

POLYGAMY'S Lost Boys



Ben Blackmore, 26, is a nephew of Winston Blackmore, the former powerful Bishop of Bountiful and, to many of the faithful, still the true leader of the Fundamentalist Mormon faith in Canada. Ben is one of 14 children born to his father's two wives.



Ray Blackmore, 20, is also Winston Blackmore's nephew - and Ray's cousin. He is one of 29 children born to his father's three wives.



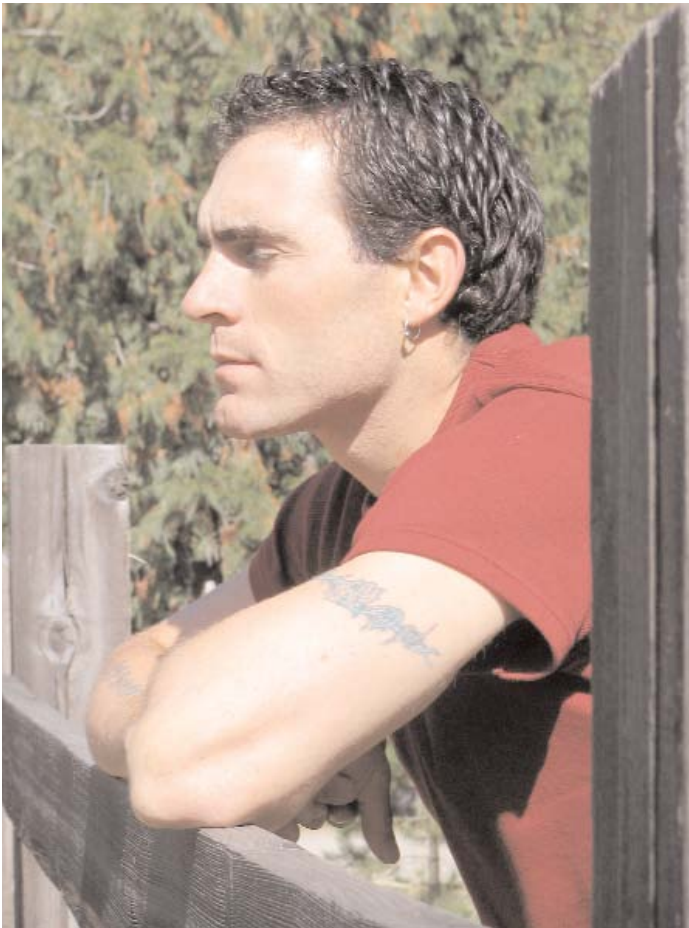
Tom Sam Steed 20 was born into Fundamentalist Mormon royalty and came of age in Colorado City, under the harsh rule of current supreme leader, Warren Jeffs. He's one of 30 children born to his father's eight wives.

Do the math: if one man has many wives, stands to reason, some men get none. Such is life for many young men in the polygamous Fundamentalist Mormon communities of Bountiful British Columbia, and Colorado City, Arizona. Being surplus, many are cast out or - profoundly disillusioned - leave of their own accord. Like Peter Pan's lost boys, they're marooned without family, without social skills, with little education and no concept of life outside their communal society. Like Peter Pan's lost boys, they exist in a kind of perpetual adolescence. They are Polygamy's Lost Boys, and this is their story.

It's important for me to make my own choices. I'll just leave it up to me to decide what I do. They are not all good choices. But at least they are my own.

Ben Blackmore

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Lost Boys



As a boy, it was Ben Blackmore's dream to play professional hockey. That dream has died along with most every other hope Ben had for the future. He has little education, a dead-end job, a wife *he* didn't choose and four young children.

When Ben left the polygamous Fundamentalist Mormon group in Bountiful, BC, it was like free-falling into another galaxy. Ben is one of *Polygamy's Lost Boys* - hundreds of boys and young men who've either been kicked out of the Fundamentalist Mormon church or, profoundly disillusioned, left of their own accord.

They grew up in the closed communities of Bountiful, British Columbia and Colorado City, which straddles


the Utah-Arizona border. This is a society where a child has no individual identity; it is supplanted by blind obedience. They emerge uneducated, unworldly and unwanted. Some are damned by their religion, denied by their families. Others are still puppets of their religion's powerbrokers, working to support a church that doesn't support them.

The official name for the church is Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints – FLDS. When the mainstream Mormon Church in Utah renounced polygamy in 1890 to gain statehood, the Fundamentalists carried on with their core belief: one man, multiple wives. The more wives a man has on this earth, the higher he climbs the celestial ladder in

FBI TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE

UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION - SEXUAL CONDUCT WITH A MINOR, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT SEXUAL CONDUCT WITH A MINOR; RAPE AS AN ACCOMPLICE

WARREN STEED JEFFS



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That was me actually getting kicked out of the religion. Couldn't set foot in town. Couldn't associate with family and friends. Couldn't call them on the phone... kept to myself for awhile. In this deep depression I honestly believed I was going to be destroyed.

Tom Sam Steed

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heaven. As children reach puberty, the church's leader dictates who will marry whom. The group's powerful elders end up with most of the girls, leaving a surplus of virile young men. *Polygamy's Lost Boys* tells the stories of three boys from that "surplus," as they struggle to survive in the world they were raised to believe is wicked.

Their struggle is set against a dramatic backdrop which threatens to engulf the Fundamentalist Mormon Church: the volatile political clash between the church's two leaders, Warren Jeffs in the United States and Winston Blackmore in Canada.

Jeffs, on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List was arrested in August in Las Vegas. He stands accused of child sexual abuse, rape and racketeering. American authorities have frozen church assets - reputed to be more than a 100 million dollars. In Canada, the



RCMP is investigating Winston Blackmore. Many of his companies are in financial trouble. The faithful have been forced to choose sides and families within the church have been ripped apart.

Polygamy's Lost Boys explores the impact of the leaders' feud on polygamy's discarded boys. The boys are poorly educated, but far from stupid. The dissonance between the family-first values they've been taught all their lives and the values lived by their leaders becomes too much to swallow. Viewers will see how the clash of titans helps transform blindly-obedient boys into questioning, critical thinking young men.

And their transformation will rock the Church that so devalued them.



Polygamy's Lost Boys airs Saturday October 21st at 7pm on Global Currents.
For more information contact: Maureen Palmer 604 626 7811 mopalmer@uniserve.com

If I can't do what I want, then why do what someone else wants? I mean if you are not living for yourself, then what's the sense of living ?

Ray Blackmore

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Bios

Writer - Director - Producer:

Maureen Palmer worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for two decades, both in radio and television, before leaving in January 2000 to form her own company. Since then, she has written, directed, story edited and series produced for North America's documentary and reality networks – TLC, National Geographic, Discovery USA and Global and Life in Canada. Some of her recent work includes *Leaving Bountiful* and *Polygamy's Lost Boys*, about the fundamentalist Mormon polygamous colony in BC; *Beyond the Blues*, about the devastating impact of child depression. Her work has been honored with a *Jack Webster Award*, medals at the *New York Television Festival*, the *Canadian Association of Journalists Best Documentary Award*, a *Columbus International Film & Television Award* and the *Canadian B'nai Brith League of Human Rights Award*.

Writer - Producer:

Helen Slinger is a west coast documentary filmmaker whose most recent documentary writer/director credits include *Alexandra's Echo*, about the battle to save the coast from industrial aquaculture; *Leaving Bountiful*, the story of a woman breaking free from a fundamentalist Mormon polygamous colony; and *Shadow Warrior*, the biography of Greenpeace International Founder David McTaggart. With McTaggart, she wrote his memoirs - published by Orion Books in the UK. Slinger's written a legion of documentaries, recently show-produced the archaeology series, *Ancient Clues*, for Discovery Channel and works regularly as a story consultant. Various projects have won *Gemini* nominations, *Finalist New York festivals*, *Platinum Award Worldfest Houston*, *Jury Award Yorkton Short Film & Video Festival*, selection *Montreal World Film Festival*, selection *Girlfest Hawaii*, selection *Vancouver International Film Festival*, a *Gracie Allen* (Foundation of American Women In Radio & TV), *RTNDA* (Radio & Television News Directors) awards, and several *Columbus International Film & Television Awards* including the *Edgar Dale Award* for excellence in non-fiction screenwriting.

Producer:

Kyle Irving is a Winnipeg based award-winning producer; his most recent work, the feature film *Blue State*. Produced by Eagle Vision and Paquin Films, *Blue State* stars *Academy Award* winner Anna Paquin and is directed by Marshall Lewy. *Blue State* is an Indie love story about a disgruntled Democrat who actually follows through on a drunken campaign promise to move to Canada if George "Dubya" Bush gets re-elected. It is scheduled for release in 2007. Kyle was recently an Associate Producer on the feature film *Capote*, winner of the 2006 *Oscar*, *Golden Globe* and *BAFTA* for Best Actor. *Capote* was nominated for five *Academy Awards*. Kyle has also produced more than 140 episodes for two ongoing Canadian television series, *The Sharing Circle*, recently nominated for Best Documentary Series and winner of a Special Jury Award at the 2006 *Golden Sheaf Awards* and *Tipi Tales*, winner of two *Parents' Choice Awards*. He has produced several one hour documentaries, including: *The Final Word: The Road to CanSpell*, *The Spirit of Norway House*, and *Where Three Rivers Meet*.

Music


From LA to Prague, Nashville to South Africa, **Murray Pulver** has seen the world by plucking his six-string. Sessions, tour dates, and television appearances are all in a day's work for this Winnipeg musician. As guitarist for Doc Walker, Murray has collected 2003's *Western Canadian Music Award* for Musician of the Year, *WCMA* for entertainer of the year, as well as *Canadian Country Music Association* Group of the Year. As a touring guitarist for *Crash Test Dummies*, Murray toured the world, appeared on shows such as *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, and played on their million-album seller, *A Worm's Life*. If you watch a lot of TV, chances are you've heard some of Murray's TV scoring for Global, CTV, OLN. Murray has also produced and played on a number of *Juno*-nominated recordings.

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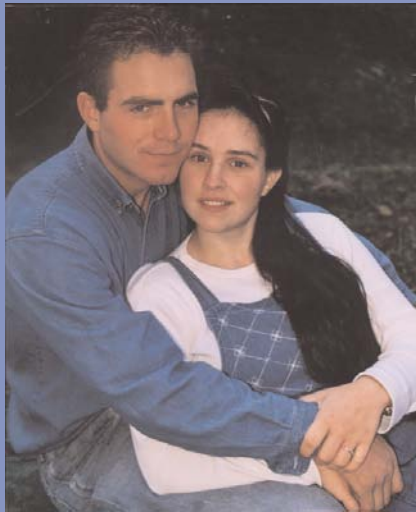
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WARREN STEED JEFFS

		
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DESCRIPTION



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