

WAITING ROOM

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YCL Hungary 2025, FILM

Link to the film: https://youtu.be/F0ecQt09NJE?si=zhzuFzae_tYgp79S

Written Explanation (300 words)

We often see families represented on TV – and sometimes, we see ourselves in them. Or wish we could. But for many, those portrayals feel far from their lived reality. This contrast is the heart of our story.

We open with what seems to be an idyllic scene: a nuclear family supporting their sick child in a doctor's office...but something feels off from the beginning. As the camera zooms out, we reveal the twist – it's just an old TV show playing in a hospital waiting room, nestled between endless *Jóban Rosszban* reruns (unfortunately there wasn't a Balkán-enough stock footage of a CRT TV to emphasize this). The outdated jokes, the music, and the worn aesthetics show it's a relic from another time – much like the concept of family it's trying to represent.

While the screen shows an idealized version of family, sitting alone in the real waiting room is a loving parent, who due to legal limitations, is not recognized as such. In Hungary, registered partnerships don't allow for joint parenthood; only one parent is legally acknowledged, leaving the other powerless in moments like this.

This contrast – between the scripted laughter of a “perfect” family and the quiet pain of a real one – slowly builds to deliver a clear message: equal marriage isn't just about the couple; it affects the whole family. That's what *Family is Family* really stands for.

Short Summary (150 words)

The film opens with a scene of a nuclear family comforting their sick child in a hospital room. But as the camera zooms out, we realize it's an old TV show playing in a hospital waiting room. Sitting nearby, a real-life father watches in silence – a non-biological parent in a registered partnership, excluded from his child's side during a crisis.

While the TV portrays a dated, idealized version of family, reality is very different. In Hungary, only one parent in a same-sex partnership is legally recognized. The other – no matter how involved or loving – is left without rights when it matters most.

Through this emotional contrast, the film delivers a powerful message: equal marriage isn't a political statement; it's about real families, real love, and real devotion.

Cultural/Context Information (150 words)

In Hungary, only 40% of women and 1/3 of men support marriage equality. To spark a meaningful conversation, we needed a message that would resonate with both sides – something simple yet powerful, explaining why this is a cause we all must stand up for.

The yellowing walls, the uninviting atmosphere, outdated equipment, and the often cold, bureaucratic environment evoke a collective memory for most of us. A hospital waiting room is a space we all recognize. It's a place of worry, of love, of longing.

And it's also a space where, for many same-sex parents in Hungary, the law draws a cruel line.

In a society where parental devotion is a badge of honor, where selfless sacrifice for children's well-being is revered, same-sex couples are denied the same rights. In moments of crisis, this inequity becomes painfully clear.

PSA: We've used AI text-to-speech to record the VOs.