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The #1 Lesbian Monthly

Jan 2004

# Girlfriends

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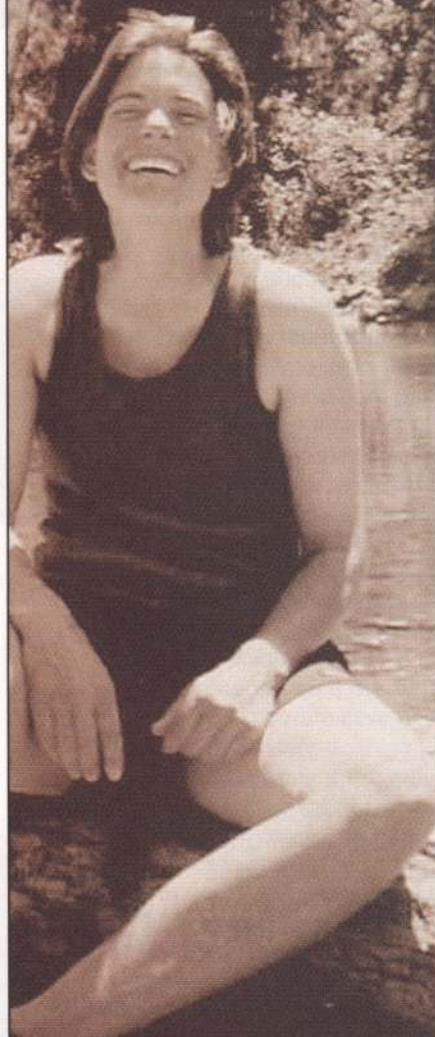
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## Wedding Videos

A new dyke charmer will ring your bells.

by Candace Moore

### Writer-director Helen Lesnick also stars in her first

romantic comedy, strewing funny to-the-camera monologues everywhere, Woody Allen style. She brings a loveable (but conflicted) flair to Rachel Rosen, an acerbically witted New York Jew who flees to San Diego to lick the wounds caused by on-again-off-again girlfriend Reggie (Michele Green). Rosen's PFLAG mom tries to inject some sunny SoCal cheer into her daughter's cynical disposition,

setting her up on a blind date with massage therapist Christine (Erica Shaffer), who manages to hold up her end of their witty repartee. Their date spills over into the next morning, rollerblading, and a U-Haul. When their affair looks to be heading down the aisle, Rachel must sort out her feelings for her old flame. Grade: **A-**

#### A Family Affair

dir. Helen Lesnick

Small Planet Pictures, 100 mins



Love and baggage collide in *Family Affair*.

#### The Wedding Video (TLA Releasing, 2003)

Former cast members from various seasons of MTV's *The Real World* reunite to create a reality TV mockumentary surrounding the taping of a gay wedding. Not quite the caliber of *Waiting for Guffman*, *The Wedding Video* still packs some chuckles as the wedding party's excessively-catty characters turn Norman's (Korpi, the first "out" *Real Worlder*) union with Sky (Brien Perry) into a major drunken, gossipy debacle. When the wedding planner's assistant spends all of the catering money on cocaine, the group finally coheres to whip up a food-stamp-special spread of bologna loafs. Grade: **C+**

#### Late Bloomers (Strand Releasing, 1996)

This is perhaps the lone cinematic comedy to capture two middle-aged dykes engaged in one-on-one b-ball in both their birthday suits. (Later, they don dual wedding gowns with trains.) High school geometry teacher Dinah Groshardt (Connie Nelson), who doubles as the girls' basketball coach in a sleepy Texan town, finds true love with Carly Lumpkin (Dee Hennigan), the principal's secretary. Lumpkin leaves behind two kids and Betty Crocker Duty to move in with goofy Groshardt and her box turtle—to the chagrin of the PTA. The smitten lovers battle small-town homophobia with a public exchange of vows. Playful and sappy. Grade: **B-**

#### A Union in Wait (Frameline, 2001)

Ryan Butler's documentary engrossingly captures the recent firestorm of controversy over gay marriage while centering on one lesbian couple from North Carolina, Wendy and Susan. Partners of nineteen years, they find themselves in the midst of a political inferno and in the eye of state media when, in 1997, their plan to celebrate their union at a local Baptist Church is rejected outright by Wake Forest University, on which the church's chapel resides. Protests and petitions by student groups (as well as greater community pressure) convince the university to loosen up years later, and the two exchange vows, which cutely include assurances to forever put the next roll of toilet paper on the rod. Grade: **B+**

Candace Moore recently edited the book *Revolutions of the Mind*.

# Me, a Lesbian Yenta?

## Before I met Alice, I was against gay marriage.

Why? Read the hilarious essay by Florence King on page 22 (which, by the way, took me four years to get her to write) and you'll get an idea—although she says it much better than I ever could. In any case, I knew from an early age that a big white dress and a husband were not for me. (At least I was right about the husband part.)

Then I met Alice. Five years ago, we got married by the water in back of my mom's house.

I've already written here before about how my wife opened my eyes to the possibilities of marriage meaning freedom instead of slavery. Because Alice is the powerful, gorgeous woman she is, and because



Alice (right) made me into a marriage proselytizer.

we're both women—partners in an equal relationship—I feel like I've grown, had a blast, figured things out. Alice and I have weathered so many hardships (layoffs, parental illnesses, moving, infertility) in good part because there's a name to what we have, a name more formal than "relationship." We've not let those things get to us because (and I can just hear Alice place the emphasis) we're *married*.

I think I've reached a third stage in my relationship to gay marriage. I used to be against it, then I was for it, and now I'm a marriage advocate. Alice and I have started insisting to our closest lesbian friends in couples that they do more than simply assume they're going to be together for the long haul. They need to get married. They need to tell the world, and more importantly

each other, that they're not going to give up, walk away, cheat, or say, "It's just too hard."

It's hugely important that Canada has, since our last special Bridal Issue, recognized gay marriage, potentially on a federal level. It's also huge that the U.S. Supreme Court's decision this summer against Texas's sodomy laws may lead to the downfall of straight-only marriage stateside. But I think that we lesbians will make the most meaningful action in favor of gay marriage by saying to each other, "I do." To assist, *Girlfriends* puts together this, our annual Bridal Issue, chock full of everything a couple—and the non-coupled but curious—will need to get educated on the politics and practicalities of the Big Day.

Heather Findlay, Editor in Chief

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# Girlfriends

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Girlfriends Magazine  
Volume 10, Issue 7

H.A.F. PUBLISHING  
publisher of *Girlfriends*,  
*On Our Backs*, and  
*Inside Pride* guides  
3415 César Chávez, Ste. 101  
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above address, or e-mail to  
editorial@girlfriendsmag.com.  
Obtain writer's guidelines from  
[www.girlfriendsmag.com](http://www.girlfriendsmag.com).

Girlfriends (ISSN 1078-9875)  
is published monthly by  
H.A.F. Publishing,  
3415 César Chávez, Ste. 101,  
San Francisco, CA 94110.  
One-year subscriptions are \$29.95.  
(Canadian subscribers add \$10,  
other foreign subscribers add \$15.)  
Periodicals Postage Paid at  
San Francisco, CA and at additional  
mailing offices. POSTMASTER:  
Send address changes to:  
Girlfriends, P.O. Box 500  
Missouri City, TX 77459-9904.

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PRINTED IN CANADA