



The *Little Man* of the House

Claire of the Moon director returns with a documentary that treads into uncharted areas

by John Esther



When Gwen Baba (left) and Nicole Conn learned that Nicholas would be born unhealthy, they disagreed about whether to terminate the pregnancy.

Nearly every documentary about same-sex parents addresses the social, political and economic ramifications of queers raising children in a country notorious for its homophobia.

To cite a few recent examples: Michel Horvat's *We Are Dad*, Shari Cookson's *All Aboard!* Rosie's *Family Cruise* and Jacqui Frost's *What Is Gay?* are documentaries in which the sexual orientation of a parent is intrinsic for both the film and its subjects' identity. The filmmakers never let the viewers forget the parents are gay. These films are polemic and fiercely political.

In contrast, Nicole Conn's *Little Man* is not about sexual orientation and child rearing in the traditional sense, though it deals with two lesbian mothers and their son. Indeed, Conn and her political activist partner, Gwen Baba, have other pressing issues to contend with.

When their son, Nicholas James Baba-Conn, was born 100 days premature March 15, 2002, he weighed less than a pound. His heart was the "size of a cashew." He was given 0.0004 percent chances of surviving. Nonetheless, Conn said at the time, "As long as he's not suffering, I implore them to save our son's life."

It was a decision that would drive a wedge between Conn and Baba.



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