

a e MOVIES

New Media Venture: John Scagliotti and GoGay

BY PEGGY LUHRS

John Scagliotti has documented our LGBT community from the beginning. His films *Before Stonewall* (1984) and *After Stonewall* (1999) are classics of the state of the movement pre- and post-Stonewall Rebellion, the 1969 New York riots sparked by police raids on gay bars. *Dangerous Living* (2003) expands to tell the stories of coming out in the so-called developing world, and including the

backlash as gay and lesbian liberation took off in the U.S.

Scagliotti of Guilford created *In The Life*, the PBS gay magazine program that has had a good 15-year run. His work has led him to support more independent media. He's found that LOGO and other outlets - while adding to LGBT content on cable TV - still don't cover the hot topics of politics, sex and religion. Ergo GoGayDVD.com, a movie rental service he has set up to support

the Independent GLBT Video and Filmmakers Consortium (IGVFC). Gogaydvd.com will use ten percent of its revenues to support the consortium, a loosely organized group of film producers.

Anxious to get away from censors and aware of the dangers of foundation funding, John has set up this network to make a wide range of lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender DVDs available.

Following is a conversation we had about John's new project.

PL: Why do we need a GLBT-producing consortium?

JS: My work has been censored ... a little self-censorship here, a little cutting there. Pulling punches is safe. I was happy to see LOGO open, but then I realized they couldn't do politics, sex and religion. They bought *Queer as Folk* and then censored it. We need independent gay media to really see what LOGO and *In the Life* won't put on such as the politics, sex and religion.

PL: Why new GLBT producers?

JS: Because progressive, thoughtful programs such as "why a Republican Governor in Vermont vetoes a Gender Identity Bill" can't be shown now. We need these programs and these dialogues. Big funders won't do this stuff. We need to involve the grassroots in the policy discussion. When was the last time you saw a national LGBT organization with a field office? And we should be showing the kind of panels

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