



one

A STORY OF LOVE AND EQUALITY



Synopsis

In the wake of the legalization of gay marriage in her home state of New York, Becca, a young lesbian filmmaker, is plagued by the fact that the majority of the states in America currently have constitutional amendments banning gay marriage, including every single state in The South. Except one

When she finds out that residents in North Carolina are gearing up to vote for one of the most restrictive marriage amendments in the country, Amendment One, she becomes genuinely curious about what motivates people to continue to go out of their way to vote for such restrictive and harmful amendments, especially after seemingly so much progress has been made. Instead of getting angry and dismissing millions of voters whom she doesn't even know, she seeks to understand their reasoning, on a human level.

So she and her girlfriend, Melina, travel to North Carolina in the two months leading up to the vote on Amendment One, to try to understand people's stories, and attempt to build bridges.



Becca Roth (right) and girlfriend Melina Marini.

Director's Statement

When I was a senior in college, I organized a prom for the LGBT high school students in the neighboring conservative rural Ohio town. We were met with dozens of angry protesters, all old enough to be these kids' parents, screaming excerpts from the Bible, and declaring that we were all going to hell. While the few kids who weren't scared away from the whole event stayed inside the building, a bunch of us went outside to confront the protesters. They were yelling their beliefs, and we were yelling ours right back at them. We called them ignorant. They called us sinners. We were all extremely heated, and the experience was cathartic.



These kinds of conversations happen every day. And nothing gets accomplished.

I realized that pontificating and hailing insults would never drive people to see where I was coming from; it would just drive us further and further apart.

Ultimately, it drove me to make this film.

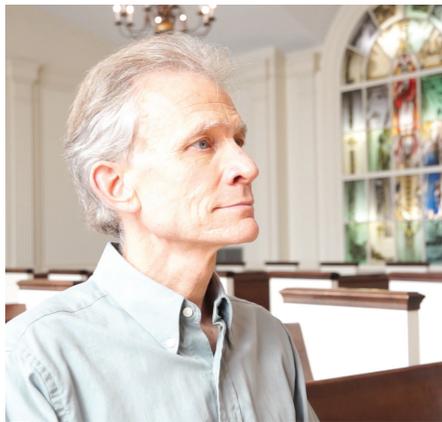
Ever since then, I dreamed of one day making a documentary that approached the issue of gay rights from a different perspective: one of compassion, empathy, and relating as human beings.

Then, in the fall of 2011, when I heard about the proposed constitutional amendment in North Carolina, a place that is very politically divided and often considered a swing state, I knew I had my film. I launched a Kickstarter campaign to fund the project, and it was so heartening to find out how many other people, friends and strangers alike, wanted to see this film get made and see these conversations happen. Soon I found myself in the breathtaking mountains of North Carolina, reaching out to as many different people as I could, trying to get to know them as people and find out where they're coming from.

The original title of the film was Hear Our Stories, but after spending months talking people from all walks of life, who on the surface appear as though they could not be more different from one another, I realized something. Something that I was hoping to find all along: People are people. And we are one.

- Becca Roth







The Team



Becca Roth

Director, Cinematographer, Editor, Producer

Becca Roth graduated from Kenyon College in 2010, where she studied film, drama, and anthropology. After spending her first year out of college working for tips and crewing on other people's projects, she set out to make her first independent film. With her tip money, she made *Rain in Summer*, a short film that went on to screen at nearly a dozen film festivals nationwide, picking up several awards along the way.

She is extremely passionate about *One: A Story of Love and Equality*, and can't wait to see where it will go.

Becca lives in Brooklyn with her girlfriend and two mischievous kittens, Oliver and Twist (both female).



Melina Marini Executive Producer

Late one November evening, Melina's girlfriend Becca burst out of their bedroom and announced to Melina that she wanted to make a documentary about an upcoming amendment vote in May 2012.

Melina not only encouraged her, but hopped on board as the project's producer.

What transpired was an experience that Melina will cherish forever. Not only did she meet incredible people, explore a beautiful state, and eat delicious barbecue, but she learned about where both sides are coming from on a human level. She hopes this film will open the country to dialogue about marriage equality and to the humanity behind this issue. She also hopes it will allow for conversations between marriage equality and traditional marriage supporters, citizens and lawmakers, and red and blues states.





The Team



Brianna Marzigliano Associate Producer

Brianna was introduced to Becca through a mutual friend, and when she heard about Becca's documentary, *One: A Story of Love and Equality*, she was immediately inspired, and eagerly joined to help manage the postproduction process. She is extremely proud of this project and is super excited to be a part of it.

Brianna Marzigliano graduated from the University of Delaware in 2010, where she studied English, Film Theory and Broadcast Journalism. Since then, she has gained professional experience in various areas of the entertainment industry, including news, film and TV production. She currently works in non-fiction development at an independent NYC TV production company, where she has been for three years.



Laura Goehrke Associate Producer/ Outreach

Laura and Becca became fast friends when they met back at Kenyon College while taking Anthropology classes together. In January of 2013, Laura watched Becca's first cut of the trailer for "One," and she immediately wanted to get on board. Since then, she's been a story consultant, has helped with publicity and outreach efforts, and has been Becca's personal hype-woman.

After graduating from Kenyon in 2010, Laura moved to Washington D.C. and worked at the Travel Channel as a Production Coordinator. In the summer of 2013, she moved back to her home city of Cleveland to write and report for several newspapers around the city.

Laura is grateful to work with Becca and everyone else on the "One" team, and can't wait to see what the future holds!



About Tip Jar Films

I funded my first film straight from the tip jar.

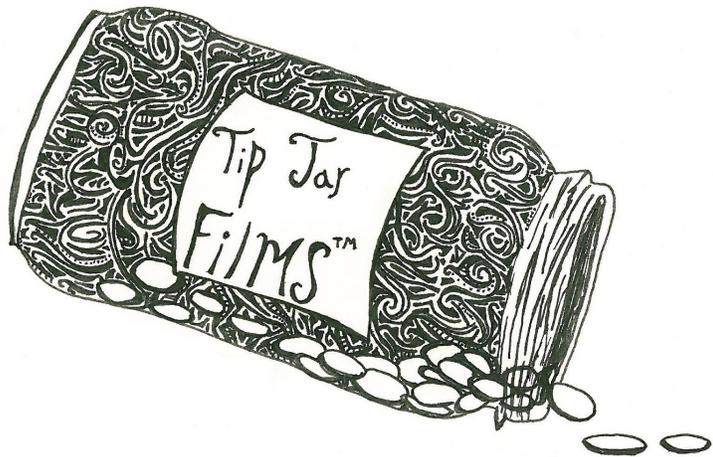
In the summer of 2010, fresh off the plane from my Midwestern college, with a diploma in my hand and a dream in my heart, I moved to New York to pursue a career in filmmaking. To support myself, I found a job as a hostess/ coat check girl at one of the most notoriously hard-to-get-into restaurants in the city. I quickly found myself spending all of my time there, developing calluses on my hands from carrying ten pound fur coats, working mostly for tips. It wasn't long before this consumed my life, and the direct pursuit of filmmaking fell by the wayside.

On the outside, it would appear that my path in life was to be a coat fetcher. And for months, it was. But what kept me going was the notion all this hard work would soon pay off. Once coat check season was over, I gathered my hard-earned tips, assembled a crew, and with the modest amount of money I had earned that winter, I produced my first independent short film, *Rain in Summer*. The budget was tiny but the passion was immense, and we ended up with we were all extremely proud of. And we made it happen ourselves.



Becca and Melina with their new Tip Jar, greeting audience members at a screening of *One*.

A few months later, I heard about an upcoming vote in North Carolina regarding marriage equality. I was overcome with a burst of inspiration to move down there and make a film about it. I had no money, no crew, and no go-ahead from any high-up permission-granter indicating that I was qualified or allowed to do something like this. But I knew I had to. So I set up a Kickstarter page for the project, which soon attracted hundreds of people who were just as passionate about this as I was. Some people gave one dollar, some gave hundreds. But what mattered was that we all came together for the sake of passion and the desire to bring this idea to life and share it with the world. I moved down to North Carolina weeks before I knew whether or not the film would reach its fundraising goal. But I knew that no matter what, I was going to find a way to make this happen. Somehow.



I soon realized that what matters is not the budget or who you are or what you start with. What matters is the drive, the passion, the love. It's what motivates us to schlep coats up and down a seemingly abnormally steep restaurant staircase until 2 AM every night. Without the passion, there is nothing. That's what Tip Jar is all about.

- Becca Roth

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