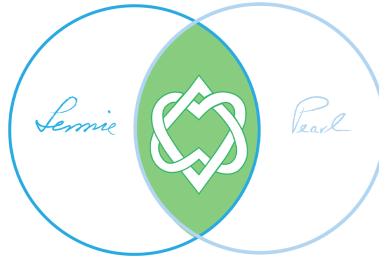


Living in the Overlap



Media Kit

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Press Release

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May 8, 2013:

Same-Sex Couple Celebrates 40+ Years Together in New Documentary

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.—As we near the first anniversary of the vote on North Carolina’s Amendment One, which effectively banned same-sex marriage, one local lesbian couple plans their wedding after being together for 46 years. The story of High Point residents Pearl Berlin and Lennie Gerber shapes *Living in the Overlap*, a new production of the Documentary Film Program at Wake Forest University.

The film includes public and private moments in Lennie and Pearl’s lives, including sequences shot during their efforts to defeat Amendment One. *Living in the Overlap* offers an overview of how Lennie and Pearl met and fell in love before focusing largely on key episodes in their lives together now. Producers launched a Kickstarter fundraising campaign to complete the production of *Living in the Overlap* in April at tinyurl.com/LenniePearl; it runs through May 24th.

The trailer for *Living in the Overlap*, plus bonus footage not found within the documentary, is available on the film’s website, www.lennieandpearl.com. A sneak preview of the film is set for June 1st at UNC Greensboro’s Elliott University Center Auditorium. Admission is free and the event is open to the public.

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Logline and Synopses

Logline: For over 40 years, Lennie and Pearl have shared a passion for social justice and for each other. Now, the indelible spark of their love inspires many others as they fight for their right to marry in North Carolina.

50-word synopsis: *Living in the Overlap* is the improbably true story of two girls growing up in Brooklyn in the 1940s, falling in love in the Midwest, and making a life together in North Carolina. Lennie Gerber, retired attorney, and Pearl Berlin, retired professor, still have an indelible spark after 46-years.

125-word synopsis: *Living in the Overlap* is the improbably true story of two girls growing up in Brooklyn in the 1940s, falling in love in the Midwest, and making a life together in North Carolina. Lennie is an attorney focusing on LGBT issues, and Pearl is a retired professor working on various political issues. They are surprised to have reached icon status. The film includes public and private moments in Lennie and Pearl's lives using interviews, archival material, and sequences shot during their efforts to defeat North Carolina's anti-gay marriage amendment. They offer wisdom about enduring relationships and think of themselves as two circles, often overlapping, who are both independent and interdependent. After 46-years of living in the overlap, Lennie and Pearl still have an indelible spark.

250-word synopsis: *Living in the Overlap* is the improbably true story of two girls growing up in Brooklyn in the 1940s, falling in love in the Midwest, and making a life together in North Carolina. Filmmakers learned about Lennie Gerber and Pearl Berlin's 46-year love story from a newspaper article and wanted to share their philosophy of relationships and their vibrant personalities with a larger audience. Lennie is an attorney focusing on LGBT issues, and Pearl is a retired professor working on various political issues. They are surprised to have reached icon status for simply living their lives together. The film includes public and private moments in Lennie and Pearl's lives using interviews, archival material, and sequences shot during their efforts to defeat North Carolina's anti-gay marriage amendment. *Living in the Overlap* provides an overview of how Lennie and Pearl met and fell in love before focusing largely on key episodes in their lives together now. They are recent recipients of a major award from a foundation supporting LGBT issues, an award presented at a formal gala. Despite strong efforts against the measure, the amendment passed, and they appeared on *The Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell* after the election. Along with reflections and insights about civil rights and the political process, they offer wisdom about enduring relationships, including an overarching philosophy of their relationship. They think of themselves as two circles, often overlapping, who are both independent and interdependent. After 46-years of living in the overlap, Lennie and Pearl still have an indelible spark.

Information on Amendment One

On May 8, 2012, North Carolina voters approved a constitutional amendment defining marriage that is referenced throughout *Living in the Overlap* as Lennie and Pearl work for its defeat.

Section 1 of the bill reads: “Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State. This section does not prohibit a private party from entering into contracts with another private party; nor does this section prohibit courts from adjudicating the rights of private parties pursuant to such contracts.”

Co-Director Statement

Mary M. Dalton

She is an individual and a strong-minded one. I am an individual, and I am a strong-minded woman. Think of two circles starting this way, and think of them having mobility and moving. Many times we are touching. Many, many times we are overlapping. And many times we go our separate ways. It takes both dependence and independence for a relationship to be strong, to survive, and also in our situation, to grow. --Pearl

The overlap is what you both want. And so, if you disagree on the edges, and I like something that she doesn't, that's fine, but there's always something we both could like to eat or there's some movie that we both would want to see or some restaurant we both would want to eat in or some trip we both want to take. So, if one of us proposes something that the other one doesn't want, that's fine, we skip it and go to the one that we both want. And, that's what I mean by the overlap. And, I think that's one of the big secrets, I think, but not just for us. I think if all couples did that they might get on better together because I'm sure there's an overlap for everybody in everything.

--Lennie

Lennie and Pearl have compelling personal stories, which is part of what draws them together, and overlapping interests, which is part of what keeps them together. They articulate profound things about their relationship, like the concept of living in the overlap, and the way they have worked out this philosophy in practice is inspiring. A big part of the overlap is their shared commitment to social justice issues, which stretches back decades and is represented in this film mainly by their LGBT advocacy work. They have also talked at length about the role travel has played in drawing them together through many trips over the years that feed their adventurous spirits. Other things exist in the overlap, too, like their love of the fine arts and a deep appreciation of the natural world.

As a filmmaker, I've tended toward telling stories about people I find inspirational in one way or another – and these stories usually include the communities that surround and sustain them – but I tend to focus more on who people are than on what they do. Both are important, of course, but it's the inside-out approach that feels most natural to me. Getting to know Lennie and Pearl has been a joy, and from the very beginning, it's been their love story that has drawn me in and made me feel a keen desire to make this film. These women have the type of enduring relationship with an intimate partner that I think most people want to have.

For me, as writer and co-director of the film and as a straight woman, part of the larger goal of the project is to help viewers see that Lennie and Pearl are absolutely meant for one another and that differences may exist between good relationships and bad ones but not because partners happen to be gay or straight or somewhere outside of those firm categories. The reductive thinking that goes along with separating groups into binaries leads to an “us” and “them” way of thinking about the world that is dangerous. We adopted a personal essay approach to this film with the intention of complicating those binaries and disrupting preconceptions that go along with them. I believe that relationships between partners that expand the world for both of them, offer intellectual connection, deep bonding, and a sustained romantic spark are a little bit rare. I've watched a lot of relationships closely over the years and have found few that I admire and even fewer that make me think, “That's like what I want.” They way Lennie and Pearl have structured their lives together lets me know that this type of relationship is possible and sustainable.

Media Coverage of Lennie and Pearl

Lesbian couple waiting more than 45 years to marry, The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell (MSNBC), 5/9/12: http://www.nbcnews.com/id/45755883/ns/msnbc-the_last_word/vp/47365032#47365032

Meet Pearl and Lennie of North Carolina, The Last Word Blog (MSNBC), 5/8/12: http://thelastword.msnbc.com/_news/2012/05/08/11603829-meet-pearl-and-lennie-of-north-carolina?lite

Unity of love and belief, Greensboro News and Record, 2/12/12: <http://www.news-record.com/home/653739-63/unity-of-love-and-belief>

Marriage equality proponents see history as on their side, Yes!Weekly, 9/14/11: <http://www.yesweekly.com/triad/article-12739-marriage-equality-proponents-see-history-as-on-their-side.html>

Filmmaker Bios

Mary M. Dalton – Co-Director, Writer, Producer – is Professor of Communication and Women’s and Gender Studies at Wake Forest University. Her documentaries have been screened at various festivals, museums, galleries, and libraries. Her scholarly publications include articles, book chapters, and the books *The Hollywood Curriculum: Teachers in the Movies*, *Teacher TV: Sixty Years of Teachers on Television*, and the anthology *The Sitcom Reader: America Viewed and Skewed*.

Cindy Hill – Co-Director, Cinematographer, Editor, Producer – is an Associate Director of The Documentary Film Program at Wake Forest University. She served as associate producer, director of photography, and editor for five documentaries that aired nationally on PBS: *Negroes With Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power*, *Freedom Never Dies: The Legacy of Harry T. Moore*, *Last Days of the Revolution*, *Campaign for Cuba*, and *Giving Up the Canal*. Most recently, she served as associate director, director of photography, and editor for *The Last Flight of Petr Ginz* an award-winning documentary that has screened in more than 40 countries and is currently being distributed by First Run Features and Forward Entertainment.

Ellen Hendrix – Producer and Associate Editor – is the owner of Ellen Hendrix, LLC Video Production and Motion Graphics. Working as part of a community-based participatory research team led by Dr. Scott Rhodes of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, her work was screened at the Film Festival of the 2012 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco. She is an active member of the Triad area LGTB community. In the 16 years she has lived in Winston-Salem, she has served on boards and committees including NC Pride, the Adam Foundation, and the Triad Health Project.

Cara Pilson – Director of Research and Consulting Producer – is an Associate Director of The Documentary Film Program at Wake Forest University. She served as Associate Producer and Director of Research for five documentaries that aired nationally on PBS including, *Negroes With Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power* and *Freedom Never Dies: The Legacy of Harry T. Moore*. Both films received the Erik Barnouw Award for Outstanding Historical Documentary. Most recently, she served as Associate Director and Director of Research on *The Last Flight of Petr Ginz* an award-winning documentary that has screened internationally and is distributed by First Run Features and Forward Entertainment.

Peter Gilbert – Cinematographer and Consulting Producer – has had a distinguished career in producing, directing, and photographing documentaries, feature films, commercials, and music videos. Gilbert is one of the filmmakers who made *Hoop Dreams*, serving as Producer and Director of Photography. The Oscar-nominated film won numerous awards including the Sundance Film Festival Audience Award, Producers Guild of America, Independent Spirit Award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award for Journalism. The groundbreaking film is often cited as one of the best documentaries of all time.

Sandra Dickson – Consulting Producer – is Co-Director of The Documentary Film Program at Wake Forest University. She served as producer and co-director for five documentaries that aired nationally on PBS: *Negroes With Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power*, *Freedom Never Dies: The Legacy of Harry T. Moore*, *Last Days of the Revolution*, *Campaign for Cuba*, and *Giving Up the Canal*. Most recently, she served as producer and co-director for *The Last Flight of Petr Ginz*, an award-winning documentary that has screened in more than 40 countries and is currently being distributed by First Run Features and Forward Entertainment.