THE CASE AGAINST 8
Screening Guide

PREMIERES

June 23rd, 2014 at 9p/8c on HBO | HBOGO | HBO ON-DEMAND

For more information, go to:

HBO.com | TheCaseAgainst8.com

Invite your colleagues, friends, family and neighbors to watch the film together, and then discuss the fight for marriage equality.

WHAT’S THE FILM ABOUT?

THE CASE AGAINST 8 takes an inside look at the groundbreaking Supreme Court case that overturned Proposition 8, California’s ban on same-sex marriage. Five years in the making, the film chronicles the struggle that helped pave the way for marriage equality battles nationwide. With behind-the-scenes access to the legal team of conservative Ted Olson and liberal David Boies, who previously faced off as opposing counsel in Bush v. Gore, and the four plaintiffs in the suit, two gay California couples seeking the right to marry, the film provides a definitive account of the battle that effectively ended marriage discrimination in California.

HOW DO YOU HOST A SCREENING?

Invite your colleagues, friends, family and neighbors to a gathering spot (your home or one of the select theaters) to watch the film together.

Here are some tips for hosting a great screening:

1. Gather your friends and colleagues. Use a site like Paperless Post or Punchbowl to send out invitations and collect RSVPs. Here’s a sample of what your invitation can say:

<HOSTNAME> cordially invites you and a guest to a screening and discussion of

THE CASE AGAINST 8

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<TIME> WELCOME
<TIME> SCREENING (length 1h 52m)

Please RSVP to <EMAIL> by <DATE>. 
Create a Facebook event as well. Then, promote your screening to potential guests. Tag your tweets with #TheCaseAgainst8 and #HBO. Share the poster (see the end of the guide) and website for the film (www.thecaseagainst8.com). Send the link to the trailer too - http://youtu.be/aOyhv91Ygz8.

2. **Introduce the film.** Ask everyone, “What do you know about Proposition 8?” Give everyone a chance to write or at least consider his/her responses before the film.

3. **Watch the film.**

4. **Talk about what you saw in the film.** Go over your responses, and talk about what surprised people the most. What have they learned? Have their perceptions changed? See below for more sample discussion questions.

5. **Think about what you or your group can do to get involved.** Invite guests to go to HRC.org and AFER.org to learn more about the issues raised in the film. Urge people to tell their personal networks about the film and to join the conversation via the film’s social media (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram @thecaseagainst8).

6. **Thank your guests.** Send a thank you email the next day, and include some follow up comments on the discussion. You can include links to the groups below.

**HOW DO YOU GET THE DISCUSSION GOING?**

After the credits roll, turn up the lights and kick off the conversation. Here are some discussion prompts to start you off.

**CLIMATE**

With its ruling in Hollingsworth v. Perry, the Supreme Court effectively invalidated Proposition 8 but same sex marriage is still illegal in many states. How does your state define marriage? Does it support marriage equality?

In his closing argument before Judge Walker, Ted Olson said, “The argument that [opposing counsel] Mr. Cooper makes is essentially the same argument that was made to the Loving court. And we stand here today thinking, ‘How could that have been?’ In 1967, that's only 40 years ago, we would've punished as a felony in the state of Virginia the President's mother and father if they had tried to travel there and be married. I believe, your honor, that there is a political tide running. I think that people's eyes are being opened. People are becoming more understanding and tolerant.” Do you agree with Olson? Why? Why not? Public opinion polls show a shift in American attitudes towards same-sex marriage (see the timeline below- ‘Marriage Equality in the United States’). Has this been your experience?

Opposition witness David Blankenhorn said in his interview after the trial: "One of the things that caused me to come to a new belief about the whole issue of gay marriage was just like learning a little bit and meeting people. If you just have this tissue of belief that separates you from other people, that you don't really see them and see their lives. That you just kind of have this wall of doctrine or belief, which I had, that keeps your from relationships with other people and trying to see their lives from their point-of-view, that stunts you. That stunted me." Do you know any members of the LGBT community? If so, has it helped you to understand the community's point of view?

Blankenhom's opinion was much different after the trial than it had been before. Is it okay for people to change their minds over time?
THE CASE

Despite their political differences, Ted Olson and David Boies came together to challenge the constitutionality of Proposition 8. What reasons did each of them give for doing so? Do you think the marriage debate is divided on party lines?

What arguments did Olson and Boies present in the case? What other arguments have you heard, on either side? Which arguments make sense to you?

Ted Olson says, "I submit at the end of the day, 'I don't know' and 'I don't have any evidence,' with all due respect to Mr. Cooper, does not cut it. It does not cut it when you are taking away the constitutional rights, basic human rights, and human decency from a large group of individuals. That is not acceptable. It's not acceptable under our Constitution. And Mr. Blankenheim is absolutely right: the day that we end that, we will be more American." Do you think the "end" of this debate is coming soon?

THE PLAINTIFFS

In her testimony, Kris Perry says: "...if Prop 8 were undone and kids like me growing up in Bakersfield right now could never know what this felt like, then I assume that their entire lives would be on a higher arc. They would live with a higher sense of themselves that would improve the quality of their entire life." What message do you think the prohibition of same-sex marriage sends to LGBT youth?

Paul Katami says in trial preparation: “Anytime you’re dealing with people’s civil rights (and the right to get married is, to me, a civil right), and you say--but something that’s lacking from there, you’ve created a second-class of citizen. And you feel that way. So by accepting a domestic partnership, we’d also accept being second-class citizens. And that was unacceptable to us." Do you know someone who is LGBT and would like to be married but cannot under state law? Do you know what rights are and are not the same under the definitions of domestic partnership and marriage?

Does the word ‘marriage’ mean something? In his testimony, Jeff Zarrillo says the word has a special meaning- “It is why we’re here today. I want to be able to share the joy and the happiness that my parents felt, that my brother felt, my friends, my coworkers, my neighbors, of having the opportunity to be married... He’s the love of my life. I love him probably more than I love myself. I would do anything for him. I would put his needs ahead of my own." What does the word ‘marriage’ mean to you?

WHERE CAN YOU LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED?

The Human Rights Campaign
www.hrc.org

American Foundation for Equal Rights
www.apter.org
BATTLES ARE WON BECAUSE THEY ARE FOUGHT

THE CASE AGAINST 8

PRESERIES MONDAY JUNE 23, 9PM HBO