

I Am Me

Short documentary loosely based on a true story.

Taylor Winters, Ashleigh Kim, Baylee Witcher, Trey
Gardiner, Demetrius Harper

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1 INT. CHURCH FOYER - DAY

FADE IN

DAVID's hands seen playing piano.

FADE TO BLACK

Text on screen: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:6-7

2 INT. CHURCH FOYER - DAY

David walks slowly over to isolated chair in middle of room.

SPOTLIGHT ON CHAIR.

DAVID

People always told me it's important
to be yourself...and that's what I
did.

David slowly sits down.

DAVID

Until they found I was gay.

BEGIN CREDITS

3 INT. CHURCH FOYER - DAY

David enters room through double doors.

DAVID

Before anyone knew, nobody questioned
my relationship to them in their life.
I was a son, a brother, a friend...I
was just me.

DAVID

Suddenly, I was outcasted and defined
as the ultimate sinner; because in
their eyes, who I love changed how I
love.

David's hands are folded across pew.

DAVID

When I turned 15, I went to church
camp and kissed my first boy. That was

when I realized my attraction to boys
was different from my peers.

DAVID

Over time, these feelings began to
suffocate me. I couldn't tell people
who I really was because it went
against their beliefs.

(pause)

Until I couldn't take it anymore.

(pause)

I told my mom. She was the first
person I came out to, and...

David looks down at his hands. He picks at his nails.

DAVID

She just stared at me for the longest
time. She had this disappointed
expression on her face that I'll never
forget. Then she said...

(pause)

"I'm going to pray for you. We'll get
through this together."

(pause)

Those words never sounded so hateful
than they did in that moment.

David wipes tears from his eyes, then sniffs and looks away.

DAVID

After I came clean, my mom suggested I
not attend our annual family reunions.
She said that nobody would understand
my decision, and it would just be too
embarrassing for everyone.

4 INT. CHURCH FOYER - DAY

David is sitting in the pews with a sad, but thoughtful
expression.

DAVID

When my church found out, they
stripped me from strengthening my
relationship with Christ.

(pause)

You would think during this time, your
"family" would be there to love and
support you, but instead I was
outcasted, ridiculed, criticized, and

judged for something I had no control over.

5 EXT. GRASSY HILL - DAY

David is lying down on the grass, looking up at the sky. He is calm with a small smile on his face.

DAVID

I was hurt after the total rejection from my community that once empowered me. It shook my faith in God. And yet, I felt a sense of relief in coming out. It was out there; I was out there.

6 INT. ROOM - DAY

David is getting dressed in front of mirror. Puts on tie, fastens belt, then slips on shoes.

DAVID

We are but reactions to society's reactions.

(pause)

I kept to myself until I turned 18. Those last few years felt like an eternity. I did some things I'm not proud of - just trying to find myself. I tried to find a role that fit me.

7 INT. CHURCH FOYER - DAY

David cups hands in basin of water.

DAVID

It took some time, but I learned that family doesn't have to be just your blood relatives. A support group or even a friend can be your family. That's why I decided to become a Youth Pastor; to be there for kids that might be going through what I went through.

8 INT. CHURCH FOYER - DAY

David walks slowly up to alter.

DAVID

We're not close like we used to be,

but my mom has gotten past trying to
pray the gay out of me. Some things we
just don't talk about - like religion,
but I'm hopeful for the future. I know
I'm loved by her and by God. That's
the important part.

(pause)

9 INT. CHURCH FOYER - DAY

David is kneeling on alter steps, praying. He looks up
slowly.

DAVID

I don't hate my former church
community. I have nothing but love to
give...and I will always be praying
for them.

10 INT. CHURCH FOYER - DAY

David is at alter, looking up.

DAVID

In the past, I was a shell. Now, I'm a
pearl.

FADE TO BLACK

Text on screen: "Beloved, let us love one another, because
love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows
God." 1 John 4:7-8

QUEUE MUSIC: "This Is Me" (Greatest Showman soundtrack)

END CREDITS

FADE OUT