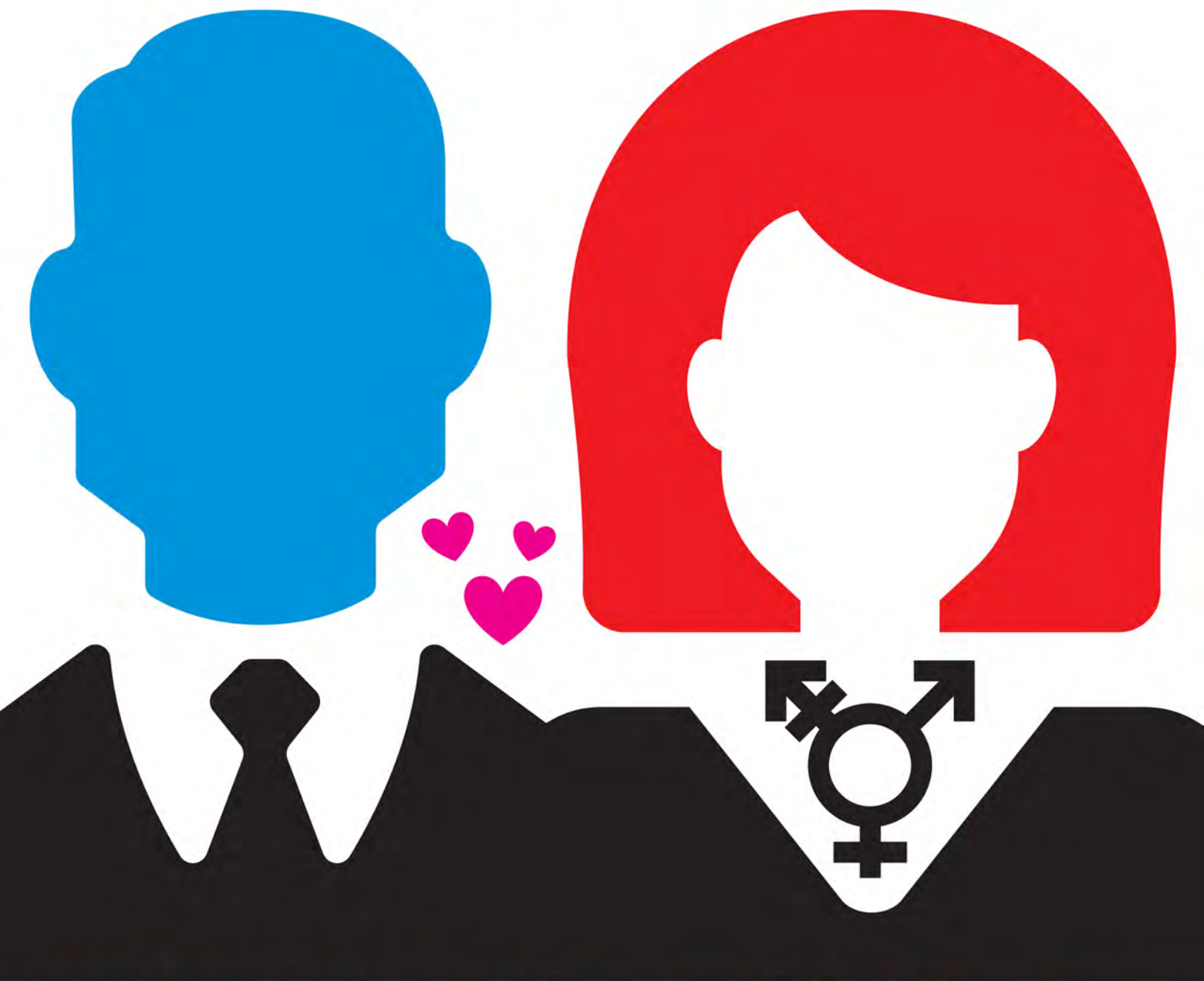


A love story that defies all conventions



# TRANSFIXED

A FILM BY ALON KOL



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A FILM BY ALON KOL  
PRODUCED BY ALON KOL & JULIA MORGA

CANADA, 2015, HD, 16:9, COLOR + B&W, STEREO, 74 MINUTES

FILMOPTION INTERNATIONAL INC. PRESENTS AN ALON KOL FILM  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY CHRISTOPHER BEHNISCH EDITOR ALON KOL  
ORIGINAL SCORE LUC SICARD SOUND MARY LEE AND MICHEL LAMBERT  
STORY EDITOR CHRISTOPHER BEHNISCH PRODUCTION MANAGER CHRIS BENNETT  
COPRODUCER CHRISTOPHER BEHNISCH PRODUCERS ALON KOL AND JULIA MORGA  
DIRECTED BY ALON KOL

PRODUCED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF



## LOGLINE

Martine and John are middle-aged underdogs with Asperger's Syndrome. Both dream of marriage, but John refuses to go further until transsexual Martine has a vagina.



## SYNOPSIS

Martine Stonehouse and John Gelmon are middle-aged underdogs, living with Asperger Syndrome. Despite their social limitations, both dream of getting married, but straight-identifying John refuses to tie the knot until transsexual Martine gets a real vagina. Will Martine and John find together the happiness that they deserve?



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES



As a society, we pride ourselves on respect for diversity and equality, but sometimes there are individuals who cross our paths who require a more complex kind of understanding. What happens when two people are so unique and so different that they break every possible convention?

At its core, *Transfixed* is a deeply human story about freedom, self-actualization and the quest for happiness – one that anyone who has ever longed for love and acceptance can empathize with and understand. *Transfixed* is a feature documentary that tells the story of a highly unconventional romance: Martine Stonehouse and John Gelmon are middle-aged “underdogs,” living with Asperger Syndrome – an autism spectrum disorder that makes communication with others extremely difficult.

Martine is also a prominent transsexual activist in Toronto, who wants the genital reassignment surgery that will change her into the woman she has always believed herself to be. Martine and John both dream of getting married—an act that they believe will make them appear “more normal” to the rest of society. Yet, John—who identifies straight—will not marry Martine unless she “gets a vagina.” The only problem: no doctor in Canada will agree to perform the surgery on Martine because her obesity makes her a high-risk for both stroke and heart attack.

Before John and Martine can fulfill their dream of living as husband and wife, they will have to overcome Martine’s battle of the bulge, John’s stubborn-mindedness, a series of medical complications, financial woes, and a stressful race to pull off the ultimate wedding – one that simultaneously celebrates and smashes down romantic conventions, and one that is as unique and compelling as they are.

Following their journey, this film explores the connection between Asperger’s and transsexuality, challenging mainstream ideas about relationships and identity in the 21st century. It asks the viewer to walk in the shoes of two people who have Asperger’s and question what it means to truly love one’s self and connect with others.

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Martine & John met at the Geneva Center for Autism. They have been together since July 27, 2003.



Martine Stonehouse has worked for the Toronto District School Board for 32 years, and is head caretaker at an inner city high school, but it's her work as an advocate for Toronto's transgendered community that she's best known for. When sex reassignment surgery was delisted from the Ontario Health Insurance Plan, back in 1998, Martine took it upon herself to launch a Human Rights case against the Ontario Government and – 10 years later – got the surgery relisted or all Trans people in Ontario.

When she was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome in 2001, Martine started working with the Autism Society of Canada, on their Advisory Committee. Along with her work as Vice Chair of the Trans Lobby Group founded in 2001, she is also a member of CUPE's National and Ontario Pink Triangle Committees as their Trans Rep.

Martine won the City of Toronto Pride Award in 2012 and became a proud torchbearer for the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto, where she represented both the transgender and autism communities.



John Gelman is a freelance journalist and bus driver who was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at the age of 34. Although he identifies as straight, John fell in love with Martine after meeting her at workshops organized by the Geneva Centre For Autism. During Martine's Human Rights battle with the Ontario Government, John was Martine's biggest supporter. They now live together in an apartment near St. Lawrence Market with their two cats.



## DIRECTOR'S BIO



ALON KOL

Alon Kol is an award-winning filmmaker who has worked in the film and television in both Canada and Israel. He has directed and edited documentaries for History Channel, National Geographic, Discovery, and Vision TV. Kol has also produced and directed his own short award-winning films, which have been shown on television and at numerous festivals. His film, *The Field*, was winner of the Film Director Special Award at Cieszyn Film Festival 2006 in Poland, and his film, *A Wish*, was the winner of Best Actress Award at Q2FFF Film Festival 2007 in Toronto. *Transfixed* is Kol's independent documentary feature, which has been supported by Canada Council for the Arts, Toronto Art Council, Ontario Art Council, and the National Film Board.



# DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY



- Holy Threads, (2008) 1 episode, 22 min, from the documentary series The Naked Archeologist
- A Wish (2007), fiction 7 min
- The Field (2006), fiction, 24 min
- Zone (2005), documentary, 17 min,
- The Bridge (2004), fiction, 5 min
- Come with me (2003), fiction, 10 min,



# TRANSFIXED

PRESS KIT

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