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Word Is Out,
Stories of Some of Our Lives

1977. 1.33 format. 135 min.

FilmEx
1978

Producer: Peter Adair / *Directors-Cinematographers-Editors:* Mariposa Film Group (Nancy Adair, Peter Adair, Andrew Brown, Robert Epstein, Lucy Massie, Phenix Silver, Veronica Silver) / *Music:* Trish Nugent / Buena Vista / *Production Company-Print Source:* Adair Films

Despite its calling title, *Word Is Out* is less a proclamation than an empathetic dialogue, approached directly, on the question and being of "gay-ness." A cast of twenty-six ranging in manners from conservative/hip to the *outré* stereotype, suggests the generic diversity of the gay population at large. Abating fears of alienness, the manners and looks are frequently those of figures plucked from the pages of Updike, Woolf, Bellow and Coward; even the *Doonesbury Chronicle*. With their flaws, sensibilities and saving wit intact, they gather and evoke a sense of *deja vu* and familiarity.

The filmmakers approach their subjects with probing, revealing scrutiny. Explicit politics and polemics are omitted for candid narratives of human dramas. Within these intercutting narratives an acrimonious social history of homosexuality emerges. At its most lethal, a history of psychosocial maltreatment and institutionalization.

The exemplary nature of each character's behavior and growth in the sullen face of societal superstition and redneck intolerance is often tedious. But for a minority that has never been in honest control of its own image, allowing that image to be manipulated by others, *Word Is Out* signals a decisive breakthrough.

