concept for a series about thanking people.

## Key Cast Bios

### **Lauren Leslie**

Lauren grew up in Stow, Ohio with a close-knit family, extending four generations. She's spent the bulk of her career in finance, which is a surprising turn from her early years in Musical Theatre. She is currently the Director of Investor Relations at a finance firm in Manhattan. Lauren cherishes quality time with Jess, Beckett and their two pets, Waffles and Garby.

### **Elisabeth Noel Jones**

Elisabeth prides herself on her diverse background. Her father is half Black, half German who recently found out that he is half Ashkenazi Jewish on his German mother's side through 23&Me. Her mother is 2nd generation Eastern European Jewish. As an only child growing up in Westchester, NY, she was raised "Humanitarian" and considers herself deeply spiritual. With a passion for both retail & travel, Elisabeth is the Founder & CEO of luxury e-commerce gift-giving site GiftMeChic and gains her expertise from her years as a buyer for prestigious department stores such as Bergdorf Goodman and Saks Fifth Avenue. At home in NYC, she cherishes her tight-knit bond with her teenager Beckett, her loving parents, and her cat, Sugar. With the goal of inspiring others to live authentic lives, Elisabeth eagerly embraces this film's role in championing love and LGBTQ+ rights.

### **Marcus Mabry**

Marcus Mabry, the Senior VP of Digital Editorial and Programming at CNN Digital Worldwide, leads strategy for CNN's digital editorial and programming teams. His oversight includes CNN.com, CNN Audio, and other digital ventures. Prior to CNN, Mabry was the first North American editor of Twitter Moments, and he held various roles at The New York Times. An award-winning reporter and editor, he began his career at Newsweek and has reported globally. Mabry is a trustee and author, with degrees from Stanford and involvement in multiple nonprofit organizations. He resides in New York City with his partner and children.



## Key Team Bios

### **Julia Runagall - Executive Producer**

Julia Runagall is an experienced director/producer with a passion for delivering emotive human interest stories for a wide range of clients across digital and broadcast platforms.

Throughout Julia's 30-year career she has worked with a variety of international clients including The Horizons series for BBC World News, Audi UK, HSBC, The Royal Horticultural Society and The British Heart Foundation. She lives in London.

### **Gareth Smit - DP**

Gareth Smit is a cinematographer based in New York. He was born in South Africa and grew up in Cape Town where he studied Philosophy. At the age of 15, he landed his first internship as a newspaper photographer and knew immediately that telling stories through images was how he wanted to spend his time.

He co-directed and shot The Andrew Yang Show (2021) for The New Yorker Documentary and dp/directed his first short film, Give and Take (2021) with grants from Arri Inc and The National Geographic Society. These shorts premiered at DOCNYC and Rooftop Films respectively. He recently shot his first narrative short, Leche con Cereal (2022), which will premiere at festivals this fall. He lives in Brooklyn, NY where he runs his own production company with his husband.

### **J.P. Damboragian - Editor**

J.P. Damboragian has been a commercial editor in NYC for 14 years. He lives in Brooklyn and loves telling real people's stories with an artistic sensibility.

### **Joanna Starling - Music Supervisor**

Joanna Starling, a Texan at heart now calling NYC home, chased her passion for crafting soundtracks to the Big Apple. With a decade of experience as a music supervisor and five years specializing in film music, she's found the perfect fusion of her love for music and storytelling. Currently, she dedicates her talents full-time to a label, curating for a diverse array of artists while eagerly taking on any project that excites her.

## FAQs

### **How did you find Lis and Lauren?**

Incredibly, Lauren and I had a mutual friend on Instagram. I asked this friend to introduce us, and after a couple delightful coffee dates, Lauren, Lis and I made plans for the shoot.

### **What do you hope this film accomplishes?**

There is a lot of bad news in the world right now. And for the queer community, it's been a years-long onslaught with no end in sight. I want this film to remind us of who we are: a community of people who don't give up.

### **How did you fund this?**

I raised money from a Go Fund Me to help cover music costs, and spread the post-production out over many months to fund it slowly. Once people watched it and heard about what it's trying to do, many people were happy to donate their skills or work for a reduced rate to make it all possible. I am endlessly grateful.

### **How did you find the animators?**

I scoured Behance until I found people who fit the style I was going for. In the end, I assembled a team in Brooklyn and New Delhi who were so wonderful, collaborative, and talented, I can't wait to work with them again.

### **How did you find such great queer archive?**

I found a few archive libraries and watched many, many hours of old NYC pride parades to find the perfect moments and quotes from 2003 that still resonate 20 years later.

### **Who is this film for?**

This film is a call to action for those in the media industry, urging them to recognize the immense power they hold in shaping narratives, to amplify marginalized voices, and to feature those who have been historically ignored. It stands as a reminder of the responsibility we all share in telling stories that can inspire change and foster empathy. After all, a cover story can change your life.