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Author(s) Jennifer Montgomery

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Wacks, Michael
Montgomery, Jennifer (1961)
Montgomery, Ruth S.
Ahwesh, Peggy
Heller, Eve
McCloy, Crosby
Burroughs, Coles
Hannah, Duncan
Lin, Lana
Myles, Eileen
Carey, Tom
Williams, Jennifer

McDonnell, Caitlin Grace

Dunham, Sarah

Film Subjects

Art for teachers of children, Montgomery, Jennifer, 1995

ART FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN

a film by Jennifer Montgomery



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Synopsis

Sure to arouse controversy, Jennifer Montgomery's bravely autobiographical film takes a disquietingly original slant on underage sex. A 14-year-old starts an affair with her dorm counselor, who's into photographing his students in the nude. It's a relationship that won't stand still for parental interference or even investigation by the FBI, some years later. The director's deadpan, seemingly objective style deliberately downplays the outré subject matter and leaves the viewer to decide what is meant by the age of consent. A truly radical investigation of what's natural in sexuality—and what's not.

Director's Statement

In 1989 I was harassed by the FBI. They were attempting to exact testimony from me in a much-publicized case against an alleged child pornographer. As one of the photographic subjects in question, I have my own perverse angle on the case and the surrounding storm of controversy.

The story is a kind of boarding school melodrama tracing the development of my relationship to this man, and pausing along the way to look at the complicated issue of the age of consent.

—Jennifer Montgomery

ART FOR TEACHERS OF CHILDREN

CREDITS

Writer, Director, Cinematographer, Editor: **Jennifer Montgomery**

Assistant Editor: **Lana Lin**

Assistant Director: **Sarah Dunham**

Assistant Camera: **Roy Lumadue**

Sound: **Crosby McCloy**

Lighting: **Michael Wacks**

Production Assistants: **Jennifer Williams, Tristan Spill, Matthew Monahan**

Special Consultants: **Peggy Ahwesh, Eileen Myles, Eve Heller**

CAST

Caitlin Grace McDonnell (Jennifer) **Duncan Hannah** (John)

Coles Burroughs (Molly)

Bryan Keane (Counselor)

Jennifer Williams (Alex)

Lisa Anomaiprasert (Naomi)

Tom Carey (FBI Agent)

Ruth S. Montgomery (Mother's Voice)

Peter Hutton (Father's Voice)

Jennifer Montgomery (Narrator)

Eve Heller (Margaret)

Craig Peterson (Nasty Student)

Moyra Davey (Person looking at "naked" pix)

Michael Wacks, Layla M.Children (Other Preppies)

**Eileen Myles, Dave McGuinness, Amy Sillman, Michael Gitlin, Adolfas Mekas,
Peggy Ahwesh, Roy Lumadue, Bill Slowick, Jamie Patten, Rick Rock** (Art Colonists)
and **The Northfield Mt. Hermon Gymnastics Team**

USA • 1995 • 82 mins

16mm • 1:33 • B&W

released by

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ZEITGEIST FILMS

247 Centre St • 2nd Fl

New York • NY 10013

contact: **Nancy Gerstman** or **Emily Russo**
(212) 274-1989 Fax **(212) 274-1644**

CAST and CREW BIOS

CAST:

Caitlin Grace McDonnell is a poet, recently graduated from Bard College, who currently resides in Seattle WA.

Duncan Hannah is a well-known NYC painter who has appeared occasionally in underground films, including work by Amos Poe.

Tom Carey is a professional actor, poet, teacher, and Franciscan monk. He has appeared in a wide variety of NYC venues including LaMama Theater, St. Marks Poetry Project, and Dixon Place.

Coles Burroughs is a writer who recently graduated from Sarah Lawrence College.

Ruth Montgomery, my mother, is a teacher of Latin and English, and a writer, residing in Middletown, CT.

CREW:

Michael Wacks is a filmmaker living in NYC, recently graduated from Bard College.

Roy Lumadue is a filmmaker living in NYC, recently graduated from Bard College.

Sarah Dunham is a filmmaker living in NYC, who recently graduated from the Cooper Union School of Art.

Jennifer Williams is a filmmaker and a musician living in NYC, who recently graduated from the Cooper Union School of Art.

Eileen Myles is a poet, performance artist, and critic. She has published books with Black Sparrow Press, Semiotext(e), and Hanuman Press. She writes art reviews for *Art in America* and book reviews for *The Village Voice*. She has read and performed at many venues, including PS 122, the Walker Art Museum, the Whitney Museum, and the Naropa Institute.

Peggy Ahwesh is a well-known experimental film/video maker residing in NYC. Her work includes titles such as *The Deadman*, *Martina's Playhouse*, *Strange Weather*, *The Scarey Movie*, and *I Ride a Pony Named Flame*. Her work has appeared in many venues internationally, including the Whitney Museum, the Berlin Film Festival, the New York Film Festival, MOMA, and the Pacific Film Archives. She teaches filmmaking at Bard College.

Eve Heller is a filmmaker currently residing in Tivoli, NY. She has shown her work at Conspiracies, Opium Den, Exit Art, and the Paula Cooper Gallery. She has an MFA in filmmaking from Bard College.

Crosby McCloy is a writer and a performer currently living in NYC, although she hails from Memphis, TN. She has a degree majoring in film from Brown University and is currently getting her MFA at Bard College.

Lana Lin is a filmmaker whose titles include *I Begin to Know You*, *Stranger Baby*, and *Misu Shobai*. She is distributed by Drift Distribution and Women Make Movies, and holds an MFA from Bard College.

BIO/FILMOGRAPHY: Jennifer Montgomery

b. May 28, 1961

Grants & Awards:

Jerome Foundation Grant	1992 & 1994
NYSCA Distribution Grant	1992
Apparatus Productions Grant	1990
Art Matters Fellowship	1990

Professional Experience:

Adjunct Film Professor, Cooper Union School of Art, NYC	1991-present
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Education:

MFA, Milton Avery School of the Arts, Bard College	1993
Whitney Independent Study Program	1988-89
BA, Wesleyan University (Middletown, CT)	1984

Selected Filmography:

Home Avenue (1989, 17 min., avail. on 16mm, s-8, and video. color/sound. Original format: s-8. Distributed by Women Make Movies, Drift Distribution, the Parabola Arts Foundation, and the London Filmmakers Cooperative)

Festivals: NY Lesbian & Gay Experimental Film Festival (premier); S.F. Art Institute International Film Festival (winner, service prize); Conspiracies (NYC); L.A. Lesbian & Gay Film Festival; New Orleans Lesbian & Gay Film Festival.

Purchases: Whitney Independent Study Program; Barnard College, US Navy; YYY Gallery (Toronto)

Screenings (selected): "Independent Focus," WNET (NYC); "The Livingroom Festival," KQED (San Francisco); Whitney Museum; S.F. Cinematheque; Pacific Film Archives; "The Women's Health Show" at A.I.R. Gallery (NYC); Massachusetts College of Art; Collective for Living Cinema, Walker Art Museum; Visual Studies Workshop (Rochester, NY); Princeton University; Columbia University; Harvard University; Yale University, Hampshire College (Amherst, MA); Hallwalls (Buffalo); ICA (Boston); London Filmmakers Cooperative; "Reel Time" at PS 122 (NYC); Gallery Puskinskaya (St. Petersburg, Russia)

Age 12: Love With a Little L (1990, 22 min., avail. on 16mm, s-8, and video. color/sound. Original format: s-8. Distributed by Women Make Movies)

Festivals: NY Lesbian & Gay Experimental Film Festival (premier); Melbourne Film Festival; New Orleans Lesbian & Gay Film Festival; Frameline (S.F., CA); Women Make Movies 20th Anniversary Tour.

Purchases: YYY Gallery (Toronto); Massachusetts College of Art.

Screenings (selected): Whitney Museum; Scratch Cinema (Paris, France); Collective For Living Cinema; Visual Studies Workshop (Rochester, NY); San Francisco Cinematheque; Pacific Film Archives; "Super-8 Masters" at Anthology Film Archives; Pleasure Dome (Toronto); Hampshire college (Amherst, MA); Hallwalls (Buffalo); Johns Hopkins University; Princeton University; University of Rhode Island; "Body Holdout" at Webbo Gaallery (NYC); ICA (Boston); Rutgers University; Film in the Cities (St. Paul, MN); Columbia University

I, a Lamb (1992, 19 min., avail. on s-8 or video. color/sound. Orig. format: s-8.)

Festivals: Montreal Women's Film Festival; NY Lesbian & Gay Experimental Film Festival (premier); L.A. Lesbian & Gay Film Festival.

Screenings: Pleasure Dome (Toronto); Film in the Cities (St. Paul, MN); Pacific Film Archives; "Reel Time" at PS 122 (NYC); Pinhole Cinema Project (Seattle); Segue Foundation (NYC); Bard College (Annandale, NY); Hampshire College (Amherst, MA); Columbia University; Massachusetts College of Art.

Poet in the Ring (1994, 35 min., video)

Festivals: The New Festival

Screenings: 4 Walls (Brooklyn, NY); PS 122 (NYC)