

CLAIMING THE TITLE

Gay Olympics On Trial

FILMMAKER BIOS

CLAIMING THE TITLE is the first professional film made by San Francisco directing team Jonathan Joiner and Robert H. Martin. Jonathan and Robert met in line at the movies — a festival screening at San Francisco's famed Castro Theatre movie palace more than 15 years ago. They share a passion for film, an interest in politics and social activism and a commitment to civil and human rights.

Jonathan Joiner (Producer/Director) is an attorney with a longstanding interest in LGBT rights. Born and raised in Florence, Alabama, he has a commitment to social justice that is informed not just by his experience as a gay man, but through direct exposure to the legacy of segregation in the American South.

Jonathan moved to California in the early 90s and has spent the last 17 years in San Francisco. He was deputy director of the H.I.V./AIDS Reentry and Empowerment Project at New College of California, where he earned his J.D. A personal passion for film and film history has driven Jonathan's interest in copyright and intellectual property law, including the theory and application of fair use doctrine in documentary filmmaking. A former student of the Bay Area Video Coalition's video production program, he is a skilled still photographer whose practical experience with lighting, composition and color informs his filmmaking. *Claiming the Title* is Jonathan's first film.

Robert Martin (Producer/Director) is a nonprofit management consultant with a passion for politics and longstanding dedication to community improvement. He has worked more than a decade as a communications and strategy consultant for nonprofit organizations and foundations in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

Exposed to filmmaking through his dad's Super 8 home movies, Robert produced his first film in high school: a documentary exposé triggered by the drug-related arrests of 18 students by an undercover police officer who had posed as an enrolled student. Robert is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Reed College, and has completed video production coursework at Portland's Northwest Film Center and the Bay Area Video Coalition.

Beth Pielert (Co-Producer) is a director, cinematographer and editor specializing in social justice documentary film. Beth was assistant director and primary camera operator for *The Corporation* miniseries, which garnered dozens of awards including the 2004 Sundance Audience Award. Beth helped shoot *Girls Rock!* and she co-edited the PBS series *Building Green*. Her first film as director, *Kiss My Cleats*, is a documentary about the 1998 Gay Games. It toured dozens of festivals and is used to teach tolerance in

high schools throughout the U.S. In 2007 she completed her feature *Out of the Poison Tree*, an exploration of personal justice and reconciliation for survivors of the Cambodian genocide. The film was licensed by the Center for Asian American Media, aired on PBS and released on Netflix in 2008. Beth's film company is Good Film Works, where in addition to documentary film production she directs/shoots and edits high-definition films for Apple.

Marta Wohl (Editor) is a San Francisco-based editor, producer and story consultant. She has over 20 years experience editing for broadcast, corporate and independent media. She specializes in editing thought-provoking, social-issue documentaries. The films she has edited have won numerous awards, appeared nationally on PBS, and have screened at festivals worldwide. Recently Marta worked for four years in the documentary unit at LucasFilm, editing 25 of the 94 companion documentaries for *The Adventures of Young Indiana Jones* series. The 22-DVD set was released by LucasFilm and Paramount Pictures in 2008. Marta is passionate about telling powerful stories through great editing, and has strong collaborative skills. She has produced, written and edited her own documentaries. As an Avid Certified Instructor from 1994 to 2003, she taught hundreds of editors basic to advanced editing techniques. Her five-year stint as staff editor in a high-end post-production facility helps her bring a high degree of technical knowledge to any project.

Sinisa Kukic (Cinematographer) is a film and video photographer with a diverse background in documentary, narrative and experimental projects. A graduate of Southern Illinois University with a B.A. in cinema and photography, he has an M.F.A. from San Francisco State University. His film *Breathe* (2003) aired on Fox Television and his undergraduate thesis, *Conduit Of Displacement* (2004), won the Loren D. Cocking Animation Award. *Pump* (2006), his most recent film, explores the hybridization of the bicycle and the cyclist and has screened at over a dozen international film festivals and on PBS. His preoccupation with the particulars of camera carriage and movement is rooted in his involvement in the local biking community and his work as a racecar mechanic. Born in the former Yugoslavia, Kukic and his family moved to Chicago when he was eleven. He is currently editing *Imaginary Lines*, a documentary about migrant border crossings in Arizona.