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THAI LESBIAN DOCUMENTARY FILM TO BE USED FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

SF-Based Marea Media lends support to Civil Union bill before Thai Parliament

San Francisco, CA (July 15, 2013) - Marea Media filmmakers Ruth Gumnit and Marguerite Salmon seek \$20,000 to finish binational documentary, *Visible Silence: Thai Tomboys and the Ladies Who Love Them*, about tom/dee (butch/femme) lesbian life in urban and rural Thailand. Thai activists have requested to use *Visible Silence* in support of a Civil Union bill proceeding being brought before Thai Parliament as early as August 2013.

On July 17, 2013 an excerpt of the film will be shown at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand as part of a panel discussion entitled "Could Thailand become the first Asian country to legalize same-sex civil unions?"

The San Francisco-based filmmakers had just launched the *Visible Silence* fundraising campaign when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down both DOMA and Prop 8. These events dramatically underscored the power of activism to effect local, national and global change.

Gumnit and Salmon view marriage equality as a critical civil rights issue for LGBTQ people. They recently celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary and eighteenth year together.

"We are thrilled by the gains in California and on the federal U.S. level. However, our work will not be complete until the same rights are accorded all LGBTQ people worldwide" said Marguerite Salmon, LGBTQ activist, Psychotherapist, and *Visible Silence* Producer.

"Our film explores how toms and dees are negotiating ways to be accepted within their own families, communities and greater Thai society," said Salmon. The marriage equality movement provides a strong platform to illuminate the legal and social inequities faced by LGBTQ people in Thailand."

SUPPORT

Tax-deductible donations can be made through the film's web site:
www.visible Silence film.org

ABOUT THE FILM

Visible Silence: Thai Tomboys and the Ladies Who Love Them is a Thai/U.S documentary film-in-progress profiling the unique experiences of Thai lesbians in urban and rural Thailand. The film was conceived and is being realized by San Francisco based butch-femme couple

Director/Producer Ruth Gumnit and Producer Marguerite Salmon, and their tom/dee (a.k.a butch-femme) Thai counterparts, who go by the pseudonyms Dr. Karun and Khun Dta. *Visible Silence* is intended for educational and activist use within Thailand and internationally. The interviews are in Thai and English and will be subtitled in both languages.

UPCOMING SCREENINGS:

July 17, 2013

Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand, Bangkok. *Visible Silence* excerpt will screen as part of activist panel discussion "Could Thailand become the first Asian country to legalize same-sex civil unions?"

Additional screenings in support of Thai Civil Union Bill are anticipated.

February 2014

World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH conference) Bangkok TH
Film screening and panel discussion.

June 2014

Frameline's San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival

OTHER PROJECTS

Gumnit's last film, award-winning *Don't Fence Me In: Major Mary and the Karen Refugees from Burma* (<http://www.der.org/films/dont-fence-me-in.html>), has screened internationally, played on public television in the United States and is collected by educational institutions around the world.

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