



Groundbreaking Documentary on the Unique Challenges Facing LGBT Elders

September 14, 2008

Ten More Good Years is a touching and eye-opening feature documentary produced by director Michael Jacoby about the very unique challenges, maddening injustices and life-altering triumphs experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults in the United States today. This groundbreaking film has been licensed by both the Sundance Channel and LOGO and is now available on DVD for both home and educational use. Educational DVDs are accompanied by a lesson plan written by the gerontology department at San Francisco State University.

Ten More Good Years follows the moving stories of four elders and explores the reasons why so many LGBT people age alone, without financial stability—and why some feel forced to return to the closet. In addition, the film features professionals in the field of aging, who explain why so many pioneers of the gay rights movement have found themselves left behind and struggling to survive in their old age. At the same time, the film portrays both the dauntless spirit of LGBT elders and the efforts of the LGBT community to bring them services and support.

Ten More Good Years is a one-of-a-kind documentary that challenges all of us to rethink the way we perceive aging," says Jacoby. "I hope that with the release of the DVD, everyone will have an opportunity to discover the amazing elders who share their stories in the film. I'm sure that viewers, whether straight or gay, will find the film both enlightening and inspiring. And for anyone working with or around older adults, the film will provide an excellent educational tool."

LGBT aging has become a topic of growing interest. **According to the Aging Initiative of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, over 3 million Americans over the age of 65 are thought to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.** This number is estimated to double by 2030. *Ten More Good Years* looks at life for these elders today—and suggests directions for the future of LGBT aging.

Robert G. Stein, President and CEO, American Society on Aging: "The stories told through *Ten More Good Years* beautifully capture an important slice of history of the LGBT community, while it splices that with a crystal clear view of the future—lighting the way with regard to what it means to age in the LGBT community. I've always felt that adults learn best through compelling storytelling, and this production features one fascinating story after another—each with its own profound lesson. *Ten More Good Years* is a valuable resource for older adults and their families; an educational medium for all Americans, young and old, gay or straight; and an oral history that honors those featured as they candidly and poignantly share their journeys, knowledge and experiences so others will find the path more easily."

Ten More Good Years aired on the Sundance Channel in June and July of 2008 and premiered on LOGO (an MTV network) on Sept. 13, 2008 at 8pm. The film has screened at international film

festivals in London and San Francisco, Vancouver and New Delhi, India and will be screening at the upcoming International LGBT Film Festivals in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Washington, D.C. and Cork, Ireland through November of 2008.

Paul Kleyman, *Age Beat*, newsletter of the Journalists Exchange on Aging: "The profiles are moving, for example, as viewers see one elderly artist find his work—and his life —rescued from obscurity by a younger admirer. The film challenges the stereotype of LGBT elders as a largely affluent group. Several elders in the film live meagerly, like other seniors on little more than Social Security, and are at risks for rising rent and other costs."

Ten More Good Years also has been screened at prestigious national aging conferences such as the 2008 ASA-NCOA Aging in America Conference held in Washington, D.C., and the 2008 Aging Well Conference in Evanston, Ill. On the horizon, Jacoby has been invited to screen his film at the Fourth National Conference on LGBT Aging Oct. 12-14 In New York City. Organized by Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) and cosponsored by AARP, the conference will bring in over 1,000 professionals working in the field of aging.

Marianne Mallon, executive editor of *Aging Well Magazine*: "Through the narratives of elders who have emerged as survivors rather than victims of unjust, antiquated policies, [*Ten More Good Years*] poignantly depicts issues such as outdated tax laws; unfair Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security regulations; a lack of cultural competence in social services; and the need for nondiscriminatory housing."

Director Michael Jacoby has be heard live speaking about the film on [wsRadio.com](http://wsradio.com), the international radio show, "Coping with Caregiving," hosted by author and eldercare advocate Jacqueline Marcell. This interview is archived online at wsRadio's "Coping With Caregiving" site: www.wsradio.com/internet-talk-radio.cfm/shows/Coping-with-Caregiving.html. Michael was also interviewed about the film on Global TV in British Columbia on the Sunday Morning News Broadcast on August 17th, 2008.

Ten More Good Years can be purchased online at www.TenMoreGoodYears.com, where visitors also will find a free video trailer and other information on the film.