Jeff Nicholas, director. *Loving*. Focus Features, 2016.

The film *Loving*, directed by Jeff Nicholas and released in November 2016, is based on a true story and resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court case *Loving vs. Virginia* in 1967, a landmark legal decision during the civil rights era. With the Supreme Court's decision, Virginia's anti-miscegenation law prohibiting interracial marriage was struck down and declared unconstitutional.

The story begins with Mildred announcing her pregnancy to her boyfriend, Richard Loving. Eventually, Richard proposed to Mildred on the piece of land he had purchased for their future home. The marriage could only be validated with a marriage certificate. However, the state of Virginia did not permit inter-racial marriage, so the couple drove to Washington D.C. to get the marriage certificate there. The Lovings returned to Virginia and their daily lives as newlyweds until they were arrested in their home in the middle of the night. They were arrested because they had violated anti-miscegenation laws that prohibited mixed-race relationships punishable by jail time. The couple hired a local attorney to help them fight charges, and with his assistance, the judge gave the Loving couple the option to avoid jail time, but required both to leave the state of Virginia and not return for twenty-five years. As the Civil Rights Movement gained traction, the American Civil Liberties Union took on the case, eventually leading the Supreme Court to strike down all laws prohibiting interracial marriages.

The film tells the story of the Loving couple's unfair treatment of not having the opportunity to live in the state of Virginia because they were an interracial couple. Before the Supreme Court heard the case, the Loving couple and their children were exiled from Virginia and relocated to Washington, D.C. The Loving's court battle began in 1963 with legal representation provided by the American Civil Liberties Union. Their attorneys Bernard Cohen and Philip Hirschkop requested a motion to Judge Bazile to remove the Loving's conviction in Virginia so they could return home and not be imprisoned. But Judge Bazile from the circuit court of the Caroline County denied the motion, and the Loving case would ascend to the Supreme Court. When the Supreme Court heard the case, Virginia's Assistant Attorney

General Robert D. McIlwaine III argued the constitutionality of his state's anti-miscegenation law. In rebuttal, Cohen and Hirschkop stated that the Virginia regulation was illegal under the Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment, which warrants all citizens the right to due process and equal protection under the law. On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Virginia's interracial marriage law violated the Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment. The Loving couple, including their children, could finally return to their hometown, Central Point. After the Lovings received justice in 1975, the family suffered a different kind of tragedy, this time due to Richard Loving's death after a car accident. Mildred survived the crash and never remarried and spent the rest of her life in Central Point. She passed away in 2008.

Loving succeeds in combining the different moments of this love story, ranging from the marriage proposal to their arrest as well as the court scenes and daily life in-between. First released on the Netflix platform, it was shown in select theaters. *Loving* is not just a romantic film, but it is an example of how much society has changed: a mere fifty years ago interracial marriage was illegal in many parts of this country. This landmark case set an important legal precedent for marriage equality, decided by the Supreme Court in 2015 with *Obergefell v. Hodges*. *Loving* is a well-told story of a real-life drama and worth watching.

Nancy Guan