



THE LOVING STORY

A film by Nancy Buirski
An Icarus Films Release

U.S.A. / 77 minutes / Color, Black and White / 2011

WINNER, 2013 GEORGY FOSTER PEABODY AWARD
WINNER, BEST USE OF FOOTAGE IN A FACTUAL PRODUCTION,
2012 FOCAL INTERNATIONAL AWARDS
WINNER, 2012 JOHN E. O'CONNOR FILM AWARD, AMERICAN HISTORY ASSOC.

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FILM SYNOPSIS

A racially-charged criminal trial and a heart-rending love story converge in this definitive documentary about Mildred and Richard Loving. The marriage of Mildred (who was part-black and part-Native American) and Richard (who was white) was declared illegal in 1958 by their home state of Virginia. They refused to leave one another and, with the help of the ACLU, relentlessly pursued their right to happiness. Their case made it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court where, in 1967, it struck down laws against interracial marriage in this country once and for all.

With luminous, newly discovered 16mm footage of the Lovings and their lawyers, first-person testimony and rare documentary photographs, this film takes us behind the scenes of the legal challenges and the emotional turmoil of the landmark case. *The Loving Story* recreates a seminal moment in history and reflects a timely message of marriage equality in a personal, human love story.

The Loving Story is a journey into the heart of race relations in America. This landmark documentary, with its contemporary parallels, will live on as record of monumental change, not just in civil rights, but in the human right to pursue happiness regardless of color, gender or creed.

SELECTED FILM FESTIVALS & AWARDS

Winner, 2013 George Foster Peabody Award
Winner, Best Use of Footage in a Factual Production, 2012 Focal International Awards
2013 Bermuda Docs Film Festival
2012 Sundance Film Forward
2012 United Nations Association Film Festival
2012 Mixed Roots Film Festival
Centerpiece Selection, 2011 Full Frame Documentary Film Festival
Official Selection, 2011 Tribeca Film Festival
Winner, WGA Screenplay Award, 2011 Silverdocs Documentary Festival
Official Selection, 2011 Hamptons International Film Festival
Official Selection, 2011 Traverse City Film Festival
Official Selection, 2011 Heartland Film Festival
Official Selection, 2011 Saint Louis International Film Festival
Official Selection, 2011 Virginia Film Festival

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The Loving Story is an unusual telling of a civil rights story. Though often overlooked among the pantheon of civil rights struggles, Mildred and Richard Lovings' quest to live together as husband and wife in the state of Virginia was a pivotal one. A white man and a part-black, part-Rappahannock woman were in love and did not understand why their marriage was a criminal offense in the eyes of state. Their effort to make this right – to not live in shame or in exile – is universal, metaphorically reminding us of oppressed and exiled people everywhere. The Lovings were banished from their home for their commitment to each other, and they fought long and hard to return to it, to love each other within the bosom of their family.

We were fortunate to unearth authentic footage, photographs and interviews from the period, which have been woven into the tales recounted by those who were there at the time or were close to the Lovings. The film takes viewers into the actual time and place as their story unfolds through their own voices and that of others present. Never-before-seen footage and photographs of this very private couple reveal who the Lovings really were, and what it was actually like to marry as a mixed-race couple in the Jim Crow South.

White supremacy groups are growing in the U.S. – in the very communities that perpetuated and maintained anti-miscegenation laws up to the 1967 Supreme Court ruling. While we've elected the first mixed-race president, we also recently witnessed a Louisiana Justice of the Peace refusing to marry a mixed-race couple. Anti-miscegenation sentiments are at the heart of racial segregation and apparently still alive today. The struggle for same-sex marriage has important civil rights parallels – both address basic human rights. We believe this nuanced character study, this story of courage and strength, will ignite interest in the tale's morality and create a safe place for people of all beliefs to gather and explore the timeless issues within the film.

– Nancy Buirski

FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Nancy Buriski is the director, co-producer and co-writer of *The Loving Story*. Prior to this, her debut film, she was the founder and was the director the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival for ten years. She produced five collections of Full Frame shorts with Docurama and a library collection of feature-length documentaries, *The Katrina Experience*. She was executive producer of TED's Pangea Day Film Content. Buriski is a producer of *Time Piece*, the innovative cross-cultural anthology of Turkish and American

shorts (directors, Albert Maysles, Alex Gibney, Nathaniel Khan, Edet Belzberg and Sam Pollard, among others), *Harlem Woodstock* (director, Alex Gibney) and *Althea* (director, Rex Miller). She is next directing the documentary *Tanaquil Le Clercq: Afternoon of a Faun* and is producing a fiction version of the Lovings' story. Prior to her work in film, she was a documentary photographer, writing and photographing "Earth Angels: Migrant Children in America," and the foreign picture editor at *The New York Times*.

Elisabeth Haviland James is the co-producer and editor of *The Loving Story*. She is based in Durham, NC. She is currently directing and producing *Lucy: A Portrait*, an experimental documentary about writer and psychologist Lucy Daniels. She is also adapting Pulitzer Prize winner Doug Marlette's novel "Magic Time" for the screen. James is a consulting producer to the narrative feature *Oka! Amerikee*, which premiered at the Telluride Film Festival. Her other recent credits include producer of *The Good Fight* and co-producer of *The Lord God Bird*, both directed by George Butler. She served as director of photography and editor on *Brothers in Arms*, featuring Senator John Kerry, during the 2004 election. Ms. James has worked as a director, producer, cinematographer, photographer and editor with a number of media clients, including White Mountain Films, Roland Films, National Geographic, PBS and MTV. She is a graduate of the M.A. Program in Documentary Film and Video at Stanford University, where she produced and directed four award-winning short documentaries. Her thesis film, *Net Loss*, was awarded the Nicholas Roosevelt Award for Environmental Journalism. Her other short films include *Flaunt*, *Worms at Work*, and *Precipice*, a national finalist for the 2002 Academy Award in the Student Documentary category.

LAWYER BIOGRAPHIES

THE 'LOVING V. VIRGINIA' COURT CASE

Bernard S. Cohen was born in Brooklyn in 1934 and attended City College of New York for his undergraduate degree before completing his law degree at Georgetown University in 1960. He was referred to the Loving case by the ACLU and was lead counsel with the help of the ACLU and the NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund. After the success of the case, Cohen continued his career and taught law at the George Washington University, School of Law. He also served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1980 to 1995, representing the 46th district.

Philip J. Hirschkop is a constitutional rights attorney who has won numerous landmark cases in the areas of civil rights, women's rights, teachers' rights, prisoners' rights and animal rights, including the case of Loving versus Virginia. He is a founder of the ACLU of Virginia, the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council and the ACLU National Prison Project, served on the ACLU National Board for 20 years, and has been chief counsel for PETA since it began. He is an ex-Green Beret paratrooper and the father of three.



FILM CREDITS

Director	Nancy Buirski
Producers	Nancy Buirski, Elisabeth Haviland James
Writers	Nancy Buirski, Susie Ruth Powell
Executive Producers	Scott Berrie, Marshall Sonenshine
Co-Producer	Patricia Romeu
Supervising Producer	Neda Armian
Development Producer	Anna Sang Park
Consulting Producers	Ric Burns, Sam Pollard
Associate Producer	David Baldwin
Cinematographers	Rex Miller, Steve Milligan
Editor	Elisabeth Haviland James
Featuring	Mildred Jeter Loving Richard Perry Loving Bernard S. Cohen Philip J. Hirschkop Peggy Loving Sydney Jeter Donald Loving Garnet Jeter Lola Loving Kenneth Edwards Lewis Jeter Robert Pratt Edward Ayers Raymond Green Ruthie Holliday Robert Pierpoint Hope Ryden Abbott Mills Caitlin Congdon
Documentary photographer	Grey Villet, 1965

Archival footage producer	Hope Ryden, 1965
Archival cinematographer	Abbot Mills, 1965
Original Music	David Majzlin
Music Supervisor	Susan Jacobs
Music Consultant	Mike Taylor
Location Sound	Mark Barosso
Project Advisor	Martin Scorsese
Creative Advisors	Ken Friedlein, Revere Lanoue
Advisors	Walter Dellinger, Marie Wilson, William Zabel
Archival Researchers	Lewanne Jones, Polly Pettit
Additional Research	Tessa Haviland, Patricia Romeu
Assistant Editors	Claire L. Chandler, Jennifer Cromling
Editorial Suite	Thornapple Films, Durham, NC
Titles, Graphics, Animation	Joshua Steadman
Online Preparation	Bradley Kimbrough
Additional Sound Recording	Michael Boyle
Production Associate	Jennifer Cromling
Production Assistant	Shang Gao
Production Intern	Tessa Haviland
Publicity Intern	Erica rosen
Colorist/Online Editor	Rick Broat
Post-Production Facilities	Frame:Runner NYC
Sound Editors	Marlena Grzaslewicz, Ira Spiegel, 701 Sound
Assistant Sound Editor	Daniel Diego Fulton

Re-Recording Mixer	Martin Czembor
Consultants	Judith Cohen, Nancy Galdy, Beth Hubbard, Phyl Newbeck, Steven Silver, Jenny Warburg
Scholarly Advisors	Edward Ayers, Ira Berlin, Ariel Dorfman, Noah Feldman, William Ferris, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Grace Elizabeth Hale, Martha Hodes, John L. Jackson, Tammy L. Kernodle, George La Noue, Toril Moi, David L. Paletz
FOR SuperVision	Mackenzie Reif, Jackie Mulhearn
Consulting Editor, HBO	Geof Bartz
Supervising Producer, HBO	Nancy Abraham
Executive Producer, HBO	Sheila Nevins
Archival Footage/Images	ABC News Videosource, Caroline County Home Movies from the Collection of Robert Doswell, CBS News Archives/Thought Equity Motion, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States, F.I.L.M. Archives, Grey Villet Archive, HBO Archives, Hope Ryden, National Archives, Prelinger Archives, Showtime Networks, Inc., WNET, UCLA Film & Television Archive
Archival News Stories	The New York Times, The Caroline Progress, The Washington Post
Mildred Loving Interview Interviewer	Showtime Networks, Inc. Chris Ward, 1993

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