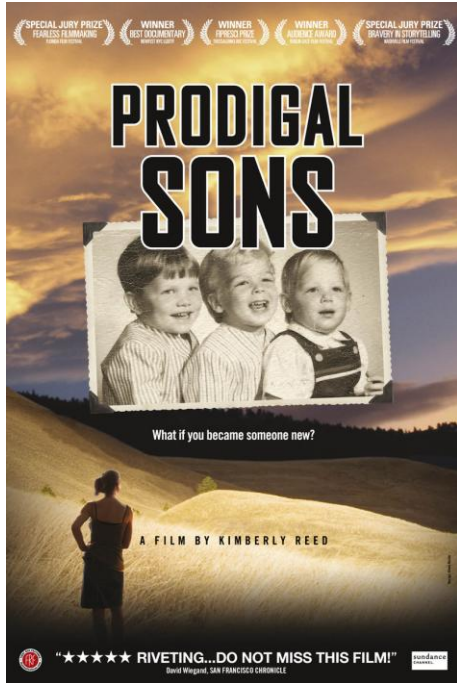


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Casey Logan, Communications Coord.  
casey@filmstreams.org / 402-933-0259 x 11

**FILM STREAMS™**  
AT THE RUTH SOKOLOF THEATER

**PRODIGAL SONS Director Kimberly Reed In Person  
at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater**



**WHAT:** Special Opening Night Screening of PRODIGAL SONS with Director Kimberly Reed In Person

**WHEN:** Friday, May 28, 7pm

**WHERE:** Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater, 1340 Mike Fahey (formerly Webster) Street

**ABOUT:** Featured on *The Oprah Show* earlier this year, the autobiographical documentary PRODIGAL SONS follows three siblings — a transgender woman (director Kimberly Reed), a gay man, and their adopted brother — back to their Montana hometown, where a powerful story of an entire family's transformation unfolds.

**TICKETS:** \$9 general, \$7 seniors, students, teachers, \$4.50 Film Streams Members

**MORE INFO:** [www.FilmStreams.org](http://www.FilmStreams.org)

**Omaha, Nebraska**—Film Streams is thrilled to announce an opening night screening of the new autobiographical documentary PRODIGAL SONS with director Kimberly Reed in person. On Friday, May 28, at 7 p.m., the nonprofit cinema will present a special screening followed by a Q&A with Reed.

Featured on *The Oprah Show* earlier this year, PRODIGAL SONS follows Reed as she returns to the Montana town where she grew up Paul McKerrow — starting quarterback for the high school football team and class valedictorian — before undergoing sexual reassignment surgery in her twenties. Once home, she reunites with her long-estranged, adopted brother Marc, who has a stunning revelation himself involving a legendary Hollywood couple. While the characters and circumstances are extraordinary, what emerges through PRODIGAL SONS is a surprisingly universal story about family dynamics, sibling rivalries and the search for identity.

The film, and Reed's appearance, will kick off Film Streams' **OUT IN FILM** series (May 28 – July 1), presented in conjunction with LGBT Pride Month 2010. Following the opening night screening with Reed on Friday, May 28, PRODIGAL SONS will show at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater through Thursday, June 3.

Tickets for the Q&A screening with Reed are \$9 general, \$7 for seniors, students and teachers, and \$4.50 for Film Streams Members.

Please see the following page for more information about Kimberly Reed and PRODIGAL SONS. For media inquiries or requests, please contact Casey Logan at (402) 933-0259 or [casey@filmstreams.org](mailto:casey@filmstreams.org).

## BIOGRAPHY: About Kimberly Reed

After studying cinema at UC Berkeley (B.A.) and San Francisco State University (M.A.), Kimberly Reed was looking forward to a promising career as a filmmaker. She was a young, award-winning filmmaker (VIEWS OF MY FATHER WEEPING), had worked as a commercial editor, had traveled the world directing and producing travel documentaries, and had become an early expert in the nascent field of digital filmmaking and post-production. But then she transitioned genders and did what transsexuals are encouraged to do: She disappeared. Sequestering herself in the world of publishing, she applied her filmmaking knowledge to her position as editor-in-chief of *DV* magazine, and established her reputation as a frequent speaker and oft-quoted digital filmmaking expert in publications like *The New York Times* and *USA Today*. PRODIGAL SONS is her first feature-length documentary film, and marks her coming-out, in more ways than one.



Kimberly Reed is already recognized as the first transgender feature filmmaker. She was selected for the Yaddo Artists' Community, the Squaw Valley Community of Writers Workshop, and Al Gore's Current TV Symposium on the Future of Non-Fiction Film. Her work has been featured for four consecutive years at IFP's Independent Film Week, and she was named one of *Filmmaker Magazine's* 25 New Faces of Independent Film.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT: Kimberly Reed on PRODIGAL SONS

I started out making a film about my adopted brother's journey to discover his new lineage. It was undeniably a great story, a real-life fairy tale. I also felt guilty that life had been easy for me but not for Marc. I imagined that by celebrating his amazing tale I could ease his pain, and maybe heal our relationship. I thought I'd be making a film about the second chapter in our lives. Little did I know we weren't done with the first.

Anyone who has met Marc will tell you that you can't tell his story without telling mine. Our rivalry growing up was the most important dynamic in his life, and remains so to this day. So I knew I'd end up in this film, but I had no idea it would become the personal journey it did.

When you change your sex, you get tremendous pressure to bury your past, to let it disappear like the "M" that used to be on your driver's license. If you pass well in your new gender, the pressure is even stronger, especially from other transgender people who see passing as the Holy Grail. Returning to your past, much less reveling in it, is unthinkable. Before making this film I shared that view. But as the film evolved, and Marc and I began to have a relationship again, he was the only one who wouldn't let me get away with forgetting my past. I wanted Marc to let my male past die as I had, but he had enshrined this history and even insisted on cherishing remnants of it. As much as I resisted this, I couldn't ignore the kernel of truth in what he was saying: I had to stop renouncing my history.

I started out believing this film was about Marc's quest for identity, but it was about my own. I thought my transition was complete, but instead Marc taught me I was only halfway, and that I had to somehow resurrect the first half of my life I had buried alive. This freed me to return home and reclaim my past. Though my situation is rare, everyone I know who has a sibling relates to the dynamic between Marc and me, and to my desire for my family to recognize who I've become instead of who I was when I left home.

PRODIGAL SONS has a deep reserve of high-octane dramatic fuel, but the film is so much more than its astonishing characters or the explosive moments we caught on camera. What sets this film apart is its exploration of the universal truths every family grapples with. In the end, this film is quite simply about love, and how one family faces challenges and triumphs that no one would have ever imagined.

(Source: Press Notes, First Run Features)

## Praise for Kimberly Reed's PRODIGAL SONS

"Kimberly Reed's compelling documentary is filled with revelations."  
- Jeannette Catsoulis, *The New York Times*

"One of the strangest, most heartbreaking docs you'll see this year."  
- *New York Magazine*

"Engrossing, unpredictable, often heartbreaking."  
- Gerald Peary, *The Boston Phoenix*

"Fascinating...See it!" - A.O. Scott, *At the Movies*

"Anybody who has ever doubted that truth is stranger than fiction should see PRODIGAL SONS" - V.A. Musetto, *New York Post*

"Superb documentary filmmaking...no one could make this believable if it were fiction."  
- David Wiegand, *San Francisco Chronicle*

"Powerful, riveting."  
- Michael Musto, *The Village Voice*

"Well-crafted and intense ...render(s) real life with the tension and thematic depth of great drama." - Noel Murray, *Onion AV Club*

**Visit the Official Site:**

<http://www.prodigalsonsfilm.com/>

.....

Film Streams is grateful for the wonderful support of our members, individual donors, corporations, foundations, and government organizations who make our programming possible, including support from:

