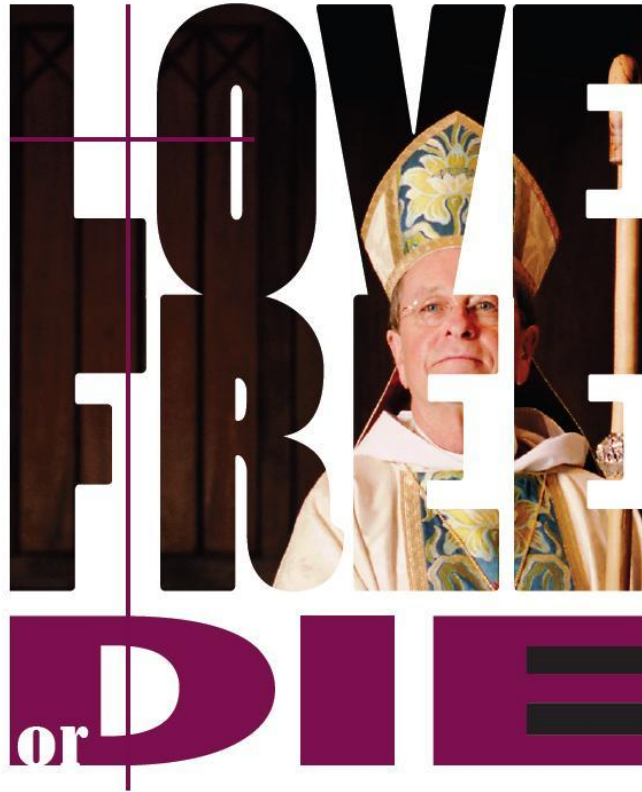


# Reveal Productions

Presents



**How the Bishop of New Hampshire is Changing the World**

Directed by Macky Alston

World Premiere at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival  
U.S. Cinema, Documentary Competition 94 minutes

### Sundance Screenings

Monday, January 23, 6:00 pm, Temple Theatre, Park City  
**Tuesday, January 24, 1:30 pm, Holiday Village Cinema 3, Park City (Press & Industry)**  
Tuesday, January 24, 8:30 pm, Prospector Square Theatre, Park City  
Wednesday, January 25, 3:45 pm Broadway Centre Cinema 3, Salt Lake City  
Thursday, January 26, 11:30 am, Prospector Square Theatre, Park City  
Saturday, January 28, 2:30 pm, MARC, Park City

### **Publicity Contacts**

|  |   |
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For more information, please visit: <http://www.lovefreeordiemovie.com/>

## **SYNOPSIS**

### **Short**

LOVE FREE OR DIE is about a man whose two defining passions are in direct conflict: his love for God and for his partner Mark. Gene Robinson is the first openly gay person to become a bishop in the historic traditions of Christendom. His consecration in 2003, to which he wore a bullet-proof vest, caused an international stir, and he has lived with death threats every day since. LOVE FREE OR DIE follows Robinson from small-town churches in the New Hampshire North Country to Washington's Lincoln Memorial to London's Lambeth Palace, as he calls for all to stand for equality – inspiring bishops, priests and ordinary folk to come out from the shadows and change history.

### **Long**

LOVE FREE OR DIE is about a man whose two defining passions are in direct conflict: his love for God and for his partner Mark. Gene Robinson is the first openly gay person to become a bishop in the historic traditions of Christendom. His consecration in 2003, to which he wore a bullet-proof vest, caused an international stir, and he has lived with death threats every day since. The film follows Robinson's personal story as American churches debate whether or not lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are equal to heterosexuals in the eyes of God while our nation debates whether LGBT people are equal to heterosexuals in the eyes of the law.

In LOVE FREE OR DIE, Bishop Gene steps onto the world stage as he travels from small-town churches to Washington's Lincoln Memorial to London's Lambeth Palace calling for all to stand for equality – inspiring bishops, priests and ordinary folk to come out from the shadows and change history.

Subjects from the film, including Bishop Gene Robinson will be in attendance at Sundance and available for interviews. LOVE FREE OR DIE reunites the filmmaking team of Macky Alston and Sandra Itkoff who collaborated on THE KILLER WITHIN. Alston also directed FAMILY NAME which premiered at Sundance and prior production credits for Itkoff include DEFAMATION, CADILLAC DESERT.

## **Director's Statement**

I've been directing documentaries for almost twenty years, but this film feels like the one I was born to make. My father, grandfather and great-grandfather for whom I am named were all Christian clergy. When I came out to my dad twenty-five years ago in his church office, he said that the only way to be happy is to tell no one. I didn't follow his advice – but tragically many who receive that kind of advice do. My dad has since changed his mind – why? Because he's seen me flourish.

In LOVE FREE OR DIE, we see Bishop Gene Robinson and others flourish – even as they're discriminated against. When the world sees them living and working in community in powerful loving ways, I believe people's hearts will be moved and their minds will be changed. Just like in my family, when they know us, when they really see us, they'll be less able to vote against us. The truth will set us – and by us, I mean all of us - free. There is a scene in the film when a bishop is speaking with two gay dads and their ten year old son. The bishop, who is supportive of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality, tries to explain why their church refused their child baptism, just because the child's parents were gay. As the three adults grasp for an adequate explanation, the child states simply, "It's their fear." One of the fathers, stunned by the child's clarity, echoes, "That's right. Its fear of what they don't know."

It is crazy to think a little child would know better than 2000 years of the world's finest theologians and thinkers, but not so crazy. It is a new experience, being the child of gay parents. It is a new experience, being a gay bishop. It is a new experience, being in a same-sex marriage with two children we set out to adopt together. This generation of pioneers are the ones who will see and show once and for all whether LGBT people are corrupt, as 2000 years of moral teaching has posited, or good.

The heart-stopping moment for me in this film happened in England. From the pulpit of a renegade church that invites Bishop Robinson to preach against the wishes of the Archbishop, Gene says, "The opposite of love is not hate, but fear." Minutes later, as if provoked by the truth, a burly man jumps up screaming "Repent!" and looks as if he might shoot. For 30 seconds or so, no one knows what is going to happen. The congregation starts clapping and then breaks into song to drown out the threatening man. The bishop is entirely vulnerable.

I remember standing in the balcony of the church with my cameraman with tears stinging my eyes, knowing that there was nothing I could do to protect my friend, the bishop. That was the moment on this project that I became aware of the cost of taking an historic stand. I recognized that Gene Robinson really might die for what he believed, that he had committed to doing so if he had to, and that it might very well happen on my watch.

Hats off, at the end of the day, to Bishop Robinson and the countless others who came before him, flank and follow him. We rarely apprehend just how much these people have put on the line in order for us to enjoy our freedom. It has been a privilege to try to bring that to light.

- Macky Alston

## Cast Bios

### **Bishop Gene Robinson – Diocese of New Hampshire**

V. Gene Robinson was elected Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire on June 7, 2003, having served as Canon to the Ordinary (Assistant to the Bishop) for nearly 18 years. He was consecrated a Bishop on All Saints Sunday, November 2, 2003, and was invested as the Ninth Bishop of New Hampshire on March 7, 2004.

A 1969 graduate of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, he has a B.A. in American Studies/History. In 1973, he completed the M.Div. degree at the General Theological Seminary in New York, was ordained deacon, and then priest, serving as Curate at Christ Church, Ridgewood, New Jersey. Much of his ministry has focused on helping congregations and clergy, especially in times of conflict, utilizing his skills in congregational dynamics, conflict resolution and mediation.

He holds two honorary doctorates and has received numerous awards from national civil rights organizations. His story is featured in the 2007 feature-length documentary, "For the Bible Tells Me So." In 2008 Gene's book "In the Eye of the Storm: Swept to the Center by God" (Seabury Books, New York) was released.

Bishop Robinson has been active particularly in the area of full civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender people. Working at the state, national and international levels, he has spoken and lobbied for equal protection under the law and full civil marriage rights. He has been honored by many LGBT organizations for this work, including the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, GLAD, NH Civil Liberties Union, GLAAD, and the Equality Forum.

Bishop Robinson was invited by Barack Obama to give the invocation at the opening inaugural ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial on January 18, 2009. The Bishop's next book, *God Believes in Love: Straight Talk about Gay Marriage*, will be published by Alfred Knopf in the fall of 2012.

He is the father of two grown daughters and the proud grandfather of two granddaughters. He lives with his husband, Mark Andrew, who is employed by the State of New Hampshire's Department Health & Human Services.

## Filmmaker Bios

### Macky Alston - Director

Macky Alston, documentary filmmaker, most recently directed *Love Free or Die*, a feature film about openly gay bishop Gene Robinson and the international firestorm his consecration sparked, which will premiere at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

Alston's first film, *Family Name* premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 1997 where it won the Freedom of Expression Award and later aired on PBS' *POV*. Since then he has directed *Questioning Faith* (premiered Full Frame & Hot Docs International Film Festivals, aired HBO/Cinemax 2002), *The Killer Within* (premiered Toronto International Film Festival 2006, aired Discovery Times 2007), and *Hard Road Home* (premiered South by Southwest 2007, aired PBS' *Independent Lens* 2008).

Alston is a partner with Sandra Itkoff and Christopher White in Reveal Productions. His awards include the Gotham Open Palm Award and Emmy nominations for three of his films and he has appeared in press around the world, including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Today Show*, and *The New York Times*.

### Sandra Itkoff - Producer

Sandra Itkoff is a producer of award-winning documentaries and children's programming whose latest project, *Love Free or Die*, will have its premiere at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. The film, a feature documentary directed by Macky Alston about openly gay Bishop Gene Robinson and the international firestorm sparked by his consecration, is scheduled to air on PBS in late 2012.

In 2009, her European Film Award-nominated documentary film *Defamation*, directed by Yoav Shamir, explored the complicated relationship between Jews and anti-Semitism and won critical acclaim worldwide. The same year, her film *Off and Running*, directed by Nicole Opper, aired on PBS. The documentary traced the coming of age of a young African American woman raised by a Jewish lesbian couple and was nominated for an Emmy Award.

Ms. Itkoff's feature documentary film *The Killer Within*, also directed by Alston, premiered at the 2006 Toronto International Film Festival and aired on the Discovery Times network the following year.

Her 2004 film *Ladies as Gentlemen: Drag Kings on Tour*, a road documentary, premiered on the Discovery Channel and won Best Documentary/Audience Awards at Outfest Los Angeles, the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and the Toronto Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

She was the executive producer of *The Twentieth Century Project*, a six-film series that aired on the Showtime network 2000. The project brought together directors Norman Jewison (*Moonstruck*, *In the Heat of the Night*), Barry Levinson (*Diner*, *Rain Man*), Garry Marshall (*Pretty Woman*), Gregory Nava (*El Norte*), Robert Townsend (*Hollywood*

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*Shuffle*), and Robert Zemeckis (*Forrest Gump*), to explore in documentary form topics they felt were representative of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Ms. Itkoff won the prestigious DuPont Columbia Award for her four-part PBS documentary series *Cadillac Desert* (1997), which focused on the epic political and environmental struggle for water in the modern American West.

In addition to her documentary work, Ms. Itkoff produced the animated children's series *Grossology: The Science of Really Gross Things* for Nelvana and Discovery Kids.

### **Christopher White - Editor**

Christopher White has been a documentary film editor since 1995. White has edited numerous award winning films, five in collaboration with director Macky Alston, including *The Killer Within* (as editor and co-director) which was nominated for a 2008 Best Documentary Emmy, and *Hard Road Home*, nominated for a Best Documentary Emmy in 2009.

His latest collaboration (as editor and co-producer) with Alston is *Love Free or Die: How the Bishop of New Hampshire is Changing the World*, which will premiere at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival. For Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Roger Weisberg, White has edited three feature length films for PBS: *Aging Out*, *Waging A Living*, and *Critical Condition*. For filmmaker Anne Buford and Academy Award-nominated producer Chiemi Karasawa, White was an editor on *Elevate*, which premiered at the 2011 SXSW Film Festival and won the Best Documentary Award at the 2011 Dallas International Film Festival.

White is a partner in Reveal Productions with Producer Sandy Itkoff and Director Macky Alston.

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**Credits**

Directed by  
MACKY ALSTON

Produced by  
SANDRA ITKOFF

Edited by  
CHRISTOPHER WHITE

Director of Photography  
TOM HURWITZ, ASC

Sound  
PETER J. MILLER

Composer  
PAUL BRILL

Co-Producer  
CHRISTOPHER WHITE

Associate Producer & Publicist  
JOHN MURPHY

Additional Camera  
AVI KASTORIANO

AXEL BAUMAN  
NINA DAVENPORT  
DAN DENSCH  
BRIAN DOWLEY  
JAY GILLESPIE  
KATHY HUANG  
SHAUN KADLEC  
JACOB OKADA

Additional Sound  
ALAN BARKER  
JAY MAURER  
MARK ROY  
JT TAKAGI  
BLAKE WINDHAM

Production Managers

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ANGELA MARTENEZ  
JOY SMITH

Production Assistants

JAY GILLESPIE  
SOPHIE GOGGINS  
HAL MOSKOWITZ  
ERIN REESE

Post Production

Post Production Supervisor

JULIA MINTZ

Sound Editor

MARY ELLEN PORTO

Dialogue Editor

ESTHER REGELSON

Online Editor/Colorist

JON FORDHAM

Online Facility

FRAME:RUNNER, INC.

Title Design

GIL NEVO

Graphics & End Credits

VICTOR BARROSO

Researchers

JUDITH ALEY  
ALLAN BALDWIN  
SOPHIE GOGGINS  
JOY SMITH

Digitizing Assistant

RYAN BEICKERT

Edit Room Intern

ERIN REESE



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Music Composed, Recorded & Produced by  
PAUL BRILL  
at Casa de Rico y Luca Studios, Brooklyn

Additional Recording by  
PAT DILLETT

Musicians

ROB JOST  
YAIR EVNINE  
MATT RAY  
BILL DOBROW  
KATIE SCHEELE

Ukulele, French Horn, Acoustic & Electric  
Bass  
Cello  
Piano  
Drums & Percussion  
Oboe & English Horn

Re-recording Mixer  
REILLY STEELE

Sound Mix Facility  
SOUND ONE

Legal Counsel  
KAREN SHATZKIN  
JAIME WOLF

Festival Coordinator  
DARIN DARAKANANDA / Murphy PR

Archival Media

The Anglican Church  
Anglican Church of North America  
Associated Press  
Courtesy CNN  
*The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, Comedy Central  
The Episcopal Church  
The Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire  
Fox News  
*Gay Vicars*, Princess Productions  
*Glenn Beck*, Fox News Channel

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Integrity USA  
ITN Source  
ITN Source/Reuters  
Lambeth Press  
Gillian Laub  
NBC Universal Archives  
*The Official Inaugural Celebration*,HBO  
*Religion and Ethics Newsweekly*,PBS  
The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson  
Saddleback Church  
Thought Equity Motion/BBC Motion Gallery  
Thought Equity Motion/CBS News  
The Wall Street Journal  
WNYC Radio  
Some montages combine audio & video excerpts  
from various sources.

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Andrew Alloy  
Charles W. & Maria Teresa Avery  
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Sean C. Callahan  
Stephen Chinlund  
John E. Covington  
Fred A. Davie  
John E. Denaro in memory of Michael Burke  
Adam Edge

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Jessica Edwards  
Michael B. Ekman  
Margaret Evans  
Blake Franklin  
Mardi Fritz  
Michael Gilligan & John Indalecio  
Linda Gottlieb & Robert Tessler  
Neil D. Greenberg & Frank Mullaney  
William A. & Jane Greenlaw  
Lulie Haddad  
Kenneth W. Hardt  
Peter Heady  
Marjorie J. Hill  
Wayne A. Hoffman  
Frederick Todd Johnson  
Richard M. Landman  
Ron & Paula Litow  
Thomas LoConti  
Richard F. Longinetti  
Alan Lunceford  
Jenna Mann  
Michael Marsman  
Suzanne Marvier  
Loring McAlpin  
Trevor McDonald & Kelly John Keenan  
Lisa Menisch-Lazarus  
Debra Morton  
Hal Moskowitz & John Murphy  
Timothy Palmer  
Warren C. Platt  
Diana L. Reed  
Susan Reed  
Patricia Russell  
Lucy Sexton  
Abby Shuman  
Stan Small  
Krishna Stone  
Douglas Stroup  
Jennie Talley  
Marie Wallace  
Roger J. Waltzman  
Jon Walton

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Douglas J. Warn  
Patrick B. Wenning

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Fiscal Sponsor  
Hartley Film Foundation

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The people who agreed to be filmed  
& their families

Our families who  
supported us as we filmed

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Orlando Bagwell  
Mike Barwell

Shannon Bell

Paula Bibber  
Kelly Brennan

Louise Brooks, Harry Knox, Max Niedwicki,

Susan Russell & Integrity USA

Jeanine Caunt

Samuel Chu & California Faith for Equality

Leonard Cox

Barbara Curry

Sheila Greeve Davaney

Mona Davis

Jonathan Diamond

Sandi DuBowski

Chris Eyden & Joseph Hawes

Beadie Finzi, Jess Search, & the GoodPitch

Patricia Finneran, Cara Mertes, Rahdi Taylor

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& the Sundance Institute  
Lewis Flinn  
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Brad Fuller  
Eric Garcetti & Amy Wakeland

Nicholas Gottlieb

Sharon Groves, Harry Knox, Joe Solmonese  
& the Human Rights Campaign  
Matthew Hamachek  
Katharine Rhodes Henderson &  
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Executive Producer for ITVS  
Sally Jo Fifer

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