

#fiveFilms4Freedom 2016

Washington DC Speakers



Matt Nosanchuk: Matt Nosanchuk is a Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of State – where his work includes advancing LGBT human rights and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center. A graduate of Stanford University and Stanford Law School, he previously served as the White House’s liaison to the American Jewish Community and as Senior Counselor at the Justice Department. He was the Civil Rights Division’s point person on LGBT issues, including the challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act and implementation of the 2009 federal hate crimes law. He worked on the Obama campaign in 2008 and helped lead the campaign’s national LGBT Policy Committee. In 2013, he received the American Bar Association’s inaugural Stonewall Award in recognition for his professional contributions to advancing LGBT civil rights.



Siri Rødnes: Born and raised in Edinburgh, Scotland, Siri Rødnes is a director and writer of fiction whose films thrive on stylized metaphor. Rødnes got her MA in Directing Fiction from the National Film and Television school and has participated in the Berlinale Talent Campus, Edinburgh International Film Festival and Reykjavik International Film Festival Talent Labs. Her short film,

Take Your Partners, was one of those chosen for the online LGBT film festival “Five Films 4 Freedom.” Rødnes’ other short films include *Grimm Street*, for which lead actor Sarah Miele won Best Female Performance at the 2016 BAFTA Scotland New Talent Awards, as well as *Asking For It*. She is currently working on her debut feature film, *Nine Lives*.



Patrick Davies: Patrick Davies currently serves as the Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Washington, DC. A career diplomat, Davies has worked in various environments around the world, often in times of crisis or transition. He has played a pivotal role in British policy-making around the Arab Spring, Iran and its nuclear program and the

2003 invasion of Iraq, serving as Private Secretary to two Foreign Secretaries as well as Head of the Political-Military Section of the Foreign Office’s Iraq Emergency Unit in 2003. In recognition of his outstanding record of service, in 2012 Her Majesty The Queen awarded him the Order of the British Empire (OBE). Davies is a graduate of the University of Bath and enjoys tennis, singing, and hiking in his spare time.



Deena Fidas: Deena Fidas is the director of the Workplace Equality Program at the Human Rights Campaign. She has consulted directly with hundreds of Fortune 500 and other major businesses on the implementation of equitable policies. Fidas also leads the HRC's published research on the experiences of LGBT workers nationwide; including the 2009 *Degrees of Equality* study that found over half of LGBT workers remain closeted on the job. Fidas has been featured in The Washington Post, Mexico's *Reforma*, and the Huffington Post, and

is a regularly quoted expert in publications like the Wall Street Journal. Fidas holds a master's degree in sociology from American University in Washington, D.C.



Tim Naftali: Timothy Naftali is a CNN historian and teaches history and public services at NYU. He is currently the director of Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Archives at NYU, and previously directed the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. He is the co-author of "One Hell of a Gamble: Khrushchev, Castro and Kennedy, 1958-1964" and "Khrushchev's

Cold War" and the author of "Blind Spot: The Secret History of American Counterterrorism." Naftali was born in Montreal and has graduate degrees from Johns Hopkins and Harvard.