

## **PBS will air 'An American Family' anniversary edition**

*Extracts from: BlogPost - The Washington Post*

Almost four decades after PBS first aired a television documentary about a nuclear family in Santa Barbara, Calif., named the Louds, reality television shows like Survivor and American Idol have us all glued before the small screen.

"An American Family" was one of the first in the reality genre. Over 12 episodes in 1973, the program captured the sensitive moments of Bill and Pat Loud's marriage and separation, and the escapades of their five children, including the New York lifestyle of their gay son, Lance Loud.

The controversial show riveted the country over the course of its three-month run, drawing in a record 10 million viewers a week.

On July 7, PBS will air a two-hour version of the series, which has not been seen nationally in more than 20 years. The edited "An American Family: Anniversary Edition" is intended to "provide a fresh perspective to viewers who may have missed the original series airing," according to PBS. Filmmakers Alan and Susan Raymond, who worked on the original production, are behind the adaptation.

Unlike most documentaries of the time period, "An American Family" had no host or interviews, and very little voice-over narration. The filmmakers sought to portray the everyday life of the Louds without embellishment, a style called cinema verite.

This rebroadcast of "An American Family" comes several months after HBO's fictionalized account of the making of the series, "Cinema Verite."

(The two hour highlights will include the legendary **La Mama Theatre episode featuring "My Place Tonight" by Paul Serrato, sung by Warhol superstar, Candy Darling**. Multiple airdates will be presented on June 7th and 8th on PBS. Check your local listings.)

In "Beautiful Darling", the documentary of Warhol superstar Candy Darling, "There are glimpses of Candy on the swing in (Jackie) Curtis's fabulous La Mama production of "Vain Victory" (1971) singing Paul Serrato's torchy "My Place Tonight", a song with which she was identified as much as with The Velvet Underground's "Candy Says."

[--Amy Taubin: ArtForum Magazine: April, 2011](#)

The growing iconic status of both image and son were further recognized when the sequence was recently recreated in the HBO film, "Cinema Verite".

A new instrumental jazz version of the song will be heard on the forthcoming Paul Serrato & Co. release, "AlterNations", due this fall from Graffiti Productions.