

a documentary series by  
ISABELLE COURVILLE

presented by  
TABLE JEUNESSE DE L'OUTAOUAIS

original concept by  
KIM ALEX LAROCHELLE

# HOMOGEN

Difference demystified



## **Synopsis**

Nine episodes, nine characters, representative of a generation of homosexuals discuss the realities they face, from their « coming-out » to dealing with stereotypes, bullying and of course, finding love. HOMOGEN delivers an intimate portrait of the Quebec gay and lesbian community where youth, parents, allies and dissidents can find real answers to their questions, without shame, judgment or taboo. The series elevates the personal experience to a universal level. In fact, it makes a difference by showing that in the end, there is no difference, after all.

Website: [homogenedoc.com](http://homogenedoc.com)

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PnXICF4xio&spfreload=10>



# Isabelle Courville

**Director, Cinematographer, Editor and Co-Producer**

Artistic creation is second nature for Isabelle Courville. Born on January 14th, 1992 in Hull, Quebec, Isabelle has always been passionate about performing arts, creative writing and cinema. She studied filmmaking for five years, beginning at Cegep de l'Outaouais and then at the University of Quebec in Montreal, where she just recently completed her



bachelor's degree. Her first short film, P.O.W. (2011) received critical acclaim at the Intercollegiate Film Festival and the Ottawa International Short Film Festival. The same year, she received the Governor General of Canada's Medal for academic excellence and social and community involvement. From screenwriting to directing, Isabelle expands her filmmaking experience with her work as a cinematographer, using both words and light to reflect her unique vision, blurring the gap between reality and fantasy.

From 2011 to 2014, always eager for a new story to tell with her camera, she directs multiple documentary and fiction projects with her talented collaborator, Jessica Desjardins. In fact, both are currently laying down the foundation for their own production company. In August 2014, Isabelle was invited to attend an international documentary master class in Požega, Serbia, a month prior to directing a short film in Belgrade, Serbia, during the European Summer Film School 2014 contest.

Upon her return from Europe, it was with an inspired mind that she completed the editing phase of an ambitious documentary project that had begun in 2012 with Kim Alex Larochelle, whom she met while working as a production coordinator in a musical theater school for children and adolescents. At that time, Kim Alex approached Isabelle with an idea for a documentary series with the objective to counter homophobia. Captivated by her friend's enthusiasm and strong desire to make a difference, she plunged into the adventure that, two years later, has become Homogen.

**Kim Alex Larochelle**  
**Original concept, Co-Producer**



A young music teacher born on July 24th, 1989 in Gatineau, Quebec, Kim Alex believes that it is through art and education that a more just and egalitarian world can be achieved. While moving towards this goal, she came up with the idea to produce a documentary series to counter homophobia. Homogen was born with a simple yet quite ambitious mission: to make a difference. Since openly accepting her own homosexuality, Kim Alex does not hesitate to carry this positive message in front of the camera as one of the nine participants in the series. She could

not be more grateful for the support and understanding that she received from her family as she embarked on this journey. For more than two years, she has been devoting much of her time to co-produce Homogen. She is proud to have surrounded herself with talented and implicated individuals to bring the project to fruition. Her creative partnership with Isabelle has elevated this series to an exceptional level.

“ The project’s main goal is to sensitize young people and help those who are passing through this possibly tumultuous road. I wish I had had access to a documentary series such as this while I was growing up. Thankfully, I had extraordinary teachers who made a difference in my life. I would love to do the same for my students.”- Kim Alex Larochelle, co-producer.



## Director's note

As director, cinematographer and editor, I carried this Goliath-like project through months of filming, hundreds of hours of material culminating in an intricate and complex editing process... a real puzzle. For the last two years, Homogen has allowed me to grow immensely as a documentary filmmaker and at the same time, without realizing it, it has also become the catalyst for a significant change in my life.

During the filming process, many participants asked me why I had decided to embark on this journey to counter homophobia. They would question me about my own sexual orientation and my motivation. I would simply respond that I loved the idea of a straight female directing a gay-themed documentary. I wanted Homogen to be like a breath of fresh air with a nuanced and universal message amongst a massive collection of gay-themed works created by gay people. Despite holding my camera with that objective in mind, at the end of the filming process, I fell in love with my best friend and filmmaking colleague, Jessica. This upheaval in my personal life had a profound impact on the making of Homogen. In the editing room, the images I had filmed and the personal stories I had recorded were resonating within me in a whole new way.

I am very grateful that Homogen's post-production process benefitted from Jessica Desjardins' precious experience with regard to sound recording, editing and mixing. The project would not have been the same without her technical and creative contribution. In fact, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my dedicated co-producer, Kim Alex Larochelle, who chose me to carry and deliver this beautiful message of hope, equality and justice. My team and I would also like to thank everyone near and far who helped make this ambitious project come to life, as it is important for the present and future of young people seeking role-models, for their loved ones who need more resources to help support them and for the schools and institutions who need guidance to help society grow into a more inclusive and nuanced environment. Most importantly, we truly hope Homogen can help extinguish the last embers of homophobia in the hearts of certain individuals.

I am very proud to share this story, while indirectly my story, with the public. I hope that every image, every word, will touch and inspire you, just as it did for me.





## Episodes

### Episode #1: « Coming out »

*Admitting my difference*



As tumultuous or liberating as it can be, “coming out” is most often accompanied by deep questioning and intense emotions. In this first episode of the series, the nine participants discuss how they each dealt with this pivotal moment in their lives.

### Episode #2: Karl

*Understanding difference*



“The common idea of a homosexual is a man who wears tight clothing, who speaks in a feminine manner and who carries a purse... What we want is to prove to others that we’re not different.” - Karl, *Homogen*

### Episode #3: Antoine

*Respecting one’s difference*



“You end up with a big build-up of rage that you have to deal with and unravel. The daily harassment carves something into your genetic code and I still don’t know if one day I’ll be able to undo it.” – Antoine, *Homogen*

## Episode #4: Jill & Émilie

*Loving your difference*

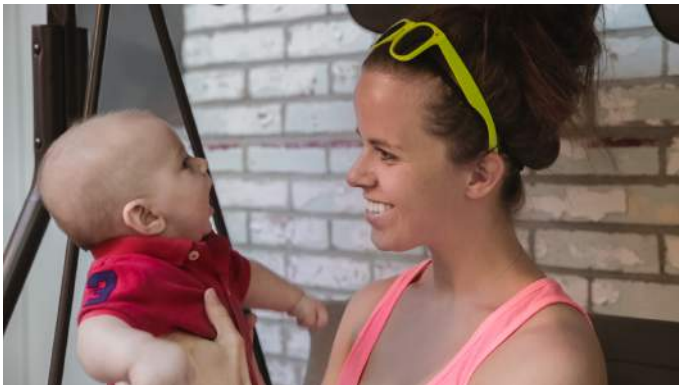


“It feels the same way that it feels for anybody who’s falling in love, you meet somebody amazing...” - Jill, *Homogen*

“Every girl dreams of one day marrying the love of her life.” - Émilie, *Homogen*

## Episode #5: Kim Alex

*Emerging from difference*



“I’ve always taken care of those who are younger than me. It comes naturally to me. Actually, I don’t really see myself without kids.” - Kim Alex, *Homogen*

## Episode #6: Guillaume

*Working with difference*



“Ensuring a respectful environment is fundamental. If there are isolated incidents, it’s important to respond strictly in order to show that it’s not accepted in the work place.” - Guillaume, *Homogen*

## Episode #7: Marie-Hélène

*Accepting my difference*



“I accept it well today, really, but I don’t think my lifetime will be long enough to fully accept it. [...] Generally, the worst homophobia you will face is your own.” – Marie-Hélène, *Homogen*

## Episode #8: Maude

*Celebrating our difference*



“If I’m happy and I’m not hurting anyone by being happy, there is no problem. I think our goal will truly be achieved when parades won’t be necessary anymore, but for now, we still need them... for people to see that it’s not a big deal [...] and that we aren’t so different after all.” – Maude, *Homogen*

## Episode #9: Jean-Éric

*Until that difference has no more importance*



“It’s not what defines me. I am Jean-Éric Grandmaître who also happens to be gay. That’s all. I think that’s what I like to say to younger people: just be yourself.” – Jean-Éric, *Homogen*

## Technical specifications

Original title: HOMOGENÈ  
International title: HOMOGEN

Original concept: KIM ALEX LAROCHELLE  
Directed by: ISABELLE COURVILLE  
Direction of photography: ISABELLE COURVILLE  
Sound recording: ISABELLE COURVILLE  
JESSICA DESJARDINS  
Editing: ISABELLE COURVILLE  
Sound editing: JESSICA DESJARDINS  
Sound mixing: JESSICA DESJARDINS  
Color correction: ISABELLE COURVILLE  
Original music: MARIE-HÉLÈNE FRÉNETTE-ASSAD  
Musical collaborators: CITY AND COLORS, GROENLAND, MISSY HIGGINS,  
ANTOINE LEVASSEUR-RIVARD, HARRY MANX,  
ARIANE MOFFATT, INGRID MICHAELSON,  
GENEVIÈVE RACETTE

A documentary series by: ISABELLE COURVILLE  
Production: ISABELLE COURVILLE  
KIM ALEX LAROCHELLE

A presentation by: LA TABLE JEUNEUSSE OUTAOUAIS  
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Country of production: CANADA  
Original language: FRENCH  
Subtitle language: ENGLISH  
Format: HD1920x1080p, 24fps  
Sound: STEREO  
Genre: DOCUMENTARY SERIES (9 episodes)  
Total duration: 94 mins

## Special thanks



**LSTW**  
LA RÉFÉRENCE LESBIENNE



**L'ARTI  
SHOW**



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Auditorium du pavillon Lucien-Brault de l'UQO



Université  
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