



**PRESENTS**

**YOU**  
*Embraceable*

**PRESS  
KIT**

**UP RIVER PRODUCTIONS, INC.**



32 minutes | a documentary | 2009  
 dvd | 2010

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## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT** |

*Embraceable You* captures the essence of New Hope, Pennsylvania—an accepting, diverse, open-minded community; it’s a town where people embrace differences in others.

The idea of working on a project that focused on the things which bring people together, as opposed to tearing them apart, was appealing to me. I was very interested in the concept when it was presented to me. We were in the throes of the last presidential election, and the divisions between people were quite apparent, to say the least. So the thought of working on a project that focused on the things that bring people together, not tear them apart, was appealing.

One of the goals for the documentary was to deliver the message in a lighthearted way. I wanted the viewer to conclude life can be more pleasurable and enjoyable when we embrace differences rather than waste precious time and energy opposing those who are different.

I hope that the audience will walk away feeling not only great about this river town of New Hope, but inspired to tell others about the kind of strong, positive example New Hope could be for other towns across America.

**DOUG KEITH**  
**WRITER AND DIRECTOR**  
*Embraceable You*

## **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

A drag queen, a fire chief, a punk rocker, an octogenarian, a long-haired hippie, a gay cop, a tattoo artist, a fitness instructor, and a self-identified black sheep - What do they all have in common? *New Hope*.



## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

*Embraceable You* is a 32 minute documentary written and directed by Doug Keith. The inspiring film incorporates both the physical and human beauty of New Hope, Pa., and the surrounding Bucks County area. The film captures small town America at its best - with a bit of history, scenic shots of this unique river town, and interviews with people who make it what it is today. So, what *do* a drag queen, a fire chief, a punk rocker, an octogenarian, a long-haired hippie, a gay cop, a tattoo artist, a fitness instructor and a self-identified black sheep have in common? *New Hope*.

New Hope has a history of embracing diversity from its Quaker settlement to the independent artists, to the beatniks, hippies, gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender, and freethinkers who are its residents and visitors. The film inspires with examples; individuals who may appear to be unlikely friends reveal through interviews and dialogue that their friendships are honest and heartfelt. The viewers' own prejudices dissolve as the relaxed friendships unfold through the interviewees' discussions.

Discover a place where you are free to be exactly who you are and where one's personal worth is based on the quality of the person as opposed to one's race, religion, culture, ethnicity or sexual orientation. *Embraceable You* celebrates New Hope's history of diversity, inspiration, and community.

## **PRODUCTION NOTES** |

**PRE-PRODUCTION** | Geri Delevich, the creative force behind the *Embraceable You* documentary, believed the story of New Hope was a story worth telling. She wanted to inspire in others the appreciation New Hope has for differences in people and their inherent worth and dignity. Focusing on the goodness of people, as opposed to the mass-marketed sensationalizing of the hate-mongering, she wanted *Embraceable You* to reveal a slice of the good people. Development of the project began in 2007.

**PRODUCTION** | *Embraceable You* was shot in New Hope Borough and Solebury Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania over the course of five days in June 2009.

Christopher Ambolino shot the film using a Sony Z1U HDV camera at 1080/30P. 35mm anamorphic was used. B-roll was shot with a Panasonic HPX-170 P2 high definition camera.

**POST-PRODUCTION** | Editing of *Embraceable You* was done in Apple's Final Cut Pro HD. Christopher Tully was the editor of the film.

For the soundtrack, four songs were selected from the *Embraceable You; We're All Part of the Music* audio CD. "Blinders" by Christine Havrilla, "Embraceable You" by Matthew Casey, "Give it Time" by John Danaher, and "Dream Lofty Dreams" by the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia. Each shares the common themes of acceptance, promoting peace, and harmony.



**EMBRACEABLE YOU**  
Running Time: 32 min 25 sec  
Language: English  
Genre: Documentary  
Format: HDV  
[Trailer](#)

## FILMMAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES |



**DOUG KEITH (Writer and Director)** Doug Keith has been involved with writing, directing and producing films, sketches, music videos, radio series and books. After completing a degree in journalism at the University of South Carolina, Doug worked as an on-air host, writer and producer in public radio. He completed an MA in Communications at Temple University, and has made his career in the market research industry, testing programs and concepts for broadcast and cable TV networks.

### Film Directing

*The Intern* (short, 2006). Festivals: Action On Film Festival (Long Beach, CA), West Chester Film Festival (West Chester, PA), Algonquin Film Festival (Doylestown, PA)

*Will You Be Ready.gov?* (short, 2004)

### Music Videos

*Candle On A Cupcake* – James Meadows (2008); “Death or Radio” – zolof the rock and roll destroyer (2007)

*Sunshine Through* – Dipsomaniacs (2004); “Tina’s Good at Everything” – Dipsomaniacs (2001)

### Screenplays (writer, unproduced)

*Kind of A Baldwin* (2002) – 2nd round, Project Greenlight/HBO

*Successful Failures* (2000)

**GERI DELEVICH (Executive Producer)** received her Masters Degree in Educational Instructional Media from West Chester University. In her roles as a teacher and councilwoman, Geri has written, directed, edited, and produced several films. With her students she created two 30-minute films that were aired on cable television: *Recycling, Recycling*; and *The President’s Summit for America’s Future*, hosted in Philadelphia, Pa. Included was a student interview with then Philadelphia Mayor, now Pennsylvania Governor, Edward Rendell.

Geri co-produced the documentary *With Liberty and Justice for All*, a chronicle of the adoption of New Hope Borough’s comprehensive Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender inclusive non-discrimination ordinance—the first of its kind passed by a Pennsylvania borough. Its passage resulted in New Hope being the recipient of the Human Rights Campaign *Equality Award 2003*. In 2005 Geri was executive producer of the Bucks County Summit on Aging film that focused on three outstanding seniors in the New Hope community. The film was featured at the countywide Conference on Aging. In 2006, Geri received the community achievement award from the International Rotary Club-Lambertville (NJ)/New Hope (PA).

**MARILYN CICHOWSKI (Managing Producer)** was a state investigator and senior special agent for the State of New Jersey for twenty-eight years. She holds degrees from Rutgers University and The College of New Jersey. For the past three years she has been actively involved with the Embraceable You Project: a documentary, book and music compilation.

**CHRISTOPHER AMBOLINO (Cinematographer)** Chris has served as producer, camera operator, and DP for MTV Networks, Fox Networks, NBC Universal, and a myriad of broadcast, corporate and other production companies. He’s been the recipient of a number of awards for his photography and film work, as well as seeing many of his documentary and independent films featured in festivals across the globe.

**EMBRACEABLE YOU; WE’RE ALL PART OF THE MUSIC (Soundtrack)** As part of the Embraceable You project, four songs from the documentary appear on the CD. The award-winning music on the album is as varied as the people of New Hope itself.



## **CREDITS |**

## **APPEARANCES |**

Joanna Abbott  
June Bierman  
Tom, Jenny, Ellena, Teddy & Sophia Carroll  
Frank R Cosner, Sr  
Chief Michael Cummings  
Frank DeLuca  
Marie DeLuca  
David Fehnel  
Michael Gardner a/k/a Miss Pumpkin  
Roberta Heydenberk  
Ty Hodanish  
Darrell Julius  
Meshell Kimbel  
Christopher J Kerr  
Doro Kerr  
Jarrett Landry  
John Larsen  
Robert Reynolds  
Claire Shaw  
Brian Ulrich  
Reynaldo Velasco  
Janine Witte  
Roy Ziegler

Director/Writer – Doug Keith  
Executive Producer – Geri Delevich  
Managing Producer – Marilyn Cichowski  
Producer – Doug Keith  
Original concept by Geri Delevich  
Director of Photography – Chris Ambolino  
Editor – Christopher Tully/Tulstar Production LLC  
Camera – Chris Ambolino, Jeremy Ginsburg  
Audio – Video Tracks Productions, Inc.  
Sound Engineer – Steve Rykerd  
Post House – Tulstar Production LLC  
Color correction – Eric Smith  
Soundtrack producer – Lenore Troia  
Graphics – Gordon Pulaski  
Production Assistant – Andrea Petrille  
Legal – Robert Szwajkos, Esq., Curtin & Heefner LLP;  
Alexander Murphy, Esq. LLC  
Intern – Aly Pierce  
Location photography – Lauri Tripaldi  
Location – Borough of New Hope, Solebury Township,  
Bucks County, Pennsylvania

## **SOUNDTRACK |**

“Blinders”

Written and Performed by Christine Havrilla

“Dream Lofty Dreams”

Composed by Robert Maggio

Performed by The Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia

“Embraceable You”

Written and Performed by Matthew Casey

“Give It Time”

Written by John Danaher and Eric Aceto

Performed by John Danaher

*This project was funded in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
Department of Community and Economic Development.*

# FESTIVALS |

	<p><b>Garden State Film Festival</b>  <b>WINNER:</b> Movie Music Competition:          Best Contemporary Song-<i>Embraceable You</i>          Best Country Contemporary Song-<i>Blinders</i>          Best Rock Song-<i>Give It Time</i>          Asbury Park, NJ          March 25-28, 2010</p>
	<p><b>Hoboken International Film Festival</b>  <b>Official Selection</b>          Hoboken, NJ          June 4-10, 2010</p>
	<p><b>New Hope International Film Festival</b>  <b>WINNER:</b> Audience Favorite Mid-Atlantic Film          New Hope, PA          June 21-27, 2010</p>
<p>Philadelphia QFEST  <small>A Philadelphia Cinema Alliance Production</small></p>	<p><b>Philadelphia QFEST</b>  <b>Official Selection</b>          Philadelphia, PA          July 8-19, 2010</p>
	<p><b>Utopia Film Festival</b>  <b>OFFICIAL SELECTION</b>          Greenbelt, MD          October 28-31, 2010</p>





## PRESS & REVIEWS |

*Tuesday's sold-out black-tie event at the Bucks County Playhouse premiered "Embraceable You," the long awaited locally produced documentary film about the one-of-a-kind community.*

**The Intelligencer**

November 18, 2009

*Outsiders may perceive them as odd or amusing. But according to the documentary, no New Hope resident is odd. The townspeople, it reports, take one another as they come, regardless of sexual orientation, age, dress, religion and racial or social standing. That theme was the drumbeat of the film, which also captured some of the community's history, architecture and legacy as an art colony.*



November 26, 2009

*The hours of footage was whittled down to a 30-minute documentary that aims to give the world a snapshot into New Hope's recipe for societal success.*



November 2009

**'Embraceable You' fetes character, reality of New Hope.** *Two years in the making, the project is a celebration of the unique and quirky borough.*

**THE BEACON**

December 2, 2009

*The red carpet was rolled out and the spotlights were focused on the quiet riverside community of New Hope last month for a movie premiere that put the small town's commitment to acceptance on the big screen.*

**Philadelphia Gay News**

December 10, 2009

*What started as a simple desire to capture a small town's charm exploded into a grassroots movement to prove that positivity can prevail.*

**In Your Prime**

January 2010  
Featured story

*Three songs from New Hope's Embraceable You documentary were honored with movie music competition awards at the Garden State Film Festival March 26-28, 2010, in Asbury Park, New Jersey.*

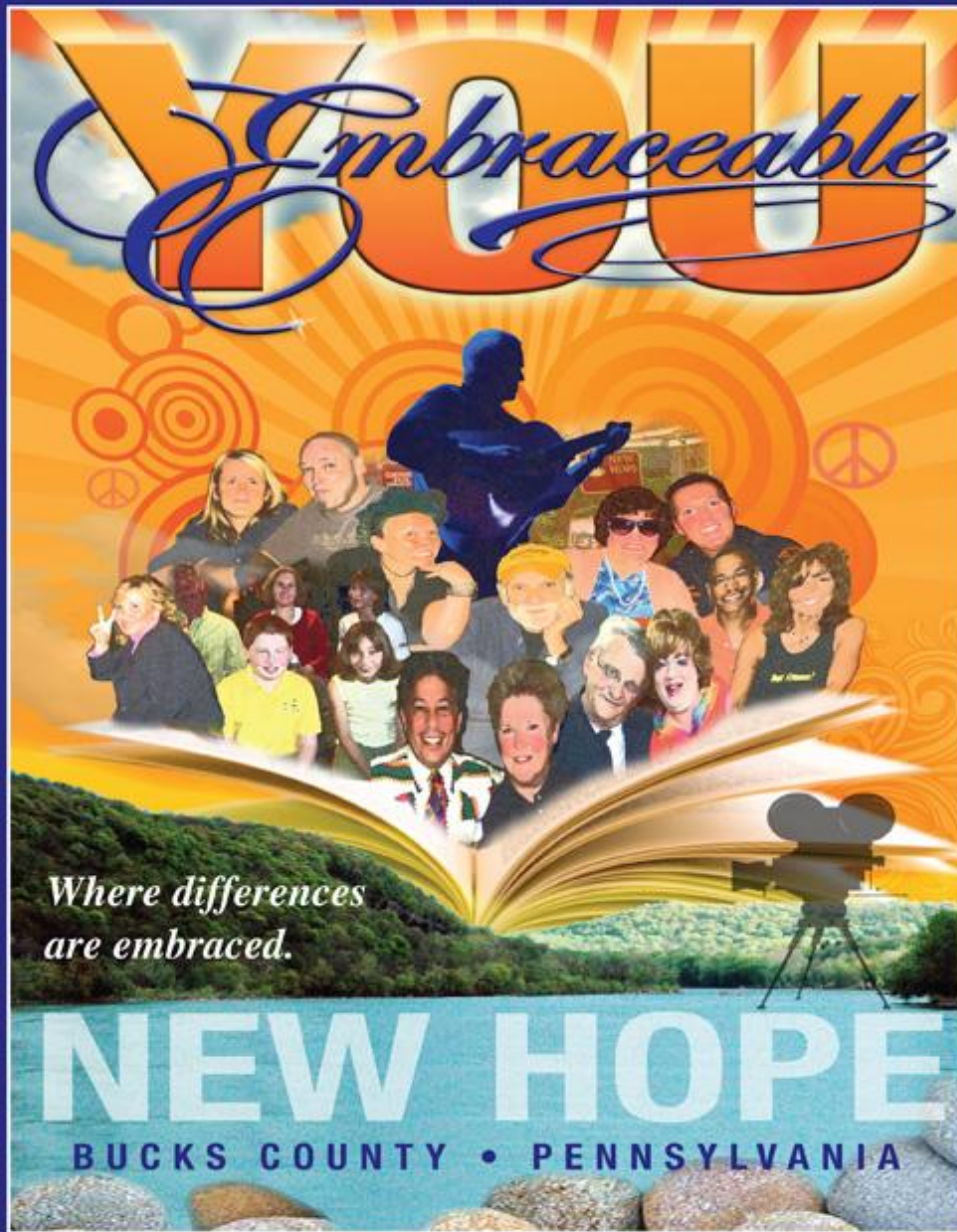
**Courier Times**

April 2, 2010

*Now, an award-winning documentary is aiming to spread the word that this hip artists' colony is a great place to visit and an even better place to call home.*

**The Philadelphia Inquirer**

August 13, 2010



*A documentary 300 years in the making...*

Presented by: Up River Productions • Written and Directed by Doug Keith • Executive Producer: Geri Dalevich  
 Producer: Marilyn Cichowski • Director of Photography: Chris Amolano • Editor: Chris Tully • Graphic Design: Gordon Pulaski  
 Funded in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development



[www.upriverproductions.com](http://www.upriverproductions.com)

Up River Productions, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Dedicated to projects promoting peace and social justice.

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