

The Vaughn-Nelson Family By Chelsea Pyne



1.jpg

Narrator: I've known Vicki and Lisa since I was five. I would go over to their house most weekends to hang out and have hot chocolate. I never thought that there was a "problem" with them being together. And when they decided to have kids I was so excited there were going to be babies! It makes no difference to me that they are two women in love and raising kids. With my project I hope to show that they are just like everyone else.



2.jpg

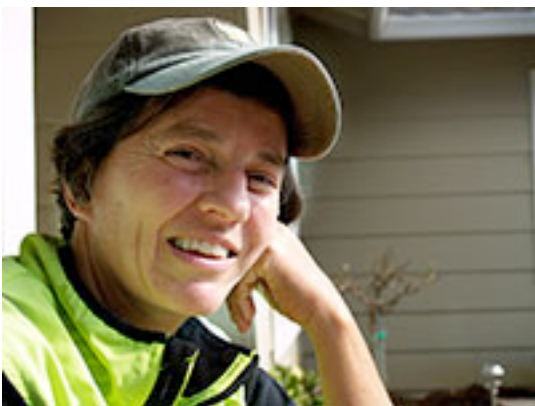
Vicki: I think part of what has to happen in society is people have to get to know a gay couple and then go, oh whoa their no different than anybody else. And they've got the same challenges in their everyday life.



3.jpg

Narrator: Is it hard to raise kids as a lesbian couple? Are there any additional challenges you face raising your kids?

Vicki: Raising kids is just tough. It doesn't matter if you are gay or straight. Raising kids is a full time job. And being gay isn't even come into question. In fact I would say 98% of the time I don't even think of myself as gay. But being a parent is just tough. It doesn't matter if you are gay.



4.jpg

Lisa: I think it is just as hard whether you are gay or straight. It's giving up your own personal time and having things, you know, free time taken away from you. And not being able to talk to your spouse when you want to or finish a sentence. I don't think it is anything different.



5.jpg

Narrator: What is it like having two moms?

Clayton: Um, it's just normal. I don't really know how to describe it... It's not exactly different because I'm used to it. So it isn't really different for me.



6.jpg

Lisa: Crazy. Very busy. (laughs) Um, when they go to school, it making breakfast, making lunches, getting them to school, I volunteer at the school. Being involved in their activities, with Aikido. Our life is pretty much centered around them. But we also try to, Vicki and I, try to have our own quite time. Family meals are important. And once a week we have family meetings. Where we talk about the week and try to appreciate each other. And talk about problems. So I think our days are just filled with activity and fun. And eating a lot. And as you can see chaos. (laughs)



7.jpg

Claire: And having two moms is just a regular day that a mom and dad would have, pretty much. Because you get used to it. First you think: oh I'm different than everybody but then after like a few years, people will treat you the same. And then you are like not a big deal. Same routine, same everything.



8.jpg

SFXs: Silence



9.jpg

Narrator: Vicki and Lisa recently got married in September. They held a small ceremony with family and close friends.

Lisa: I wanted my kids to see that we were no different than anybody else. And our relationship was no less important. So I think, it's not just financial. I think it's what you tell friends and family, that you are two people who are committed and want to stay together and are willing to make that commitment. And we wanted to make it public. So I think it's social and financial.



10.jpg

Vicki: Two people that love each other and that want to commit together. And you know kind of support each other. And that grow together. So it's both love and growth and support through forever in monogamy. Just the two of you. You know respect.

Clayton: Um, like loving somebody who you love.



11.jpg

Clayton: It's a proposition about gay marriage. Yes on prop 8 would mean against it. And no on prop 8 would be not against it.

Claire: Okay. Prop 8 is kind of like a thing where... Well kind of like gay rights kind of. Yes on 8 means gay rights are like not good. No on prop 8 is yes we do want gay human rights. No. I don't think it's fair at all.



12.jpg

Lisa: Well if the state decides that we have to get divorced, by the views of other people who don't even know us, it will affect us financially. And some of the benefits that came upon us through the marriage that we were able to do in California, we will have to give up some of those benefits that are more financial than anything else. But when we had kids I had to adopt them. But now I think it's easier to do that. I mean all the benefits straight couples get will be taken away from us.



13.jpg
SFXs: Silence



14.jpg
Narrator: Would you ever want a dad?
Claire: No. But sometimes yes. Well actually never. Nope. I always want to have two moms.
Clayton: No because I don't really wish one. Because it's just...I like having two moms. And it's very enjoyable. It's just enjoyable for me because I always have a mom with me and all the other stuff.



15.jpg
Claire: Um, well, its kind of fun because usually dads yell at you. And when you have moms they practically never yell at you. And it's fun because I get to be different from everybody else.



16.jpg
SFXs: Silence



17.jpg
SFXS: Breakfast noise



18.jpg
SFXs: Silence



19.jpg
Vicki: So you know it's just being a typical soccer mom. Taking them to soccer practice, softball practice, piano lessons, after school activities, play dates with friends. So our typical day has nothing about me being gay. It really has everything to do with my kids and school and life and going to work. And you know coming home and making dinner and getting homework done at the end of the night. Again I don't live a very gay life. I'm not really sure what that is anymore.



20.jpg
Narrator: The kids are involved in many activities. Just like all kids their age.
Lisa: And the other thing that's different from my childhood that their getting in their childhood, is the ability to see what it is they like and enjoy. And getting the opportunity to explore their gifts, like music and physical activities, like Aikido or skateboarding.



21.jpg

Claire: Well another person has two moms and no one really, everybody treats each other the same because they might get a white slip (in trouble) for not treating people good.

Lisa: But that doesn't seem to be an issue like I said to you before we started interviewing; I think the kids get teased about other things more than having two moms. Kids can just be mean at school, but because their confident and their happy and they feel secure we don't do a lot of explaining.



22.jpg

SFXs: Silence



23.jpg

Vicki: You know kids are really... Kids don't have any prejudice. It's funny. When the kids turned about 4 years old, and they went to pre-school, was the first time questions came up about oh you have two moms. And they would say where's your dad? And the kids would say we have two moms. And then the kids would go wow cool. And they'd go home and they'd tell their mom and dad that we want two moms too. And that kind of started in pre-school and kindergarten, when kids are kind of young and they all want moms.



24.jpg

SFX: Silence



25.jpg

SFXs: Silence



26.jpg

SFXs: Horse neighing



27.jpg

SFXs: Silence



28.jpg

Narrator: I wanted to know if Lisa and Vicki thought there has been any change in the way society views them today compared to 10 or 20 years ago.

Lisa: I think a little more, um, accepting. And love doesn't have antenna that it only picks the opposite sex. That you fall in love with who you fall in love with. And I think people are starting to kind of understand, why should we tell people who they can love. And you know we don't...like Clayton said during the proposition, "we don't tell other people that they have to get a divorce, why should people tell you, that don't even know who you are." I feel like people are starting to think that's seems so invasive and wrong. Who are we to say who somebody may fall in love with.

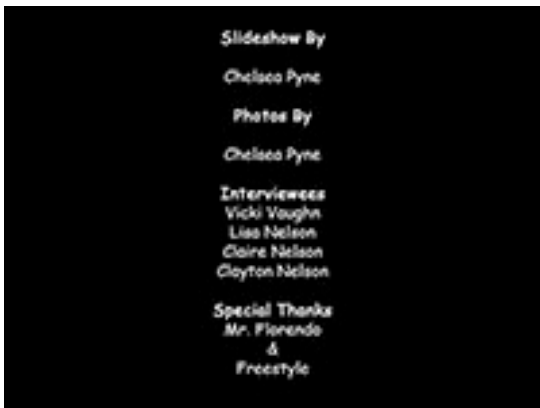


29.jpg
SFXs: Silence



30.jpg
Vicki: But I frankly do think that sexuality, and it comes down to, if you feel comfortable in your own sexuality, then you have no problem with someone else's. The people that have the most problems with people who are gay are probably people who are struggling with something inside themselves, or their own prejudices from how they were raised... And I think, not to equate it to black people, but I know that, because I know a lot of black people don't like to have it equated...It's the same kind of struggle. It's like black people are no different. It's the color of their skin, right? It's no big difference. And my kids don't see color. Just like my kids don't see gay or not gay. So, I think

that's how it's going to break down. It's the next generation of youth that are going to go " this is no big deal, just accept people for who they are." So, we'll see though. Time will tell.



Credits.jpg

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Special Thanks
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