



SHAME

A FILM BY RICHARD YEAGLEY

A young man's identity is called into question when he visits a religious based sexual re-orientation therapist.

Shame is a feature length documentary that follows Nathan Gniwek, a 27 year old gay man, as he struggles to come to terms with his sexual identity. Nathan, a devout Catholic, is so troubled by his sexual orientation that he seeks counseling in the form of reparative therapy from a therapist named Chris Doyle.

Reparative therapy (or sometimes called conversion therapy or sexual re-orientation therapy) is the controversial, non-scientifically based process which hopes to convert an individual's sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual. Although reparative therapy has been discredited by all major American medical, psychiatric, psychological and professional



counseling organizations, some therapists still offer the service for reasons almost exclusively rooted in a conservative religious belief system.

The filmmakers had unfettered access to individual therapy sessions, family sessions, and a collection of group sessions (weekend camps), and have crafted an emotional and psychological thriller which chronicles Nathan's journey from acceptance to skepticism, all leading to a profound epiphany.

Similar in tone and style to 2006's Oscar nominated *Jesus Camp*, *Shame* is a story that faces head on the conflict between religion and sexual orientation.

Will Nathan succumb to the power of dogma at the expense of finding and accepting his true self?