

DADDY & PAPA

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Daddy & Papa was shot in digital video and produced in association with the Independent Television Service through their DV2K initiative. Encompassing over 3 years and 5 different locations, the film was born out of Symons' own decision to become a father. In 1998, he began documenting a gay friend's adoption process and soon turned the camera on his own fast-growing family. Research into the growing phenomenon of gay fatherhood resulted in a nationwide search for gay fathers and during the early phases of production, two additional families were added to the film.

Gay culture today finds itself at the center of significant clashes within the mainstream—the political and religious war on homosexuality; the AIDS epidemic; and, most immediate in Symons' life, the current battle to stop gay men from raising children. As a gay filmmaker, he has focused on uncovering the diverse stories inherent in gay culture. *Daddy & Papa* is the inspiring intersection of a filmmaker's professional commitment to community and a lifelong dream of fatherhood.