

GroundSpark

At GroundSpark, we are wrapping up production on our latest documentary, ***Straightlaced***. Featuring intimate interviews with high school-aged youth talking about the pressures to conform to traditional gender roles and the underlying homophobia that fuels those pressures, ***Straightlaced*** is intended to open up a dialogue among youth about these important topics. We recently completed filming with three diverse students, including a young Christian woman from Kentucky, whose gender non-conforming, gay friend committed suicide last year. Her experiences show how homophobia affects all of us, regardless of sexual orientation. She took us on a tour of the Memorial Garden that she and the Gay Straight Alliance at their school are building to remember their friend. Another student we interviewed, a straight male ballet dancer who shrugs off stereotypes and assumptions that he is gay, talks about why being called gay should not be considered an insult. And just last weekend we filmed a transgender male to female high school student from a supportive family and school community who is running for high school prom queen. These interviews complement over 50 others we have filmed with diverse students who identify themselves on all points of the gender and sexuality spectrum.



Director Debra Chasnoff talks with Alex, a straight ballet dancer



Rey, a transgender M to F high school student, is interviewed for *Straightlaced*. The green screen background will be replaced by dynamic graphics that compliment her interview.



GroundSpark crew interviews Hannah at the Memorial Garden