

Delve Deeper into "The Education of Shelby Knox"

A film by Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Penny Talbert of the Ephrata Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "The Education of Shelby Knox" that premieres on June 21st, 2005 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings www.pbs.org/pov/).

What's it like to be a Christian teenage girl today? "The Education of Shelby Knox" profiles a young native of Lubbock, Texas, on the rocky road through high school. At 15, Shelby pledges celibacy until marriage, but because Lubbock has one of the highest teen pregnancy and STD rates in the state, she also spearheads a campaign for comprehensive sex education in the high schools, opposing the established "abstinence-only" curriculum. When the campaign broadens with a fight for a gay-straight alliance club in the high school, Shelby confronts her parents and her faith as she begins to understand how deeply personal beliefs can inform political action. A co-presentation with the Independent Television Service (ITVS).

ADULT NONFICTION

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Al-Hibri, Azzizah, Jean Bethke Elstain & Charles Haynes. *Religion in American Public Life: Living With Our Deepest Differences*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001. This book, a product of a gathering of the American Assembly of Columbia University, creates ground rules for dialogue when citizens disagree. The authors, who believe civic engagement and disagreement are part of the fabric of our nation, present essays on a variety of important topics to today's Americans.

FAITH AND SEXUAL IDENTITY

Blumenfeld, Warren. *Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1992. This anthology of essays highlights how homophobia affects us all, and the damage it can do.

Bono, Chastity. *Family Outing*. Boston: Little Brown, 1998.

Family Outing is two books in one: a memoir of Chastity Bono's experience coming out as a lesbian to her famous parents and a look at the difficulties and triumphs that are part of every uncloseted homosexual's family life, with narratives drawn from interviews with members of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

Bull, Chris and John Gallagher. *Perfect Enemies: the Religious Right, the Gay Movement, and the Politics of the 1990s*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1996.

Bull and Gallagher, both journalists, detail the clash between the religious right and the gay movement during the 1990s. Their book looks in-depth at the legal battles that occurred, and how these battles affect everyone.

Fone, Byrne. *Homophobia: A History*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2000.

Fone chronicles the ways in which homophobia has induced legal, medical, social and ecclesiastical authorities to punish and kill gay men. He argues that, despite social progress, hating homosexuals is "the last acceptable prejudice."

Herman, Didi. *The Anti-Gay Agenda: Orthodox Vision and the Christian Right*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997. Herman looks at the position of conservative Protestantism and the historical and political reasons for their anti-gay agenda.

Jordan, Mark. *The Silence of Sodom: Homosexuality in Modern Catholicism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.

Jordan, a professor of theology at Emory University, examines Catholic teachings on homosexuality and argues that the Catholic Church needs to honestly recognize its many gay Catholics, some of whom occupy positions of leadership and that the culture of Catholicism and gay culture have much in common.

McNeill, John. *The Church and the Homosexual*, rev. ed. Boston: Beacon Press, 1993.

McNeill argues that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality and, further, the church must begin to accept homosexuals without judgment.

Nicolosi, Joseph. *Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality: A New Clinical Approach*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1991.

Nicolosi takes a look at reparative therapy, a controversial therapy to "recover" from homosexuality.

Paulk, John. *Not Afraid to Change: The Remarkable Story of How One Man Overcame Homosexuality*. Enumclaw, WA: Winepress, 1998. *Not Afraid to Change* is the story of John Paulk, and his transformation from homosexuality to born-again Christian.

Schmidt, Thomas. *Straight and Narrow? Compassion and Clarity in the Homosexual Debate*. Leicester, U.K.: InterVarsity Press, 1995.

Schmidt frames the homosexual debate, from a Christian viewpoint. This book is a thorough overview of the evangelical Christian stance on homosexuality.

White, Mel. *Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994.

White, a one-time ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell, tells the story of what it is like to be gay and also raised in a conservative Christian community and church.

SEX EDUCATION

Chen, Constance. *The Sex Side of Life: Mary Ware Dennett's Pioneering Battle for Birth Control and Sex Education*. New York: New Press, 1996.

Mary Ware Dennett's battle for birth control and sex education rights is only the beginning of the story. Through Dennett's personal tribulations, Chen's telling of the story sheds light on this oft-forgotten pioneer, and the battles she fought.

Irvine, Janice. *Talk About Sex: The Battles Over Sex Education in the United States*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002.

Irvine presents an interesting overview of the fight for

Delve Deeper into "The Education of Shelby Knox"

A film by Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt

sex education in America's school and the tactics used by both sides in assuring they win. This book is an excellent look at the social history of sexual education and an enlightening glimpse at the workings of both sides.

Irvine, Janice. *Sexuality Education Across Cultures: Working with Differences*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1995. Irvine presents this guide for sex educators and ways to develop appropriate programs taking cultural differences into consideration.

Linder, Doris. *Crusader for Sex Education*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1996. Linder tells the story of Elise Ottesen-Jensen, who was instrumental in the founding of the International Planned Parenthood Foundation. The book takes an in-depth look at the life of Ottesen-Jensen and her belief that sex education should be readily available to anyone needing the information.

Measor, Lynda, Coralie Tiffin, Katrina Miller. *Young People's Views on Sex Education: Education, Attitudes and Behavior*. New York: Falmer Press, 2000. Based on research into adolescent sexuality and sex education in England this book gives a great overview of sex education policies and practice – and, perhaps most importantly, what kind of sex education teens think they need.

Moran, Jeffrey. *Teaching Sex*. Boston: Harvard University Press, 2002. Moran tells the story of the history of sex education in America and helps readers understand the situation today.

Patton, Cindy. *Fatal Advice: How Safe-Sex Education Went Wrong*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1996. This look at sex education in the age of AIDS illustrates the primary issues in the debate on sex education and suggests policy changes

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Akagi, Cynthia. *Dear Larissa: Sexuality Education for Girls Ages 11-17*. Littleton, CO: Gylantic Publishing, 1994. Akagi presents this informative book, written as letters from parent to child, about the changes girls go through during adolescence. From dating to sexuality to puberty, this book covers most of the questions young girls may have as they move through adolescence.

Heron, Ann. *Two Teenagers in Twenty: Writings by Gay and Lesbian Youth*. Los Angeles: Alyson Books, 1994. This book contains narratives by gay and lesbian teens and discusses the troubles thereof. Heron presents a must-read for teens dealing with homophobia and confusing sexual identity issues.

Hoch, Dean & Nancy Hoch. *The Sex Education Dictionary for Today's Teens and Pre-teens*. Pocatello, ID: Landmark Publishers, 1990. *The Sex Education Dictionary* is a good reference for teens with questions about sex and themselves.

Kim, Jee et al. *Future 500: Youth Organizing and Activism in the United States*. Subway & Elevator Press, 2002. *Future 500* is a great reference for teens looking to become active in their communities. From interviews with teen activists to overviews of activism groups throughout the country, this book gives a great snapshot of today's teen activists and how they do it.

Lansford, Sam and Susan Lanford. *Sex! What's That?* Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1993. A book by Christian Sex Education, *Sex! What's That?* gives the biblical perspective of sex education.

Marcus, Eric. *Is It a Choice? Answers to 300 of the Most Frequently Asked Questions About Gay and Lesbian People*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1999. Marcus presents an excellent book to answer the questions teens have about gays

and lesbians. This book is a good basic overview of many issues that teens may be curious about – with answers that will help them understand those issues.

VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

"A Brooklyn Family Tale." Produced and directed by Roger Weisberg and Murray Nossel. 2001. (60 min.) Chronicles the struggles of the Santiago family and their unique relationship with Sister Geraldine who runs a local social services agency. As the parents watch their teenage children drop out of school, join gangs, have babies, attempt suicide, and resort to violence at home, we witness Sister Geraldine's remarkable efforts to keep this embattled family intact.
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/familytale/>

"All God's Children." Women Vision. 2001. (26 min.) Prominent religious, intellectual, and political leaders, family members and activists speak out about the role of the Church and the importance of commitment to equal rights and social justice for all people, including lesbians and gay men.
<http://www.woman-vision.org/children.htm>

"Assault on Gay America: the Life and Death of Billy Jack." A PBS *Frontline* video. 2000. On February 19, 1999, in Sylacauga, Alabama, 39-year-old computer programmer Billy Jack Gaither was beaten and killed for being "queer." The film examines Gaither's life and death and explores his killers' motivations.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/assault/>

"Baby Love." Produced by Carol Cassidy. 1996. (60 min.) A startling, upfront look at how teenage mothers see things from love, sex, virginity to pregnancy and the reality of single motherhood all before they're old enough to graduate from high school.
<http://www.itvs.org/search/ataglan ce.htm?showID=127>

"Bellyfruit." Directed by Kerri Lee Green. 1999. (60 min.) Drama

Delve Deeper into "The Education of Shelby Knox"

A film by Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt

about the plight of three teen mothers.

<http://www.vanguardcinema.com/bellyfruit/bellyfruit.html>

"Bhat Bodoh" ("Just Pretend"). Produced by Muhammad Afandi. About sex education in Malaysia

"The Brandon Teena Story."

Produced by Susan Muska and Greta Olafsdottir. 1998. (90 min.) Documentary about Brandon Teena (aka Teena Brandon), a transgendered person, who was murdered along with two others in 1993 in rural Nebraska.

<http://docurama.com/productdetail.html?productid=Nv-NVG-3009-NVG-9453>

"Breaking the Silence." Produced by Fiona Otway. 2003. (28 min.) Alarmed by recent reports of the toll of HIV and AIDS on the young girls of the Caribbean, a woman with a passion for film dedicates its transformative power to tackling the crisis.

<http://www.breakingthesilence.info/>

"Chances, Choices, Changes."

Directed by Stephen Roy & Paul Martin. 1996. (20 min.) Seven teenage mothers talk frankly about teen pregnancy, the choices they have made, and the resulting changes in their lives.

"Faith and Politics: the Christian Right."

1995. (47 min.) A *CBS Reports* special, which features excerpts of an acrimonious school board hearing in Merrimack, New Hampshire. After adopting an abstinence-based sex education program, the school board dropped all sex education in response to a lawsuit by Planned Parenthood and People for the American Way.

"Family Values." Produced by Pam Walton. 1996. (56 min.)

Documents lesbian video maker Pam Walton's attempt to reconcile with her long estranged father. It is also her search for what "family" means to her.

http://www.pamwaltonproductions.com/pam_familyvalues.html

"Gay Rights, Special Rights: Inside the Homosexual Agenda."

Jeremiah Films. 1993. (35 min.) Claims the "homosexual agenda" is a threat to individuals,

families and the country.

http://www.jeremiahfilms.com/cgi-bin/store/agora.cgi?cart_id=1063165.18067*2k5U62&p_id=GRSRVPS42&xm=on&ppinc=product

"How Can I Be Sure That God Loves Me Too? A Sermon."

Given by Reverend Mel White. Soulforce Videos. 1997. (24 min.) Video taped live before a congregation in Spring Lake, Michigan. This is Mel's response to those who would misuse the Biblical record to condemn God's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered children.

<http://www.soulforce.org/main/videos.shtml>

"One Nation Under God."

by Teodoro Maniaci. First Run Features. 1993. (83 min.) Focusing on the contemporary religious Right Wing proliferation of curative therapies for homosexuality, this riveting documentary offers historical context as well as a political analysis of this surprisingly large movement.

<http://firstrunfeatures.com/onenationundergod.html>

"Sex, Teens and Public Schools."

Produced and directed by Deborah Dickson and Roger Weisberg. 1995. (60 min.) Explores the conditions that have led to escalating rates of teen pregnancy, illustrates the costs and consequences of this national epidemic, and most importantly, examines the role that public schools can play in stemming the tide of early and unwanted pregnancy.

"The Silence of Sex." Pinch Me Films. 2004. (60 min.)

"Straight from the Heart: A Journey to Understanding and Love."

Produced by Dee Mosbacher. Facets Multimedia. 1994. (30 min.) Academy Award nominee "Straight from the Heart" examines the issues parents face in coming to terms with having a gay or lesbian child.

"Teen Sex." Produced by Charlie DuBevoise. A North South Production for Discovery Health Channel. (60 min.) Details the intimate accounts and alarming

statistics of sexual activity among young teenagers.

"The Trial of Jimmy Creech."

Produced by Mel White. Soulforce Videos. 1999. (30 min.) Documents the life journey of a United Methodist Church Reverend who disobeyed the Order and Discipline of his church by marrying a lesbian couple.

FEATURE FILMS

"Before Night Falls." Directed by Julian Schnabel. 2000. Episodic look at the life of Cuban poet and novelist, Reinaldo Arenas (1943-1990), from his childhood in Oriente province to his death in New York City.

<http://www.finefeatures.com/sites/bnfalls/>

"Boys Don't Cry." Directed by Kimberly Peirce. 1999. The story of the life of Teena Brandon, a cross dressing youth who preferred life in her male identity as Brandon Teena. <http://www.foxsearchlight.com/boysdontcry/index.shtml>

"Boys in the Band." Directed by William Friedkin. 1970. Tempers fray and true selves are revealed when a heterosexual is accidentally invited to a homosexual party.

"Common Ground." Directed by Donna Deitch. 2000. This movie contains three short stories dealing with the theme of homosexuality.

WEB SITES

www.teenwire.com

Teenwire is the Planned Parenthood Federation of America Web site about sexual health for young people.

www.siecus.org

SIECUS—the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States—has served as the national voice for sexuality education, sexual health, and sexual rights for almost 40 years. SIECUS believes that sexuality is a natural and healthy part of life and that all people have the right to the information, skills, and services they need to make responsible sexual decisions.

Delve Deeper into "The Education of Shelby Knox"

A film by Marion Lipschutz and Rose Rosenblatt

www.sexedcoalition.org

The Sex Education Coalition is composed of educators, health care professionals, trainers, and legislators dedicated to providing information and supporting informed discussion concerning sexuality education.

www.aasect.org

Founded in 1967 out of a desire to provide the public with comprehensive sexuality education, counseling and therapy conducted by qualified professionals, the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists is the premier organization that certifies sexual health practitioners.

www.catholicsforchoice.org

Catholics for a Free Choice in the United States works in partnership with reproductive health, interfaith and Catholic Church reform groups that share their commitment to safe, legal reproductive health care and women's equality.

national.unitedway.org

United Way brings communities together to focus on the most important needs in the community—building partnerships, forging consensus and leveraging resources to make a measurable difference.

www.nccusa.org

The National Council of Churches, founded in 1950, is the leading force for ecumenical cooperation among Christians in the United States. A good site for information and the latest news about the stand various churches take on the subject of homosexuality.

www.pflag.org

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

www.plannedparenthood.org

Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., is the world's largest and most trusted voluntary

reproductive health care organization.

www.advocatesforyouth.org

Established in 1980 as the Center for Population Options, Advocates for Youth champions efforts to help young people make informed and responsible decisions about their reproductive and sexual health. Advocates believe it can best serve the field by boldly advocating for a more positive and realistic approach to adolescent sexual health.

www.glsen.org

GLSEN envisions a world in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

www.yesinstitute.org

To prevent suicide and ensure the healthy development of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and all youth by initiating dialogue, providing education, and creating support systems.

www.abstinence.net

The mission of the Abstinence Clearinghouse is to promote the appreciation for and practice of sexual abstinence (purity) until marriage through the distribution of age appropriate, factual and medically referenced materials.

www.sexrespect.com

Abstinence education program

www.abstinencedu.com

Louisiana Governor's Program on Abstinence

www.agayopinion.com

Support group for parents of homosexual children.

www.angelfire.com

An on-line journal writing site. The topic for March, 2001 explores the relationship between parents and their gay children.

www.dignityusa.org

A pastoral message to parents of homosexual children.

hrr.hartsem.edu

Site of the Hartford Institute for Religious Research. Excellent articles on the subject of religion and homosexuality.

www.nglftf.org/issues

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. A very comprehensive site with current OpEds and press releases on the subject of religion. National Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth.

www.ourtruecolors.org

A great site offering support as well as many educational links.

www.gsanetwork.org

Gay Straight Alliance Network