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## DIRECTORS STATEMENT

*We know the National Equality March was October 11, 2009, how far in advance did you begin planning March On?*

I first heard about the march on Facebook in early summer 2009. Having been at the 2000 March On Washington, I knew I just had to go again. Without conferring with anyone or any plan in mind, I booked my travel right away. A couple of months later the NEM organizers asked if I would take on documenting the event. It wasn't long before I realized how big it was going to be, the list of speakers and the thousands of people who were going to converge on DC so I began putting together a team and a plan.

People were talking about their groups, their hopes and their sense of urgency to get to DC and it really knocked me out that the real story is WHY people would stop their busy lives and go to Washington!

*What was your original vision and how does it compare with your finished film?*

I originally planned to document the National Equality March. I was able to find several families who were traveling to the march. I sent Flip cameras to their homes and gave them their video assignments. The hope was to have a record of their entire journey, from getting out the suitcase, driving to the airport or bus, to finding their lodging. But most of all it was about why they felt they had to go, take off from work, leave home and March On Congress.

After the march, I watched the families' Flip video and their interviews. I realized that the real story was their story. Their stories are the reason we march. The final edit of the movie begins and ends with the march, but the families' interviews are the central story. Through their unique stories, I hope that people will want to take action and March On!

*We can see that you actually had your characters film themselves and their homes. How was that process and would you recommend it? What were the advantages and drawbacks?*

I never had an option. I had to have the characters record themselves because I did not have the budget to send out five crews all over the country at the same time. I loved the results. I was able to go through hundreds of hours of video and really get to know each person. The drawback was shaking hands and some unusable shots but it was nothing in the long run. I would definitely use this system again. The results exceeded anything we imagined as it turned out that the camera was an extension of their personality; you can really climb inside their story.

*Within your film you showed footage from the 1897 March on Washington. What is the legacy you would like to create with March On? Where do you see this social movement in another 30 years?*

There is a true legacy, a continuity for the LGBT Movement. 500,000 people attended the 1987 March On Washington and it was the first time the NAMES AIDS Quilt was shown. That is the reason we celebrate Coming Out Day on October 11th each year. In 2008, the movement burst open again, with renewed hopes as the President pledged support to end Don't Ask, Don't tell; Congress was mostly Democrats; and Prop 8 had passed in California with Marriage Equality on the horizon.

250,000 people marched on Congress and what I came to really understand is that every one of them has a moving, complex and important story to tell. The NEM and March On taught me I am an activist and my form of activism is to record LGBT events by telling individual stories. My hope is that people will watch this film and they will be inspired to become an activist. I hope that people will be inspired to MARCH ON!