

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Scott Miller
smiller@inthelifetv.org
212-255-6012 x307

A New Face and A New Look for America's LGBT Community's IN THE LIFE Season Premiere

NEW YORK, September 20, 2007 – IN THE LIFE, America's longest running – and three-time Emmy-nominated – gay and lesbian newsmagazine prepares to launch its 16TH season premiere October 1ST; with a fresh new look, new host, and an exciting line-up of new documentary segments.

Former IN THE LIFE personality, Katherine Linton, returns to introduce the show's new series host, Michael Billy. "In its rich public television tradition," says Executive Director Michelle Kristel, "IN THE LIFE continues to provide accurate and credible information to viewers craving intelligent, provocative stories about the gay experience."

As part of its re-branding – and in response to viewer surveys – IN THE LIFE has also made changes in its format. Among them, IN THE LIFE is introducing its "Hidden Histories" series. These stories focus on important events and people that have shaped LGBT community, but are little known. IN THE LIFE will also delve into the issues that shape gay life by producing more segments focusing on global issues, while continuing to spotlight influential personalities who've made a difference nationally in LGBT life, politics and culture. As part of its "Real to Reel" series, IN THE LIFE will invite its viewers behind-the-camera, to meet the documentary filmmakers.

The season premiere's first story, *A Church Divided* will explore the growing debate within the Anglican Communion over homosexuality and traditional biblical interpretation, which may tear the American Episcopal Church from the worldwide body. A "marriage of convenience" says a progressive church leader in Pittsburgh, has emerged between a coalition of conservative Episcopalians and Evangelical Anglicans from Africa, Latin America, and Asia; pitting them against a majority of progressive American Episcopalians. IN THE LIFE will look at this epic struggle to define the church's future from the perspective of church leaders on both sides of the debate, and shed some light on the global impact of this struggle.

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Openly gay Nigerian activist, Davis Mac-Iyalla, will speak on his experience in Nigeria's Anglican church, and why – in spite of repeated threats on his life – he continues to promote a message for acceptance within the church.

The Caffe Cino, a segment on the rise of gay theatre in Greenwich Village, tells the story of a café that – prior to the 1969 Stonewall riots – opened its doors to gay artists—allowing them to write, perform and live openly. It would later go on to profoundly influence American theatre as part of the “Off-Off-Broadway” theatre movement; launching such diverse artists' careers as Tom Eyan, Bernadette Peters, Doric Wilson, Lanford Wilson, Sam Shepard, and Bette Midler.

In our next story, *LuLu Gets a Facelift*, we look at plastic surgery from a decidedly different perspective. In a society fixed on youth, locked-in-battle against the forces of gravity, tucking and tightening can seem like a fulltime job. But if you're a drag queen of – let's say – a “certain age,” sagging skin can be tragedy. With humor and unabashed candor, LuLu invites us to answer the question: to lift, or not to lift.

Finally, IN THE LIFE's season premiere ends with *Beauty on the Black Market*, an unflinching look at low-income transgender women seeking hormones and plastic surgery on the black market. Imagine that you were born biologically male, but inside you completely identify as female. Your motivation for correcting your body would be more than cosmetic. Not all transgender people want to alter their bodies, but many do. It's about aligning your outside appearance with your internal identity. For transgender women who are low income, the ability to “pass” as a female can make the difference in getting a job to put food on the table, or simply not get beaten up or murdered for just looking different. The stakes are higher for trans-women, and not surprisingly, some women will go to extreme measures to make that body correction. This story examines gender identity, class issues and body image through the personal, compelling stories of four trans-women from the New York City area.

For scheduling and programming information, viewers can check their local public television listings, or visit the IN THE LIFE Web site at www.inthelifetv.org, or call 1-800-627-ONTV (6688) for a complimentary monthly broadcast schedule.

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About IN THE LIFE

IN THE LIFE, a three-time Emmy Award nominee, is broadcast on over 240 public television stations nationwide, reaching over 75 million U.S. households. **IN THE LIFE** is produced by In The Life Media, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, member-supported educational corporation.