

Our House:

a very real documentary about kids of gay and lesbian parents

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Spadola, herself the daughter of a lesbian, wanted the film to illustrate that being a good parent is not easy. "I think it's hard to be a good parent and I wanted to show that it does take more than love to make it work," she said. "Being in a gay and lesbian family does complicate interactions with the outside world."

While we learn about some of the difficulties these families have experienced, we also hear about the successes. Spadola interviews a family of Mormons whose father is gay, and explores how the daughters work through issues of the church for themselves. The oldest daughter explains that she cannot be a part of the Mormon church because of their views on homosexuality, but understands that her mother and younger sister are willing to overlook that view because other aspects of the church are so important in their lives.

In contrast to the Mormon family, we also meet an African American family in the film who attend an openly gay congregation, where they celebrate through song and prayer. While one of the mothers mentions that the kids don't really like sitting still and concentrating in church, as soon as the music and singing take hold, the kids smile and begin dancing. When Spadola interviews one of the boys about what he says to his friends about having two moms, he

replies, "I'm too busy playing to tell my friends I have two moms."

The film wraps up with a look at a family in New York City, with two moms who each gave birth to a daughter. One mom talks about the importance of their family policy to not answer the question "Who's the real mom?" Ry is 17 and graduating from high school as her mother notes that she can't believe her oldest daughter is about to graduate. Cade, who's 19 and a lesbian is very supportive of her straight sister, and even helps dress Ry's boyfriend for the ceremony.

Spadola also explores the different ways these families were created. Some families adopted, others had children from previous marriages; some planned on getting pregnant, intentionally, others chose the artificial insemination method. The cultures, incomes, and races covered in the film add to its mind-opening message of commonalities within diverse lines.

The project was funded by ITVS and the Soros Documentary Fund of the Open Society Institute. ▼

