



BALLOT MEASURE

A FILM BY HEATHER LYN MACDONALD

A SOVEREIGN / RYKO DISTRIBUTION RELEASE
OF A TOOTS CRACKIN PRODUCTION



BALLOT MEASURE 9

Documentary/color/72 mins/unrated/1995/USA

CREDITS:

Producer & Director HEATHER LYN MACDONALD
Executive Producer DAVID MEIERAN
Editors HEATHER LYN MACDONALD & BB JORISSEN
Score JULIAN DYLAN RUSSELL
Chief Camera ELLEN HANSEN
Regional Producer LINDA KLIEWER
Associate Producers BB JORISSEN & ESTHER CASSIDY

AWARDS

Sundance Film Festival -- Audience Award
Berlin International Film Festival -- Teddy Bear
Edinburgh International Film Festival -- Best of the Fest
Los Angeles Outfest -- Grand Jury Award
Chicago Gay & Lesbian Film Festival -- Grand Jury Prize
Denver International Film Festival -- People's Choice Award
GLAAD Media Award -- Best Documentary

DVD EXTRA FEATURES

- **9 REMEASURED:** update documentary with leading figures of the original film (37 mins)
- **COMMENTARY** with the Director and guests Donna Red Wing and Kathleen Saadat
 - *Ballot Measure 9* TRAILER • **BONUS SCENES** • **BIOS**

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TRAILER, PHOTO SELECTION, LINKS, MORE INFO: www.ballotmeasure9.com

BALLOT MEASURE 9

SYNOPSIS

“A far-ranging expose of hate politics that crosses lines of race, religion and sexual identity, this might be the next training manual on how to rescue the soul of America.” (B. Ruby Rich)

In 1995 ***Ballot Measure 9*** shocked movie-goers with its inside views of a divisive gay-rights battle and with the unprecedented violence the campaign rhetoric provoked across the state of Oregon -- such that local activists, risking their lives, were given full-time police protection, slept with guns under their beds, and on election night wore bullet proof vests. Families were torn apart, neighbor set against neighbor.

Director Heather Lyn MacDonald ducks behind the headlines to bare the passions and strategies that drove both sides. Culled from hundreds of hours of material shot over the 9 months leading to the election, ***Ballot Measure 9*** tells a story of driving urgency. As the level of violence escalates, the documentary acquires the tension and suspense of a fiction film.

Sponsored by the Oregon Citizens' Alliance, Measure 9 was intended to revoke and prevent civil rights protections for homosexuals (or those perceived to be gay), and to mandate that schools teach that homosexuality is "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse." Lon Mabon, head of the OCA, called it "a simple battle between good and evil". Inflammatory newspapers were dropped on every Oregon porch, claiming, among other things, that homosexuals recruit children to their addictive lifestyle and are 90 times more likely to be pedophiles. Statewide, a virulent discourse resulted, and in this climate came the inevitable rise of anti-gay harassment, physical attacks and murder. The newly formed bias crimes unit tracked a 500% in anti-gay violence in Oregon that year.

Winner of jury and audience awards internationally, critics described the film in 1995 as “a chilling portrayal of the epidemic of racial and anti-gay hatred” and “mandatory viewing for those still fighting to make America a true democracy.”

The chasms that divide this country are no less divisive today. As the polarizing issue of gay marriage re-invigorates the “cultural wars” of the last decade, ***Ballot Measure 9*** resonates as strongly as ever.

View the trailer and find more info at:

www.ballotmeasure9.com

HEATHER LYN MACDONALD

PRODUCER, DIRECTOR & EDITOR

Ballot Measure 9 was MacDonald's first feature film. In 2006, her newest feature documentary *Been Rich All My Life* was released theatrically and on DVD. In it she follows the adventures of a troupe of 90 year-old tap dancing divas, original Cotton Club performers of Harlem's 1930's golden age, still "bold, brash, and gorgeous, and whooping up a whole lotta somethin' in front of sold-out crowds" (Village Voice). Heather produced, directed, shot and co-edited the film.

Other award-winning documentaries produced, directed and edited by Heather, include *Kiev Blue* (1992) and *Kitchen Talk USSR* (1991), both intimate views of life in the former Soviet Union. *Kiev Blue* seeks and finds gay men and lesbians living under the threat of imprisonment or asylum in Ukraine. She made her first documentary, *Nuclear Navyport, New York City*, in 1988 and was hooked on the power of the medium. Heather was for many years an actor and is a long-standing member of Actor's Equity, SAG and AFTRA. (Find more information at Heather's company website, Toots Crackin Productions, www.tootscrackin.com.)

PRESS QUOTES

FROM THE 1995 THEATRICAL RELEASE:

"A picture to make you scream." - THE NATION

"One of the year's outstanding documentaries." - SEATTLE TIMES

"Easily one of the best movies of the year...positively simmers." - LOS ANGELES WEEKLY

"Riveting...emotionally sizzling." - SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"Galvanizing." - Janet Maslin, NEW YORK TIMES

"Shocking" - TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL

"Unnerving." -NEW YORKER

"Hair raising horror film." -OREGONIAN

"Burns with energy" - BAY AREA REPORTER

"Chilling and suspenseful ***" - NEW YORK POST

"Gutsy...powerful ****" - MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

"Splendid...breathlessly paced *** ½" - NY NEWSDAY

"Cuts to the heart of the current political climate." -NEW YORK TIMES

Trailer, photo selection, links, more info:

www.ballotmeasure9.com

MORE ABOUT THE MEASURE

TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE 9

Measure 9 (1992) would have added the following language to the Oregon Constitution:

- 1) This state shall not recognize any categorical provision such as “sexual preference,” and similar phrases that include homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism or masochism. Quotas, minority status, affirmative action, or any similar concepts shall not apply to these forms of conduct, nor shall government promote these behaviors.
- 2) State, regional and local governments and their properties and monies shall not be used to promote, encourage, or facilitate homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism or masochism.
- 3) State, regional and local governments and their departments, agencies and other entities, including specifically the state Department of Higher Education and the public schools, shall assist in setting a standard for Oregon’s youth that recognizes homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism and masochism as abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and perverse and that these behaviors are to be discouraged and avoided.

TIMELINE SINCE MEASURE 9

While Ballot Measure 9 was defeated, a similar initiative was passed that day in Colorado. The legal challenge to Colorado's Amendment 2 went to the U.S. Supreme Court (*Romer v. Evans*, 517 U.S. 620 (1996)), where it was found unconstitutional. Justice Kennedy wrote in the majority opinion, "We must conclude that Amendment 2 classifies homosexuals not to further a proper legislative end but to make them unequal to everyone else. . . . The amendment seems inexplicable by anything but animus toward the class that it affects."

Meanwhile, back in Oregon:

1992-1994. The Oregon Citizen’s Alliance pass dozens of local anti-gay ballots, and the state steps in to prevent enforcement. The OCA attempts similar initiatives statewide in Idaho and Washington, and another ten states vote on anti-gay referendums.

1994. Oregon voters narrowly defeat Measure 13, the OCA’s milder version of ‘92’s Measure 9.

2000. A new Measure 9 is rejected again by a slight margin. It would have prohibited public school instruction that encouraged or sanctioned homosexual behaviors, and punished noncompliance with loss of state funding.

2004. Oregon voters pass Measure 36, amending the state constitution to limit marriage to a man and a woman.

2007. The state legislature passes a domestic partnership bill, giving the same benefits of marriage to same-sex couples, and a bill to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. Petition drives are immediately started to repeal both laws.

In the United States today, only 5 states have neither a statute nor a constitutional provision prohibiting same-sex marriage (New York, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Mexico, New Jersey and Rhode Island).

CAST OF CHARACTERS

NO ON 9

Donna Red Wing

An outspoken activist for LGBT rights, Donna is proud to have earned the moniker "the most dangerous woman in America" from the Christian Coalition. She was the Director of Portland's Lesbian Community Project and founder of Oregon's Anti-Violence Project, tracking the unprecedented rise in anti-gay violence during the Measure 9 campaign. Since then, she has worked as national project directors for GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), the Human Rights Alliance, the Gill Foundation, and for the Howard Dean campaign. Now Donna the Director of the First Freedom First Project at the Interfaith Alliance. Among other awards granted her, Donna was named The Advocate's "Woman of the Year" in 1992, and in 1999 became the first recipient of the Walter Cronkite Award for Faith and Freedom.

Kathleen Saadat

A veteran of the civil rights movement, Kathleen Saadat is a charismatic community activist, working for the rights of women, people of color and the LGBT communities. Formerly Oregon's Director of Affirmative Action, she served on the steering committee for the No on 9 campaign, organized "African Americans Voting No on 9," and was instrumental in mobilizing Black leadership around the campaign. After Measure 9 she became the co-director of Portland's Rainbow Coalition/African Americans for Human Rights, and now is the Director of Diversity and Human Resources at the Cascade AIDS Project in Portland. Among the numerous honors she has received is the prestigious Bannerman Fellowship for her contributions to social justice. She remains ever eloquent in her call for an inclusive human rights movement.

Scott Seibert

Scott's "GAYMAN" license plate and TV appearances made him one of the most "out" gay men in Oregon. During Measure 9, Scott was the founder and Chair of OUTPAC (Oregonians United Together PAC), which held trainings and seminars for new activists, and was vigilant in researching and making public the finances of the Oregon Citizen's Alliance and its donors. As a result, his home and office were vandalized frequently, files were stolen and death threats made. Scott served as Chair of the Eugene Human Rights Commission and on the Oregon Bureau of Labor Affirmative Action & Civil Rights Commission. After Measure 9, he moved to Portland, where he has involved himself in numerous neighborhood planning committees, including the Portland Streetcar Advisory Commission, METRO Citizens Involvement Commission, and the NW Neighborhood Board of Directors.

Anne Sweet

Anne was and continues to be an indefatigable community activist, trainer and unionist. She speaks and teaches to address the uncomfortable truths about societal oppression and our individual roles in its perpetration. Anne's efforts also include her work with low-income families and those on welfare, providing access to available resources.

Jim & Elise Self

After dealing with the revelation of their daughter's sexual orientation, they came out as a family publicly in a front page article in the local paper in conservative southern Oregon, hoping to combat local homophobia during the Measure 9 campaign. The article led to a week-long anti-gay picket of the newspaper, and hate-filled letters to the family. The Selfs became leaders in PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), with Elise becoming President of her regional chapter.

Cindy Patterson

An accidental activist, Cindy was working in an AIDS clinic when the Measure 9 battle began. She refused to be silent in Klamath Falls, an arch-conservative rural town, and founded the local Human Rights Alliance to fight the measure. As a result, she, her husband and young son were followed and harassed daily. Their brake lines were cut, lug nuts loosened, tires slashed, their animals killed or maimed. They moved twice during that time.

Tom Potter

Potter was Portland's Chief of Police during Measure 9. Alarmed by the violence, he set up a Bias Crime task force, and put in place full-time protections for campaign activists. He was known (and put under fire) for recruiting gay men and lesbians to the police force, and for his commitment to community policing. He was an active PFLAG parent, and in 2004 was elected Mayor of Portland. As Mayor, his programs include "visionPDX" and "Community Connect," to increase the involvement and voices of residents who might not have been previously heard, especially for future City planning.

“YES ON 9”

Lon Mabon

"It's a simple battle between good and evil. . . . and we won't stop getting and gaining power until we have returned every institution in this country back to a moral base." Mabon is a one-time hippie turned born-again Christian. As the Chairman of the Oregon Citizens Alliance for 15 years, he put forth dozens of local and statewide anti-gay measures in Oregon, (as well as in Washington and Idaho). After a failed bid for the U.S. Senate, the failure of Measures 13 and 9 in 1994 and 2000, and a short stint in jail for contempt of court (refusing to pay a \$30,000 court judgment in favor of a lesbian roughed up at an OCA event) – Lon returned in 2006 to file two more referenda. They are the Public Decency Act (making free speech inapplicable to conduct or personal behavior) and the Student Protection Act (prohibiting instruction at public schools, including universities, that approves or endorses homosexuality, bisexuality or transgendered behavior).

Bonnie Mabon

Bonnie is wife to Lon Mabon and a staunch supporter of the OCA's work. She was instrumental in the running of the organization and acted as Treasurer of the now-defunct Oregon Citizen's Alliance. "I have a heart to help the homosexuals, they just haven't been taught that there is a difference between right and wrong in their behaviors."

Scott Lively

Scott was the Communications Director for the OCA, and one of the organization's most active speakers. "Homosexuality, pedophilia and sado-masochism walk hand-in-hand down the streets of San Francisco." He went on to receive a law degree, and is now the Director of the Pro-Family Law Center and President of Abiding Truth Ministries, through which he speaks on such topics as: how to protect your child from gay recruitment; how to stop the homosexual infiltration of schools, helping the homosexual struggler on the road to recovery, and the role of homosexuality in the rise of Nazism (claiming Hitler was gay) and the "alarming implications for our nation." His book "The Pink Swastika" has made him a darling of the aggressively anti-gay evangelical Watchmen, both in the USA and in Eastern Europe. He is based now in Sacramento, CA.

(See more at [www.defendthefamily.com](http://www.defendthefamily.com/docs/resources/1139692.pdf) and Lively's resume at <http://www.defendthefamily.com/docs/resources/1139692.pdf>)

Oren Camenish

Camenish was based in conservative southern Oregon, where he acted as regional director for the Klamath County office of the OCA. He and his family feel that AIDS is the natural result of ignoring the moral teaching of the Bible. For them, their passionate work for the OCA's agenda is an act of love for homosexuals, whom they hope to save. "Love the sinner, hate the sin."



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