



# IN THE LIFE

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PRESS PHOTOS AVAILABLE

## **Fashion Designer Orlando Carreras May Date “IN THE LIFE,” But He’s Partnered with In The Life Media**

New York – Provocative. Real. Pioneering. These are just a few of the “brand”-words often used to describe In The Life Media’s best known asset: public television’s LGBT documentary series “IN THE LIFE.” But this season, the media organization that has brought the stories and issues shaping the gay experience to America for over 16 years, can also say that about its wardrobe partner, fashion designer Orlando Carreras.

IN THE LIFE, borrowing its name from a Harlem Renaissance term meaning someone who’s “gay,” has kicked-off its 17th season this month with a new 30-minute format, a first-ever season with no repeats, and its host, Michael Billy, wearing Carreras’ signature vibrant and sexy, yet classic silhouetted, clothes.

A New York native, trained at Parsons and FIT, Carreras has worked for some of the biggest names in fashion on both coasts, putting his stamp of originality on the collections of Gap, Old Navy and Pacific Sunwear. Now, a year after launching his own collection, and seeing his clothes featured in some of men’s fashions’ most stalwart go-to print publications – New York Times, DNR, MR, The Tobe Report, Sportswear International – Carreras has turned to another form of media to help in sowing his activist oats: television.

As Carreras sees it, media should be “positively probing and revealing, and give a window to our diverse souls and voices.” Though he considers himself “blessed” to have grown up without fear of being “out,” Carreras recognizes the complex social and cultural issues that make it a struggle for many others. “As a biracial gay man from a big city, I feel it is important to align myself with voices and images that provide a positive influence.”

In contrast with Carreras’ relatively seamless process of coming out, IN THE LIFE host Michael Billy remembers struggling with his sexuality when he was younger, having been assaulted in his early teens. Now 26, Billy has become a national leader for gay and

lesbian youth, and is an impassioned advocate for an end to homophobia. Billy says, “I remembered watching IN THE LIFE when I was a kid, and loving it. It was a connection for me.”

Later, pursuing a career in journalism, Billy remembers thinking how “cool” it would be to work for the show, unaware of what the future held. In his second season as IN THE LIFE host, Billy confesses, “I still get this charge every time a well-known public figure or celebrity walks through the studio doors. A couple weeks ago, we had Julianne Moore and Christine Vachon discussing gay representation in film. Later that same day, we had amfAR founding chairman Dr. Mathilde Krim talking to Black AIDS Institute’s CEO and founder, Phill Wilson, about the state of AIDS. The caliber of allies the program attracts is truly astounding.”

When Billy -- who already has one of Carreras’ summer shirts in his closet -- learned Carreras was going to be IN THE LIFE’s wardrobe sponsor, he thought to himself, “Perfect! I wear [the shirt] so much, I was afraid I’d have to start wrapping it in plastic to get it through the winter.”

Of the IN THE LIFE host, Carreras said “I remember my first meeting with Michael Billy. He was witty and had a great sense of humor, but came across as serious, professional, and sensitive in front of the camera. All of those are traits that I possess and carry over to my clothing. So it all seemed like a great fit. I think it is fair to say that we chose each other.”

To learn more about Orlando Carreras, please visit his website: [www.orlandocarreras.com](http://www.orlandocarreras.com).

### About In The Life Media

In The Life Media provides information about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities, documents the ongoing LGBT civil rights movement, and produces diverse images of the LGBT community to create better understanding and acceptance.

### About IN THE LIFE

Produced by In The Life Media, IN THE LIFE is the longest running television show documenting the gay experience. IN THE LIFE is a three-time Emmy Award nominee, a Lambda Legal Liberty Award honoree, and the recipient of the Courage Award from the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project. In 2004, GLAAD honored our organization with the prestigious Barbara Gittings Award "for contributions to LGBT media." In 2006, it won the Seigenthaler Award from the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association for "excellence in network television."

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