# The Greatest: what happens when a happily married (to a woman) man falls in love with another man in '60s NYC?



In new film The Greatest, filmmaker Ryan Sarno meticulously transports audiences to early 1960s New York. This period drama, rendered with stunning historical detail, sheds light on the pressures faced by a young couple as they strive to maintain the semblance of the 'American Dream'. The narrative dismantles the facade of mid-20th century heteronormative ideals, revealing the turmoil hidden beneath.

The film centres on Jay (portrayed by Isaac Nevrla), a man who seems to have it all according to societal standards: a respectable job with prospects of taking over the family business, a beautiful wife named Beverly (played by Isabela Jacobsen), and a new home complete with a white picket fence. The couple also shares a healthy baby boy, further cementing their image of perfection.

However, their picturesque life begins to unravel during a family vacation, where Jay encounters Ricky (Sergio Acevedo), a charming waiter. This meeting sows the seeds of curiosity and leads to a deepening relationship. Back in New York, Jay and Ricky's friendship evolves into a romantic affair, often seeing them frequenting clandestine gay bars—venues that serve as secret havens for such prohibited relationships during that era.

The delicate balance of Jay's dual existence is shattered one fateful night when a police raid disrupts their secret rendezvous. Jay finds himself facing criminal charges, and the collision of his private desires with his public life becomes inevitable. Beverly, disillusioned and desperate, issues an ultimatum: Jay must undergo conversion therapy, a common but controversial practice of the time, or their marriage will dissolve.

Sarno articulates that Jay, Ricky, and Beverly are emblematic of numerous individuals throughout history who have been oppressed by a society that has pre-written their life stories. This conflict is a central theme in *The Greatest*, which begins in an era dominated by fear and repression, transitioning towards a narrative where love and the endurance of time become paramount.

The Greatest made its debut earlier this year at Cinequest and is set to be showcased next at Out On Film, an acclaimed LGBTQ+ film festival held in Atlanta, Georgia. The festival runs from September 26 to October 6, featuring an array of must-watch films such as Sebastian, High Tide, In The Summers, Riley, and Join The Club. This year's lineup also includes many films available for virtual streaming, opening access to a wider audience.

The screening of The Greatest is scheduled for October 1.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)