

PRESS KIT

SOME GROUND TO STAND ON

1998, 35 minutes, Color, Video

This compelling and beautifully made documentary tells the life story of Blue Lunden, a working class lesbian activist whose odyssey of personal transformation parallels lesbian women's changing roles over the past 40 years. Starting with Blue's experience of being run out of town after her arrest in the 1950's New Orleans bar scene for wearing men's clothing, *Some Ground to Stand On* combines interviews, rare photos and archival footage to trace her life: giving up her child for adoption and getting her back; becoming sober; and coming into her own as a lesbian rights feminist, and anti-nuclear activist and lecturer. Now 61, Blue continues to be an activist as she reflects on aging, activism and a personal and generational struggle for "some ground to stand on" - a lesbian identity and consciousness rooted in community.

- **Washington DC Gay & Lesbian Film Festival— Audience Award**
- **Black Maria Film Festival— Director's Choice Award**
- **National Education Media Awards Festival— Bronze Apple Award**
- **Reel Affirmations— Audience Choice Award**
- **New York, San Francisco, London and Philadelphia Lesbian & Gay Film Festivals**
- **New Orleans Film Festival**
- **Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival**
- **Silver Image Festival**
- **Reel NY— Channel Thirteen**

"The story of an astoundingly brave and persistent woman...it is the story of four decades of passionate engagement. This is a film that will help us remember what we must not forget."

Joan Nestle, Lesbian Herstory Archives

"A stirring film which presents her life and work vividly, powerfully, beautifully. Warshow's film of love, concern and power celebrates America's dykes across the decades."

Blance Weisen Cook, Author

CREDITS

PRODUCER/DIRECTOR

Joyce P. Warshow

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER/EDITOR

Janet W. Baus

CAMERA AND INTERVIEWS

Tami Gold

Harriet Hirshorn

Mary Patierno

Jocelyn Taylor

PHOTOGRAPHY

Catherine Alport

Joan Biren (JEB)

Bettye Lane

Dorothy Marder

Ellen Shumsky

Nancy Tucker

The Historical New Orleans Collection

The Lesbian Herstory Educational Foundation

The National Museum and Archive of Lesbian and Gay History Of The Lesbian and Gay
Community Services Center of New York

ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE COURTESY OF

The L.O.V.E. Collective

(NYC- 1973- 76)

Bette Brown

Delia Davis

Tracy Fitz

Barbara Jabaily

Doris (Blue) Lunden

Denise Wong

ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE

Harriet Hirshorn and Lydia Pilcher

"Louder Than Our Words"

C. 1984

Su Friedrich

"The Ties That Bind"

C. 1984

CONSULTING PRODUCER

Tami Gold

ORIGINAL MUSIC

Don Dinicola

ADDITIONAL POST PRODUCTION

Mary Patierno

POST PRODUCTION FACILITIES

Damas Digital, Inc.

SOUND MIX

Donna Riley

Passport Recording, Inc.

Vocals - Cindy Rickmond

Piano - Bill McClelland

Drums - Kenny Wolleson

"Blue Suede Shoes"

Composed by Carl Lee Perkins

Published by Unichappell Music, Inc.

On Behalf of Carl Perkins Music, Inc. (BMI)

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Maura Flowers

1932-1994

Ruth Dreamdigger

1919-1997

And Other Visitors To Sugarloaf Who Appear In This Documentary

Shevy Healey

Ruth Silver

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Dorothy E. Sander

Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation

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Jocelyne L. Tord

NOTE ON BLUE LUNDEN

Blue Lunden died in August, 1999, one and a half years after the video was made. She spoke at many of the screenings at festivals, colleges and meetings of various community organizations. She was surprised and delighted that the piece had won many awards: The National Education Media Bronze Apple Award, The Black Maria Director's Choice and Reel Affirmations Audience Choice Awards. At the New Orleans Cinema 16 Festival, a reception was held in her town: the town that she was forced to leave because of police harassment.

As she had predicted, she died surrounded by women who came from all over the country to take turns caring for her. In the end, it was her daughter Linda, two women from women's land (Jae Haggard, and Barbara Vogel) and the filmmaker (Joyce Warshow) who helped her with her passage. They chanted a Navajo birthing song which Blue had taught them as she breathed her last. This was the same song that Blue had sung to Barbara Deming at her passing 15 years earlier.

A memorial was held for Blue in New York City in November, 1999. A Peace Garden was dedicated in February, 2000 at Sugar Loaf Women's Village. The garden contains an urn made by an artist to hold the ashes of Barbara Deming, Jane Verlain, Blue Lunden and Maua Flowers.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Joyce Warshow (Producer/Director) is a psychologist turned filmmaker. She received her training at Film and Video Arts, and at the Hunter College Department of Communications, where she studied under the filmmaker Tami Gold. She is also the recipient of two production grants from Women Make Movies for her older lesbian activist project, which includes *Some Ground To Stand On*, and was also awarded two Astraea Foundation Grants and a New York State Council On the Arts Grant for post production and distribution. Her first video piece, *At Last: Portrait of April Martin* is about a 45 year old bronze medal winner for ice-skating at the Gay Games. She received the Thanks be to Grandmother Winifred Foundation Award for *Portrait of Shevy Healey* (a founder of OLOC, Old Lesbians Organized For Change)-a video work in progress. Since it's completion in April, 1998, her video *Some Ground To Stand On* has played at 18 national and international festivals and has won the Audience Choice Award at the Reel Affirmations Festival in Washington, D.C. and the Director's Choice Award at The Black Maria Film Festival.

Warshow is a psychologist and educator who received a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) grant for her doctoral studies completed in 1973. In 1991 she received the "Uncommon Woman Award from the Legacy Foundation for her work in the early 70s doing workshops primarily for heterosexual psychotherapists working with lesbian and gay clients, and for her co-edited book *Lesbians at Midlife: The Creative Transition*. She was a contributor to *Lesbian Friendships*, published by NYU Press. She has been a professor, researcher, author and psychotherapist who has made numerous presentations at meetings of organizations such as The Feminist Therapy Institute, The Association of Women In Psychology, The Society for the Study of Lesbian Gay Issues (within the American Psychological Association), SAGE (Senior Action In A Gay Environment) and the International Women's Year Conference held in Costa Rica. An activist herself, she did sensitivity training with the police on the possible roots of hate crimes against gays, and is on the organizing committee to plan a town meeting on aging and ageism in the lgbt community. She received a BA and an MA in literature from Brooklyn College and New York University (Arts and Science) respectively.

In preparation for her lesbian activist's project, a focus group was conducted with activists who were over the age of 45 to determine how these women thought about their activism and what their experiences had been through their involvement in some of the important social movements of their time. Through these discussions, Warshow discovered Blue Lunden, whose personal story, as well as the bravery of her activism she found very compelling. Blue was also a working class lesbian and Warshow felt that little had been documented about the lives of working class butches who were very important in the struggle for lesbian visibility. Additionally the working class perspective was usually missing in the retelling of the story of the women's movement of the 70s.

