



Peccadillo Pictures Presents

A MARINE STORY

Written & Directed by Ned Farr

Starring DREYA WEBER (The Gymnast)
and introducing PARIS PICKARD as "Saffron"

EVERY FIGHT IS PERSONAL.
DREYA WEBER A PARIS PICKARD
MARINE
STORY



On DVD 11th April 2011 / rt: 93 min / cert: tbc / rrp:

A decorated Marine officer unexpectedly returns home from war and is recruited to help a troubled teen turn her life around and prepare for boot camp, but when the true reasons for her return become known it threatens the future for both of them. *A Marine Story* is an uplifting tale of friendship and turning your life around against the odds, and also topically highlights the absurdity of the US military ban on gays through the personal story of one courageous woman.

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Ned Farr: Directors Statement: "At the height of the Iraq war and the pursuit of Al Qaeda, I kept hearing about how few Arabic linguists the military had in place to deal with all the intelligence that was pouring in. At the same time there was a wave of highly skilled linguists being kicked out of the service because they were gay. This really struck me as the height of stupidity. Nobody wanted a repeat of 9/11, yet something like 26 Arabic and Farsi linguists were let go. Was the military brass really more afraid of gays than Bin Laden?"

The first US serviceman wounded in Iraq was not just a Marine, he was also a gay man. The absurdity of the ban became manifest. Equality for gay and lesbian men and women is the civil rights issue of my generation, and this film is how I march."

Dreya Weber: Actors statement: "Ned wrote a beautifully complex character in Alexandra Everett, who embodies the plight of gay and lesbian armed forces members who had to serve under the constraints of the *Don't Ask Don't Tell* policy. In preparing for the role, I discovered that in all of the stories of former and currently serving military personnel who had lost their jobs because of DADT, there was never a note of anger against the military. Every single person said that the military was the best thing that had happened to them and that they would join again in a heartbeat. I had expected rage and bitterness but only found respect and appreciation. I understood then that my job was to honor those people by telling Alex's story in the most authentic way that I could."

Casting: A critical part of pulling together *A Marine Story* was the casting of Saffron, a troubled young woman on the brink of adulthood. Ned and Dreya were introduced to a young filmmaker named Paris Pickard, who hoped to get a job on the production side, but Ned instantly saw the qualities that were perfect for Saffron and asked her to audition.

CAST AND CREW

DREYA WEBER ("Alexandra"/Producer)

Dreya starred in Ned Farr's *THE GYMNAST* winning 2 BEST ACTRESS awards for her role. She can be seen in Nicole Holofcener's *LOVELY AND AMAZING*, *EVERYTHING RELATIVE*, and short films *DREAM A LITTLE DREAM FOR ME*, *THE CATCHER*, and *THE CONTRACTOR*.

Dreya is also a famed aerial director, choreographer and performer, her many credits include - Michael Jackson: *This Is It*, Pink: *Funhouse*, *Try This, I'm Not Dead*. Britney Spears: *Circus*, Leona Lewis, Cher *Live at Caesar's Palace*, Madonna: *Re-invention*, Rihanna: *Last Girl On Earth*, Christina Aguilera: *Back To Basics*,

PARIS PICKARD ("Saffron"/Co-producer) - out lesbian Paris Pickard sees herself as a director, producer and screenwriter who acts. She graduated in film direction and began working in production on films like *Angels and Demons* and the Oscar-nominated *Frost/Nixon*. Her short, *The Storm* screened in numerous film festivals and she has won several awards including the Kevin S. Bright Scholarship and the Marcia Robbins 'Women in Film Production' Award.

NED FARR (Writer/Director/Editor) - Ned's previous feature *The Gymnast* has won numerous awards. *A Little Dream for Me* premiered at the Seattle International Film Festival, and his other short films have been screened at over 30 film festivals nationwide.

JD DISALVATORE (Producer) -award winning producer Disalvatore's latest feature, *Shelter*, won a GLAAD Award for Best Feature. Her recent producing credits include *Eating Out 2*, *Blonde and Blonder* with Pamela Anderson, and *Numb* starring Matthew Perry. Disalvatore is also the former Festival Manager for Outfest and a commentator on LGBT film and television.