

Unusually N♀rmal

7 WOMEN 3 GENERATIONS 1 FAMILY

Documentary

Canada, 98 minutes, English

LGBTQ, Social Issues

Production status: in post (delivery April 2024)

Rights available: world all media, except Canada (OutTV)

excl 1 year linear broadcast only, thereafter non-excl.

Log line: Seven women, three generations, one family and countless secrets and lies. Meet Canada's Gayest Family.

Short Synopsis:

UNUSUALLY NORMAL spans three eras of women in one family household --the youngest, Madison Ford, draws a family tree with 2 grandmothers and 4 mothers. This documentary builds on intimate family videos, photographs, archival footage and social media postings (their Tik Tok account boasts 200,000 followers) to reflect LGBTQ+ stories from the '40s until present day. Through these very personal accounts, UNUSUALLY NORMAL explores obstacles from family rejection to clandestine love, and the happiness found by allowing themselves to live freely, outing themselves, falling in love and leading life on their terms.

Long Synopsis:

UNUSUALLY NORMAL is about three generations of gay women in one family; a family with normal relationships in a gay household.

The documentary spans three eras of women experiencing gay life from the '40s until present day. The youngest of the family, Madison Ford draws a family tree with 2 grandmothers and 4 mothers.

The grandmothers:

- the matriarch Linda Ford and her life partner, now wife, Janice Moore is an Australian (which affords a peek into gay culture from her homeland.)

The mothers:

- Linda's daughter, Karen Ford, married to Cathy Lebel.
- Karen's former partner, Anna Lamanna, now married to Tracey Peters.

UNUSUALLY NORMAL explores the obstacles endured from family rejection and clandestine love to the happiness found by allowing themselves to live freely, outing themselves, falling in love and leading life on their terms.

This 90-minute feature documentary features interviews shot on 4K which build on intimate family videos, photographs, archival footage and social media postings. Originally, Karen Ford intended to film her own documentary but didn't have the skills to put it together. As a result, we have hours of video as Karen followed her family while exploring their gay lifestyle since 2016. Karen also started a Facebook page and a TikTok posting which boasts of over 200,000 followers.

Director's statement:

Karen Ford found me through social media and reached out with her story. Karen endeavoured to create her own documentary but realized she lacked the skills and decided to find someone who could. Karen and her family opened themselves completely by giving me unique access to tell their story of seven women whose lives have interweaved decades, starting from fearful to being openly gay to outing themselves and finding freedom to be who they are.

During each member of the family interviews, they were authentic and brutally honest about what it was like for them to discover they were gay, telling their family and eventually friends outside of the LGBTQ+ community. Karen has been filming her family since 2016, revealing rare insights as they converse amongst themselves in intimate settings – it can't get more real than that. Using various mediums within the film, we see recent interviews, Karen's home video, archival footage, animation and their TikTok "Canada's Gayest Family" postings, reflecting past and present-day stories still touching on universal experiences relevant today.