

—Slug:.....COMM-0838.arts.heightnd_security
—Contributor.....
—Contributor email.....
—For section..... The Arts
—Format..... News - no byline
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....42473

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Premiere, discussion scheduled for film on anti-trans
2 legal battles

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4 TEXT BODY:

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5 The Vermont premiere of a new documentary,
6 *Heightened Scrutiny*, will be held Saturday, Nov. 1, at 6:45 p.m.,
7 at New England Youth Theatre, 100 Flat St.

8 Directed by Peabody Award–nominee Sam Federer,
9 *Heightened Scrutiny* “exposes how biased mainstream media
10 coverage has fueled anti-trans legislation across the country —

11 and how those narratives endanger lives and erode democracy
12 itself,” wrote event promoters in a news release.

13 *Heightened Scrutiny* follows Chase Strangio, ACLU
14 attorney and the first out trans person to argue before the
15 Supreme Court, as he fights a high-stakes legal battle to overturn
16 Tennessee’s ban on gender-affirming care for transgender youth
17 (United States v. Skrmetti).

18 Featuring insights from Laverne Cox, Jelani Cobb, Lydia
19 Polgreen, and Gina Chua, the film arrives in Vermont just months
20 after the Supreme Court’s devastating decision. “It’s an urgent call
21 to action against bigotry and injustice,” said organizers.

22 After the film, Out in the Open hosts a community
23 talkback with special guests freelance journalist James Rinker,
24 Outright Vermont Senior Director of Advocacy and Land
25 Stewardship Amanda Rohdenburg, and Out in the Open
26 Executive Director HB Lozito.

27 Admission is free; donations appreciated. Seats may be
28 reserved by contacting NEYT, although reservations are not
29 required.

30 The film will also be shown Sunday, Nov. 2, at 4 p.m. at
31 the Latchis Theatre. This second screening is especially for
32 families and youth and will be followed by a talkback panel
33 again with Lozito, this time joined by LGBTQ+ lawyer, advocate,
34 and national policy strategist Meg York and WSESU Equity and
35 Social Justice Coach Shannon Kelly.

36 There will be no presale tickets for the Latchis screening;
37 seats will be available at the door that afternoon.

38 More information about the film, including the trailer,
39 can be found at [weareoutintheopen.org/heightened-scrutiny-](https://weareoutintheopen.org/heightened-scrutiny-screenings-2025)
40 [screenings-2025](https://weareoutintheopen.org/heightened-scrutiny-screenings-2025).

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BIO/COATTAIL:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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