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**DAVE O'BRIEN WINS OUTSTANDING EMERGING TALENT  
AWARD FOR**

**EQUALITY U**

**OUTFEST 2008 AWARDS NIGHT, JULY 20 2008.**

Director Dave O'Brien takes home the Special Programming Award for Outstanding Emerging Talent for feature film directorial debut, ***EQUALITY U***.

"This is a huge honor and I'm incredibly humbled by it," says O'Brien.

***EQUALITY U***, a film festival favorite from director Dave O'Brien, is a feature-length documentary following a group of 33 young activists on the Soulforce Equality Ride. It is a human story of a group of young people struggling to stand up for what they believe is right. Against the backdrop of the Equality Ride, the film focuses on seven of the "Equality Riders" and two courageous students they encounter along their journey. The Riders, led by Jacob Reitan (23) and Haven Herrin (23), must come to terms with their new role as young activists, deal with internal conflict within the group, and face the daily onslaught from administrators that don't want them on their campuses. And while most of the young Riders identify as Christian, not all of them do so in the same way, if at all.

Documenting everything from internal differences over non-violent resistance to campus cops, ***EQUALITY U*** captures a unique protest at a historic tipping point between the forces of oppression and a new generation of outspoken queer youth.

For more information on ***EQUALITY U*** and The Soulforce Equality Ride, visit [www.equalityu.com](http://www.equalityu.com) and [soulforce.org](http://soulforce.org)

**ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS:**

The film is the first feature documentary directed by long-time Outfest filmmaker **Dave O'Brien** (Straight Boys, Hip Hop Homos).

Eyethink Pictures' mission is to create high-quality, evocative, gay and lesbian programming. Before founding Eyethink, partners Ken Bielenberg and Alonzo Ruvalcaba were responsible for visual effects on blockbuster mainstream feature films such as **SHREK**, **SHREK 2**, **CATS AND DOGS** and **MATRIX: REVOLUTIONS**. Bielenberg, former Visual Effects Supervisor of DreamWorks Animation, and Ruvalcaba, former Head of Production at Berkeley's Tippett Studio founded Eyethink in 2005. For more information on Eyethink Pictures, visit [www.eyethinkpictures.com](http://www.eyethinkpictures.com)

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