



Oscar nominee Robert Bilheimer directed and produced the AIDS documentary *A Closer Walk*, which screens Sept. 18 at Hollywood Theatre

York City; San Francisco; Kansas City, Mo.; and Cambridge, Mass.

Subjects and story lines encompass the broad spectrum of the global HIV/AIDS experience and include people from all walks of life: children, orphans and those caring for them; doctors, nurses and social workers; human rights advocates; and prominent scientists, economists, researchers, government leaders and non-government organization officials. The film's basic themes are the underlying causes of AIDS; the relationship among health, dignity and human rights; and the universal need for action, compassion and commitment to counter what has become the worst plague in human history.

Several universally recognized people participated in the documentary to broaden its appeal and add substance to its message, including U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, U2 singer Bono and the Dalai Lama, who gave his first interview on the subject of "universal responsibility" in the context of the global AIDS epidemic. Actors Glenn Close and Will Smith are the film's narrators.

For more information visit www.acloserwalk.org.

FOOT LOCKER PROTEST SCHEDULED IN SEATTLE

Lambda Legal will stage a protest against Foot Locker outside a WNBA game Sept. 18 in Seattle because the company discriminated against a gay employee. Demonstrators will

gather at 6:15 p.m. outside KeyArena, where the Storm will face the Los Angeles Sparks.

Protesters will distribute leaflets and talk to passers-by and people attending the game about Foot Locker's anti-gay discrimination along with postcards to send to CEO Mathew Serra urging the company to treat all of its employees equally. Similar protests are taking place in New York City, Los Angeles and Houston on the heels of the announcement that Foot Locker is strengthening its ties with the women's basketball league with a multi-year partnership. The protests are part of "Blow the Whistle on Workplace Discrimination," a broad nationwide campaign against anti-gay bias that Lambda Legal launched when it recently filed a lawsuit against the company in South Carolina for firing employee Kevin Dunbar.

"We're 'Blowing the Whistle' on Foot Locker outside WNBA games to make it absolutely clear that anti-gay discrimination won't be tolerated," said Michael Adams, Lambda Legal education and public affairs director. "We're holding Foot Locker accountable for its deplorable actions. Bigotry isn't just wrong. It's also bad business."

Dunbar suffered anti-gay harassment and discrimination at the hands of his co-workers, supervisors and a customer. Foot Locker promises a harassment-free workplace and includes sexual orientation in its bias policies, but when the 26-year-old formally complained, the discrimination grew worse. Dunbar was transferred from one store location to another and eventually fired. **JM**

Compiled by JIM RADOSTA and M.L. MADISON



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