

Fatherhood Dreams

Come along on an intimate journey through the lives of four gay men devoted to being fathers —and the challenges they face becoming dads.

How many gay fathers do you know? Have you ever met a child whose dad is gay? Do any families with same-sex parents live on your street? If so, do you let your kids play with their kids?

The new documentary *Fatherhood Dreams* introduces audiences to four Canadian men who happen to be gay, and the challenges they have faced becoming and being parents. It is the first Canadian documentary letting people into the lives of gay men who are parents, and the first to give voice to their children.

Some if not most people still have difficulty fully accepting gay mothers and fathers, even in relatively open-minded Canada, one of only five countries in the world where same-sex marriage is legal. Gay men who want to raise families are especially vilified, singled out as a threat to the traditional family. As well, gay fathers often feel as though they are excluded from the larger community of gay men—a minority within a minority.

That hasn't stopped **Randy, Drew, Stephen** and **Scott** from pursuing their *Fatherhood Dreams*. At first glance, they seem like ideal dads, the kind any kid would be lucky to have as a role model. They're grounded guys with solid work ethics and strong family values. No one would question their suitability. But when they disclose their sexual orientation, impressions quickly change.

Randy and **Drew** are a young married couple who pursued adoption, only to find out that gay men are invariably at the bottom of the list. Some adoption agencies won't even consider gay men. Randy's and Drew's luck changed when they were contacted by **Tracy**, a thirty-six year-old grandmother of four looking for a home for **Jack**, the yet unborn infant son of her teenaged daughter **Corrie**. Tracy, who was raising Corrie's first child, had her reasons for choosing a gay male couple. *Fatherhood Dreams* takes us into the birth family's household, where viewers meet Jack's biological father, Murray, who was 15 when he became a dad. Is Jack better off with Randy and Drew than he would be with his birth family? Viewers can decide for themselves.

Stephen is a lawyer who divides his time between downtown Vancouver and tiny Protection Island. That's where his two biological children, four year-old **Kizea** and teenaged **Jazz**, live with their mothers, a lesbian couple. All three want to be legally recognized as the parents of both kids, and plan to pursue action in British Columbia based on a recent precedent-setting case in Ontario early in 2007; three parents won the right to record all their names on their child's Birth Certificate. The case shook up many Canadians and there were heated responses, mainly from people who'd never encountered a gay blended family. Here is a rare chance to see what life in such a family is like.

Scott has dreamed of being a father for most of his life, ending a long-term relationship with a man who didn't want children, in order to make his dream a reality. When he was told that adoption was out of the question for a single gay man, Scott searched for and finally found a surrogate mother—all the way across the country, in Quebec. Complications ensued when trying to find a clinic willing to inseminate her, on the grounds that they were not a "traditional" couple. Eventually a clinic agreed, and everyone was surprised when the outcome was twins: a boy and a girl. One of the documentary's most poignant moments chronicles Scott's first meeting with his newly born children in the hospital.

Fatherhood Dreams takes viewers on an intimate, non-political journey through the daily lives of its subjects, their children and their extended families. By getting to know these men and the people who love them, we are better equipped to form our own opinions about what makes a "good" parent.

Fatherhood Dreams was made by Interfilm / Fatherhood Dreams Productions. It is made in association with Global Television, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Inc., and Knowledge Network, with the support of BC Film, Canadian Television Fund, Film Incentive BC and Canadian Tax Credits.

Director/Executive Producer Julia Ivanova is an accomplished documentary maker. She wrote, directed and produced: *From Russia For Love* (2000), which aired on TV in over twenty countries; *I Want A Woman* (2003), *Moscow Freestyle* (2006). Julia Ivanova is currently in post-production of *Master of Silence*. She is a board member of the British Columbia Chapter of Documentary Organization of Canada.

Producer Boris Ivanov has been producing films since 2000, including: *From Russia For Love* (2000), and *Moscow Freestyle* (2006). He was the line producer for the feature film *The Undead* (2007), and unit manager for the NBC pilot of *The Bionic Woman* (2007) and the TV Series *Battlestar Galactica*. He was a director of theatrical recreations for *Beyond Top Secret*, which was nominated for two News & Documentary Emmys.

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