



MOVED BY LOVE

A DARE TO DREAM PRODUCTION



MOVED BY LOVE

Running Time: 18 minutes, 18 seconds

Directed By: Bridget Johnson

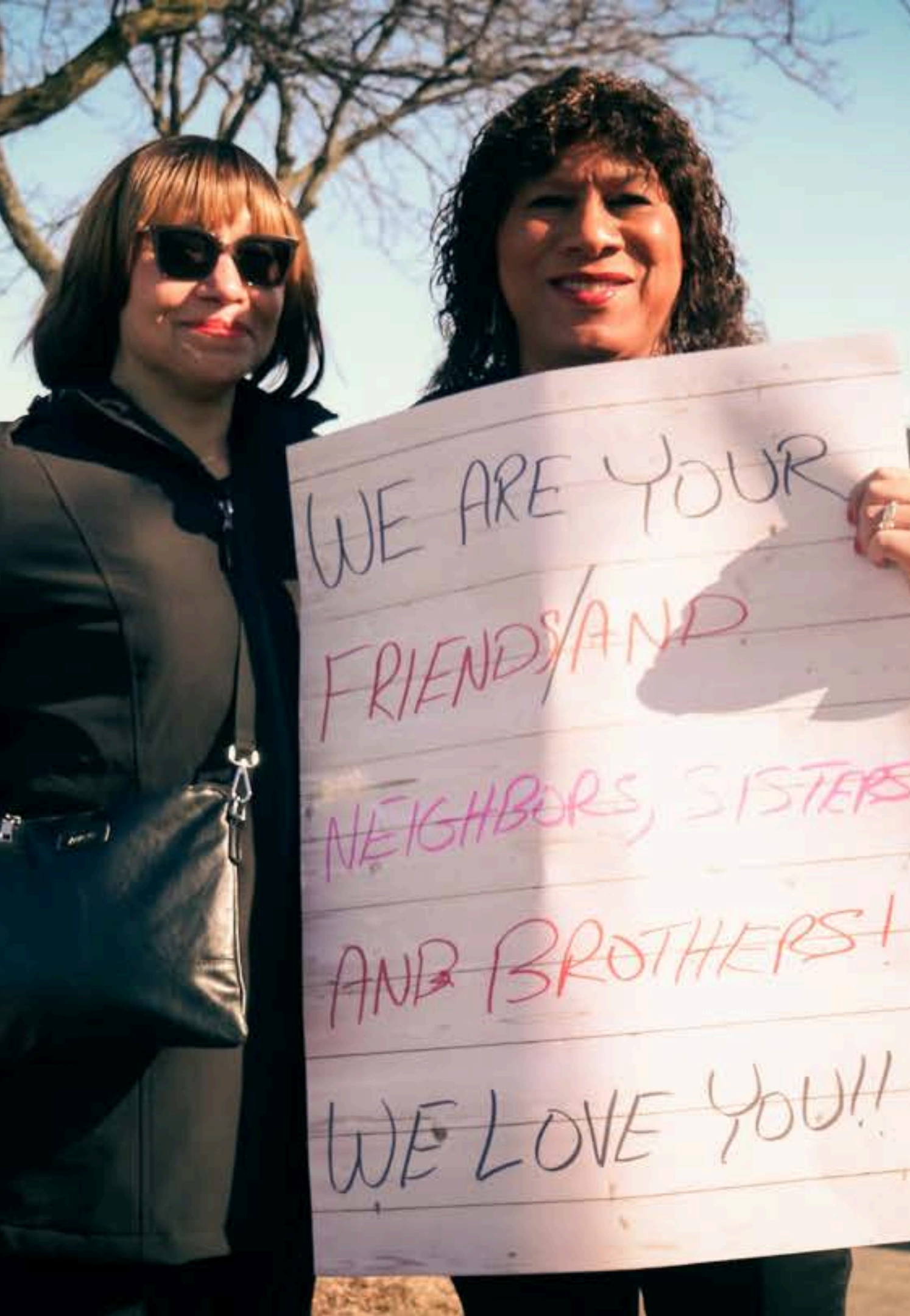
Produced By: Shannon Wrzesinski
Bridget Johnson

Production Company: Dare to Dream Productions

Starring: Maria DesJarlait
Levi Strasser
Gloria Wright
Debra McWright
Jamie Newell
Jim Bina

Country of Origin: USA (Chicago, IL, Salt Lake City, Utah)

FEATURING MARIA DESJARLAIT, LEVI STRASSER, JAMIE NEWELL, JIM BINA, GLORIA WRIGHT, AND DEBRA MCWRIGHT
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TOM GIAZZON AND BRIDGET JOHNSON CO-PRODUCED BY SHANNON WRZESINSKI EDITOR BRIDGET JOHNSON



LOGLINE

From survival to transformation, this documentary weaves together four testimonies of love spanning generations and communities across the United States. In a world increasingly divided by hate, this film reminds us that love is the universal thread that binds us all.

SYNOPSIS

Through the lens of four individuals, this film explores love's ability to heal wounds, bridge divides, and shape lives across generations. An Indigenous author finds strength in family and community while battling cancer. A lifelong bond endures as an ex-wife cares for her former husband with dementia. An ex-Mormon reclaims self-worth after surviving conversion therapy. A trans woman and her wife reflect on fifty years of love and resilience, standing hand in hand through decades of battles for equality.

Through intimate interviews, ***Moved By Love*** is a meditation on human connection and a celebration of love in its many forms. In a time marked by division, ***Moved By Love*** is an invitation to see from a new perspective and embrace the transformative potential of love. It's a reminder that love has the capacity to break barriers and create understanding. Move in love.

PRODUCTION STILLS



FILM STILLS





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Moved By Love is a meditation on human connection and a celebration of love in its many forms. In a time of deep division and hate, I felt compelled to create a film that pushes back, calling us to open our hearts and reclaim our humanity through love. Over two years, my team and I interviewed over fifty people, whose stories gave me hope. My goal is to spark conversations, challenge prejudices, and inspire empathy.

Queer and marginalized communities are often reduced to stories of struggle. ***Moved By Love*** shifts the narrative, showcasing beauty, joy, and strength, especially in older LGBTQ+ relationships, offering younger queer people a vision of love's lasting power.

This film is just the beginning. I envision a larger movement, expanding into a series, traveling to communities fractured by race, religion, and politics, and fostering dialogue through screenings and interactive experiences. ***Moved By Love*** will be a tool for empathy and change.

Moved By Love is a reminder that love remains the universal thread that binds us all. It's more than a film; it's a call to move in love by practicing curiosity and empathy. Always move in love.

-Bridget Johnson

CREW BIOS



BRIDGET JOHNSON
(DIRECTOR/PRODUCER)

Bridget Johnson is a queer Chicago-based director and writer dedicated to socially-driven storytelling. She founded Dare to Dream Productions at seventeen, won Best Documentary at DePaul University's Film Festival for ***Breaking the Barrier***, and screened at NFFTY. Her debut short ***The Girl at the Library*** has over 1.2 million views on YouTube and has screened at several LGBTQ+ organizations.



SHANNON WRZESINSKI
(CO-PRODUCER)

Shannon Wrzesinski is a queer writer and producer who amplifies queer and Asian voices. They have worked as a Staff Writer for HerCampus and have been published by Taylor & Francis. They were the 2020 award receipt for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Currently, they are co-producing *Moved By Love*, a documentary about love.

CREW BIOS



TOM GIAZZON
(ADDITIONAL CAMERA)

Tom Giazzon is a Director of Photography and camera operator based in Chicago, Illinois. He worked as the Director of Photography on Bridget Johnson's short, ***Masterpieces*** that screened at NFFTY. Giazzon has contributed to the camera and electrical departments on several film projects, including ***The Mailman*** (2020) and ***Hyde Park*** (2022). He is also a member of the Delta Kappa Alpha (DKA) professional cinematic society at DePaul University.

MARIAM ATALLAH
(ADDITIONAL CAMERA)



Mariam is a Chicago-based filmmaker with deep roots in Cairo, Egypt, where she earned her bachelor's degree in photography and filmmaking. Inspired by the rhythm, she blends authentic experiences with nuanced narratives to explore how global and local forces shape personal stories. ***Breaking Salt*** is an intimate exploration of labor and identity told through the lives of salt workers in Siwa, Egypt.

STARS

MARIA DESJARLAIT

Maria “White Cedar Woman” is an Indigenous Arikara and Ojibwe writer from Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota, and Red Lake, Minnesota. Raised on the reservation, she pursued her big-city dreams, earning a degree in Early Childhood Education and ESL in Chicago. Her books aim to inspire and empower Native children by representing their cultures and stories in today's context.



LEVI STRASSER

Levi is a gay ex-Mormon and conversion therapy survivor who found self-love after leaving the church. Now an esthetician, he blends self-care with advocacy, using his platform to speak out against conversion therapy. Through podcasts and public storytelling, he sheds light on its harm and empowers others to embrace their truth. Levi is dedicated to helping others heal and find acceptance beyond religious trauma.



STARS

GLORIA WRIGHT



Gloria Wright is a dedicated trans activist who has been fighting for equality since the 1970s. She served as past president of Tri-Ess and The Chicago Gender Society, advocating for the rights and visibility of the trans community. Beyond activism, Gloria is also a singer, performing with The Voice Lab in Chicago and in choir. Her lifelong commitment to advocacy and the arts continues to inspire and uplift the community.

DEBRA MCWRIGHT



Debra McWright, a lifelong advocate for civil and disabled rights, grew up on the South Side of Chicago and built a career in government dedicated to advancing social justice. She and her wife, Gloria Wright, have been together for fifty years. When Gloria came out as transgender, Debra stood by her side, offering unwavering support and joining her in activism and protests.

STARS



JAMIE NEWELL

Jamie Newell is an accomplished film, stage, and TV actress, as well as a voice artist. Her film credits include ***Contagion*** (Warner Brothers), ***The Nest*** (Open Eyes Productions), and ***Gnomeo and Juliet*** (Touchstone Pictures). She has appeared on Oprah (Harpo Productions), The Onion (Onion Productions), and Alexis Ronan (Smith-Donovan Productions).



JIM BINA

Jim Bina is a comedian, actor, and performer at Vito's Vault in Chicago. He has been performing for over 30 years. He was married to Jamie and now they are best friends.



FEATURING

ALEJANDRA VÁZQUEZ
TORI VÁZQUEZ
STEPHANIE WALLER
JOSIAH MADDOX
CHRISTO ALEXANDER
DOM DOUTRÉ
NICHOLAS MEDLEY
JOSHUA TURNER

ROCK YOUR MOCS DANCERS
ROCK YOUR MOCS MUSICIANS
AIYANNA DESJARLAIT
AYESHA DESJARLAIT
EMILY CRAWFORD
BHANTE SUJATHA
BRIDGET JOHNSON
SHANNON WRZESINSKI

SOPHIE LUCINDO JOHNSON
LUKE HOAR DE GALVAN
ALEXANDER DUNGAN
MOCHA
ALEX JENNY
ABIGAIL LUE
DANIELLE MEIJER
MARYSE MEIJER

CREDITS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS:

BRIDGET JOHNSON
SHANNON WRZESINSKI

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER:

JACQ JOHNSON

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY:

BRIDGET JOHNSON

ADDITIONAL CAMERA OPERATORS:

TOM GIAZZON
MARIAM ATALLAH

STILL PHOTOGRAPHY:

MARIAM ATALLAH

VOICEOVER BY:

JAMIE NEWELL

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS:

KATERINA SYREGELAS
CHRISTINA EAGLESON

EDITED BY:

BRIDGET JOHNSON

COLORIST:

BRIDGET JOHNSON

ADDITIONAL STOCK FOOTAGE:

ROYALTY-FREE FOOTAGE
PROVIDED BY MOTIONARRAY
AND PEXELS

MUSIC

ROYALTY-FREE MUSIC PROVIDED BY MOTIONARRAY AND SOUNDSTRIPE

“DREAMSCAPE ODYSSEY”
STUDIOKOLOMNA

“LOVE LETTER”
FREQUENTLY ASKED MUSIC

“NEW WONDERS OF LIFE”
NATALIA KOLESNIKOVA

“BEHIND THE VEIL”
WILD WONDER

“RAINING EMOTIONS”
EPIKTON

“SHARED EXPERIENCES”
ALISHA STUDIO

“EMOTIONAL SAD PIANO AND VIOLINS”
EPIKTON



FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY

Website:

www.dare-to-dream-productions.com

Instagram:

[@movedbylovesfilm](https://www.instagram.com/movedbylovesfilm)

[@dtdproductions](https://www.instagram.com/dtdproductions)

YouTube:

[Youtube.com/@daretodream
productions](https://www.youtube.com/@daretodreamproductions)

Tiktok:

[@dtdproductions](https://www.tiktok.com/@dtdproductions)

Facebook:

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ductioncompany.](https://www.facebook.com/daretodreamproductioncompany)