

POWERLINE FILMS PRESENTS

NATURAL FAMILY VALUES

A film by Frank Feldman

48 minutes, DV, 1.33:1, USA



PowerLine Films

Distribution & Press Contact

Chris Howard

Producer, PowerLine Films

1067 East 200 South, Suite 3

Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Tel: (801) 328-2278

Fax: (763) 322-2278

Email: chris@powerlinefilms.org

PRESS NOTES CONTENTS:

SYNOPSIS page 2

QUOTES page 3

ABOUT KANAB, UTAH page 6

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS page 7

SUPPORTERS page 9

CREDITS page 10

“Everyone should see this film. ‘Natural Family Values’ introduces us to characters that remind us that God is the best scriptwriter.” —Professor David G. Dick, Ph.D.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Kanab, Utah, a small, western town founded by Mormon polygamists, is now the scene of a city divided between a religious majority struggling to assert its conservative identity and a vocal minority determined to make their home in a community afraid of change. Fearing a threat to their way of life, the mayor and city council unanimously approve a resolution that defines the kind of families they would like to see move in as ‘one man, one woman’ with a ‘full quiver’ of children.

Natural Family Values is an intimate portrait of a community at odds with itself, and what happens when democracy and theocracy clash.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Founded by Mormon polygamists, Kanab, Utah is a small, scenic western town facing new development and an influx of people from around the country who are moving into its quiet neighborhoods. Set against this backdrop, Kanab finds itself a city divided between a religious majority struggling to assert its conservative identity and a vocal minority determined to make their home in a community that is afraid of change. In response to a perceived threat to their way of life, the mayor and city council unanimously approve a resolution that defines the kind of families they would like to see move in.

The ‘Natural Family Resolution’ that the mayor and city council adopts, based on a memorandum from a conservative political think-tank, defines the proper gender roles of men and women and defines the family as ‘one man, one woman’ with a ‘full quiver’ of children.

The town’s leadership is completely unprepared for the response from liberal citizens who call for the resolution to be rescinded. Local and national media focus attention on Kanab. The mayor stands firm, but the only woman member of the city council appears to be rethinking her support of the resolution. And while a minority of the residents are set on making their town welcoming to all, its conservative residents insist on taking a stand to protect the ‘natural family’ despite the town's cultural inheritance of a constantly changing definition of ‘family.’

Natural Family Values is an intimate portrait of a community at odds with itself, and what happens when democracy and theocracy clash.

QUOTES

“We envision young women growing into wives, homemakers, and mothers. And that we see our homes as open to a full quiver of children.”

—Text from Resolution 1-1-06(R), *The Natural Family: A Vision for the City of Kanab*

“Be it resolved that the city of Kanab, Utah adopts the following vision as a guide to policy formation and public action: ‘We envision a local culture that upholds the marriage of a woman to a man and a man to a woman as ordained of God.’”

—Mayor Lawson, Kanab City

“It was the life of my grandparents, my great-grandparents—well at least not my parents; they were not a ‘natural family’ per se.”

—Tony Chatterly, City Council member

“It is only fair to let those who choose to live an unconventional lifestyle know that they will be more happy living in San Francisco or in Santa Fe than in Kanab. It’s only fair that they know ahead of time.”

—Elderly man speaking at city council meeting

“And I’m going to talk about God and if that bothers some people they can just simply plug their ears... If God saw fit to utterly destroy two cities anciently because of abomination, I can’t wish that sort of future for Kanab, for Utah, or for our nation.”

—Elderly woman speaking at city council meeting

“It’s pushed a lot of buttons for people, and for them rather painful buttons because for one reason or another, they don’t feel like they fit into that description of what the natural family is.”

—Carol Sullivan, City Council member

“We believe the role of government is to attend to civic matters. In the case of a town council, these would include town infrastructure, planning and economic development. This does not include defining a vision for social behavior.”

—Daniel Gallagher, Kanab resident speaking at city council meeting

“This resolution is a standard or an ideal. We have standards in all kinds of laws. If you take driving education, there are standards—ten and two. There are standards—wear your seatbelt. These are standards that we all know are for our own safety and for our own good.”

—Annie Sorenson, Kanab resident speaking at city council meeting

“At Sutherland, one of the things we do promote is family as the fundamental unit of society. We do that in public policy terms because it creates an environment for lasting societies. But there has to be an ideal when it comes to public policy. There has to be a standard in public policy. There’s a better way to collect garbage. There’s a better way to pave your streets.”

—Paul Mero, President of The Sutherland Institute & ‘Natural Family Resolution’ author

“I didn’t sit down and I didn’t shut up because I believed in what I was doing. And I didn’t feel that it was so much disruption as proving the point to the council—the council—and the mayor, that the people were not in favor of their resolution.”

—Tom Padgitt, Kanab resident

“Mayor Lawson has stated on more than one occasion during the past several weeks that he does not want people from outside our town speaking for us. The Sutherland Institute, who drafted the resolution, does not speak for me. And it clearly does not speak for many individuals in this community. We do not need words from people we do not know, we have not met, and we don’t understand their motivations.”

—Daniel Gallagher, Kanab resident speaking at city council meeting

“Most of the people and families I know do not fit that vision. But it doesn’t say that we should not have a vision nor an ideal somewhere in our lives.”

—Tony Chatterly, City Council member

“The [Mormon] church calls upon all citizens to make sure that their communities and their governments try to enact these into their civil law—these principles from the proclamation on the family. Therefore a town that will ... embrace by statute these principles outlined in that proclamation has got to be favored by God. It’s got to be smiled upon by God. And certainly a place we would want to live because that is where our values are enthroned and enshrined as the ideal.”

—Richard Russell, LDS Church Education Instructor (Retired)

“As we looked at our community and looked at the values that were inherent with this community from since its beginning and the importance of the family to society in general, we decided to define what we felt was important.”

—Mayor Lawson, Kanab City

“They asked no public input. You can tell when they all have their typed little speeches, you know that the decision was made of what they were going to do long before we have a city council meeting.”

—Ruthie Itow, Kanab resident

“We have more or less stated the ideal, lifted the banner, the ensign... And to do define our community—what is important to our community—rather than letting others define it for us.”

—Mayor Lawson, Kanab City

“And I had a problem with [the resolution] because I don’t really think you can define the word ‘natural,’ and define something that’s ordained of God because it’s a personal relationship.”

—Matt Livingston, Kanab high school student who wrote an editorial criticizing the resolution in the local newspaper

“People were alarmed at his tone, and his rhetoric. It wasn’t a matter of free speech.”

—Mayor Lawson, talking about Matt Livingston’s newspaper editorial

“The idea that a woman should be married, and have children and be a homemaker, and have a quote, ‘quiver of children.’ Well there are a lot of people—working women—that for one reason or another they don’t feel like they fit into that.”

—Carol Sullivan, City Council member

“You get a woman, and she gets the job done. And they did a good job. And they had things running pretty good. But they couldn’t run the town and raise their families too, and so they had to choose, and they chose their families.”

—Deanna Glover, curator of the Kanab Heritage Museum speaking about Kanab’s historic all-women town council.

“On the bottom of the welcome sign, they had some clip art, that connotated [sic] to some a different agenda than what is being actually put forth... The rainbow with the children joining hands.”

—Mayor Lawson, talking about the ‘Everyone Welcome Here’ decals

“In talking to a couple of my neighbors, who advised me that when I asked them about what they thought about the resolution, they said, “Well, it’s a way of keeping the gays out.” And I asked ‘em, “Well, what do you want to do, take ‘em out and shoot ‘em?”

—Tom Padgitt, Kanab resident

“We’re becoming a community with a lot of diversity, a lot of people who don’t believe in having children, who don’t believe in having a family.”

—Kim Willoughby, Kanab resident

I don’t think it has to do with the lack of family values, because I think people have strong family values. I think it has more to do—what I’m getting anyway—it has more to do with government saying what your family values should be.

—Carol Sullivan, City Council member

ABOUT KANAB, UTAH

Kanab is a city in and the county seat of Kane County, Utah, United States. The population was 3,564 at the 2000 census (the current estimate is 5,400). Nearly 90% of its citizens are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons).

Many locals refer to Kanab as “Little Hollywood” due to its history as a filming location for western movies and television series such as Daniel Boone, Gunsmoke, Planet Of The Apes, The Outlaw Josey Wales, The Lone Ranger, and Stagecoach, among other films.

Kanab is situated in the “Grand Circle” area, centrally located among Bryce Canyon National Park, the Grand Canyon (North Rim), and Zion National Park. Other nearby attractions include Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, the privately owned Moqui Cave, and the largest animal sanctuary in the United States, Best Friends animal sanctuary.

Named for a Paiute word meaning “place of the willows,” Kanab was settled in 1864 when Fort Kanab was built on the east bank of Kanab Creek for defense against the Native Americans and as a base for the exploration of the area. Native American attacks forced the abandonment of the fort in 1866. In 1870, ten Mormon families moved into the fort and began to establish the present town. That same year Brigham Young, president of the Mormon church, visited the area twice, making suggestions and supervising the town planning.

For many years Kanab was one of the most isolated cities in the nation. It was cut off from the east by the Colorado River and could only be reached with difficulty by rough dirt roads stretching over the rough terrain of the Arizona Strip west toward Las Vegas, Nevada. A twenty-three mile journey north to Orderville, Utah took nearly four days. Today, Kanab is a scenic tourist town and launching point for many outdoor recreational activities.

Sources: Wikipedia; Official Kanab City Web Site; Religious Congregations and Membership in the United States, 2000

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Frank Feldman (director/producer)

Frank graduated with a B.A. in Film Studies from the University of Utah in 2004 and has produced a number of films since then including *Natural Family Values*, a documentary set in Kanab, Utah. Frank spent much of 2006 filming the results of Kanab's "Natural Family Resolution," a document approved by the city council that defines the gender roles of men and women in the small southern Utah town. Since its completion, *Natural Family Values* has screened at the Center for Religion and Media at New York University and locally at Salt Lake's Winter Pride Film Festival. Additional screenings are currently in the works.

Frank's recent filmmaking efforts include a narrative film that he directed and co-wrote entitled *Vapid Lovelies*, which was an official selection of the 2009 Slamdance Film Festival where it received the Spirit of Slamdance Award.

Frank currently teaches Documentary Arts at Spy Hop Productions in Salt Lake City. *Natural Family Values* is his first feature documentary.

Chris J. Howard (associate producer)

Chris served as president and creative director of Red Rock Productions, an award-winning media production and marketing company, for seven years before quitting the industry to pursue his passion for film. He has extensive expertise in areas of film, television and radio production, in addition to new media and the web. Chris has also worked on a number of political and social justice campaigns.

Chris joined the production in 2007 and has since overseen much of the post-production details as well as provided assistance in promoting and distributing the film. This marks his first feature documentary production.

Eric Tierney (producer)

On January 23, 2006, our friend and colleague passed away due to complications from Hepatitis. His contribution on this project was invaluable, and we continue our work, missing him every step of the way. It was his passion that got the project started, and we dedicate the film to his memory.

Matt Mateus (composer)

Matt Mateus is a Salt Lake City based musician, composer and recording engineer. He began playing in bands at the ripe age of 14, and has since written, recorded and released over a dozen records both in the United States and Europe. After studying jazz guitar and composition at the University of Utah, he moved to New York City to pursue his songwriting. It was in New York that he stumbled into the world of recording. He interned at the infamous Jarvis Studios, working with many well-know producers and bands. Upon his return to Salt Lake City, he started his own recording studio, but quickly became involved in teaching music and recording to young people at a local non-profit. It was at this time that he began writing music for film, television, radio and web. Over the past 8 years, Matt's work has reached a wide audience, from Sundance to late-night infomercials. He currently continues to direct the programs at Spy Hop Productions, maintain healthy doses of client work, and front the band Hello Amsterdam.

SUPPORT FOR THIS FILM PROVIDED BY

B.W. Bastian Foundation (major funding)

The B.W. Bastian Foundation strives to build community and understanding by supporting local and national institutions. Financial support is directed at educational outreach, cultural and HIV/Aids programs. A strong commitment is placed on programs and organizations that benefit, encourage, and preserve the rights of individuals and promote equality for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. (www.bastianfoundation.org)

Center for Documentary Arts (fiscal sponsorship)

The CDA is dedicated to using the tools of documentary work — photography, oral history, film making, narrative writing, radio broadcasting, and visual art — to help Utahns look inward to better understand our state's past and present and to gaze outward to discover our connection to the nation and the world. CDA creates and supports projects that examine and honor the cultural, spiritual, and ethnic identities of our state's and nation's diverse population in forums wherein we can acknowledge differences, establish common ground, and, hence, build community. (www.cdautah.org)

Human Rights Education Center of Utah (screening sponsor)

The Human Rights Education Center of Utah (HREC) is an organization dedicated to advancing equality through education, advocacy and dialogue. The HREC provides anti-bias, bullying prevention and diversity education for people of all ages and backgrounds. HREC believes that education is unique in its ability to transform ignorance into respect. Intolerance, bullying, exclusion, disrespect and violence are preventable behaviors. In addition to their work with youth and their leaders, they provide training for a variety of organizations including educational institutions, health care providers, churches, non-profit organizations and private businesses. (www.hrecutah.org)

CREDITS

DIRECTED & EDITED BY
Frank Feldman

CAMERA BY
Ryan Gass

ADDITIONAL CAMERA BY
Frank Feldman
Troy Williams

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY
Matt Mateus

PRODUCED BY
Frank Feldman
Eric J. Tierney
Troy Williams

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
Chris J. Howard

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Troy Williams

GRIP
Scott Foust

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS
Jaimie Cogswell
Stacey Dart

ADDITIONAL EDITING
Chris J. Howard

TITLES/GRAPHICS/COLORIST
Chris J. Howard

FEATURING
Kit Boggio
Dixie Brunner
Tony Chatterley
Victor Cooper
Deanna Glover
Ruthie Itow
Kim Lawson
Matt Livingston
Tom Padgitt
Jo Anne Rando-Moon
Richard Russell
Carol Sullivan

January 20, 2006 Kanab City Council meeting footage courtesy of
KNB-TV, Kanab Utah

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY
Utah State Historical Society.

OTHER HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY
Kanab Heritage Museum

News footage from KUTV and KSL-TV, as well as headlines and quotations from
Southern Utah News, used in accordance with fair use doctrine.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP PROVIDED BY
Center for Documentary Arts

MAJOR FUNDING PROVIDED BY
B. W. Bastian Foundation

ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY
Eric J. Tierney Memorial Fund

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PRIVATE DONORS

Melissa Larsen
Jane & Tami Marquardt
Michael & Debra Robinson
Albert Ochoa
Kevin Packer
Geraldyn Dreyfus
Chris Johnson
Teri Niccoli & Ruth Price
Laurie Hutchison
David Newkirk
Ron Barness

Tim Houpt
Kent Frogley

SPECIAL THANKS

Kanab City, Utah
Four Winds Healing Arts Center
Peery Hotel, Salt Lake City
Southern Utah News
Michael Marriot
Leslie Kelen
Doris Mason
David G. Dick, Ph.D.
Jan Andrews
Katherine Toll
Sky & Bobbie Cheney
Ann Pellegrini

The Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, New York University

And a very special thanks to anyone not mentioned here who kindly gave us your opinion about the film, slipped us some money, or brought a bottle of wine to a party. We couldn't have completed this film without you.

Filmed on location in Kanab City, Utah.

This program was produced by PowerLine Films,
which is solely responsible for its content.

Visit us online at
www.naturalfamilyvalues.com

© 2007 PowerLine Films.
All rights reserved.