

TENTH ANNUAL
**MEDIA
THAT
MATTERS**

I'M JUST ANNEKE (11:14 min)
Directed by Jonathan Skurnik
Produced by Jonathan Skurnik
Winner of the Changemaker Award



About the Film

I'm Just Anneke is the first film in a four-part series of short films called The Youth and Gender Media Project designed to educate school communities about transgender and gender nonconforming youth. The first two films in the series are finished and the second two are in production. The completed films are already being used in schools and conferences throughout the U.S. to train administrators, teachers and students about the importance of protecting all children from harassment due to gender identity and expression.

Transgender and gender fluid youth are the most courageous people I have ever met. Despite overwhelming pressure to conform to an oppressive gender binary paradigm, they refuse to do it in order to be true to themselves. I wanted to pay tribute to these courageous young people and to inspire all of us to reconsider our own decisions about gender identity and expression.

Anneke is going into eighth grade in the fall of 2010 and I plan to film her over the course of her first year in high school. This footage will become a feature length documentary about Anneke's life as she starts to take testosterone and begins a slow and thoughtful transition to fully embody her own unique gender identity.

Filmmaker Bios

Jonathan has produced, directed and shot numerous award-winning documentaries and has recently completed his first two fiction films as writer/director.

His most recent documentaries include, *Something's Moving*, about American Indian boarding schools, that won the Unspoken Truth award at the eighth annual Media That Matters; *The Elevator Operator*, about an Ukrainian immigrant who runs a manual elevator in Manhattan, has screened at the

Museum of Modern Art in New York, won Best Documentary at the Urban TV film festival in Madrid and had its broadcast premiere on PBS and Ukrainian TV; the award-winning Spit It Out, the life story of a man who stutters, was broadcast on PBS in 2007; and A Day's Work, A Day's Pay, about welfare reform, won the prestigious Harry Chapin Award for films about hunger and poverty and was broadcast on PBS and in Europe in 2002.

Jonathan is currently directing a series of films about transgender and gender fluid youth.

Take Action Links

Take Action with GLSEN & ThinkB4YouSpeak (<http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/antibullying/index.html>)

Start your own revolution against intolerance in schools and meet anti-LGBT bullying issues head on.

Take Action with This American Life's "Somewhere Out There - Act Two: Tom Girls" (<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/374/Somewhere-Out-There>)

Listen to the inspiring story of two transgender children - born boys, but living their young lives as girls - and stop to think about the importance of friendship, solidarity and tolerance.

Take Action with PFLAG (<http://www.transequality.org/>)

Sign the Straight for Equality Pledge and take the first step in becoming a straight ally.

Take Action with Gender Spectrum (<http://genderspectrum.org/>)

Support can start from the home. Parents will find a variety of resources here to build a supportive environment for their children in transition.

For more information about I'm Just Anneke and the other films from the tenth annual Media That Matters Film Festival, visit www.mediathatmattersfest.org or contact us at festival@artsengine.net.

