



Stories From The War On Homosexuality

An essential eye opening must-own DVD Collection

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By Scott Cranin

Acclaimed filmmaker **Arthur Dong** has made his name as a filmmaker chronicling the “culture wars” of the modern gay and lesbian rights movement. He released a box set of his three major documentaries on the subject, titled *The Arthur Dong Collection, Vol. 1: Stories From The War On Homosexuality*. The set includes *Coming Out Under Fire*, Dong’s investigation of gays and lesbians in World War II; *Licensed To Kill*, his portrait of murderers in prison for killing gay men; and *Family Fundamentals*, a moving look at conservative religious families with gay and lesbian children. All three films are making their DVD debut and all films include special features and neverbefore- seen bonus footage.

COMING OUT UNDER FIRE (1994), which is based on the book by Allan Bérubé, goes to the WWII origins of today's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy to uncover the history of a military policy that labeled homosexuals as mentally ill and sought their discharge as "undesirables." Dong interviews nine gay/lesbian veterans of WWII to get their stories. Among the many rave reviews it received, Variety called the film, "powerful...timely, informative, technically accomplished," and Out magazine said the film, "cuts to the heart of the U.S. government's unjust war against same-sex desire."

LICENSED TO KILL (1997) is a riveting journey into the minds of seven men whose contempt for homosexuals led them to murder. Inspired by his own experience as a victim of gay-bashing, Dong gets to know these men and asks them "why did you do it?" Kenneth Turan of the Los Angeles Times called the film, "Chilling...a powerful investigation centering on interviews with an unnervingly candid group of convicted murderers of homosexuals."

Dong's most recent film, **FAMILY FUNDAMENTALS** (2002), goes into the private and sometimes very public lives of families where conservative Christian parents actively oppose homosexuality, despite having gay children themselves. The film was lauded by Josh Friedman of the Los Angeles Times as "Heartfelt but evenhanded, "Family Fundamentals" is a battlefield report from America's disquieting culture war over gay issues," and it landed on many yearend top-ten lists, including New York Press.

The Arthur Dong Collection, Vol. 1: Stories From The War On Homosexuality is available now at www.DeepFocusProductions.com