

ENCORE SCREENING ADDED FOR DOCUMENTARY ON GROUND-BREAKING TRANSSEXUAL MOUNTAIN BIKE CHAMPION

***100% Woman*, Montréal World Film Festival**

Thursday Sept. 2, 2004 – 11:20 am, Cinéma Parisien 1 (replacing *Broken Mind*)

“I never set out to change the world or anything. I just want to race a bike.”

- Michelle Dumaresq

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Montreal, PQ – Aug. 30, 2004 – Michelle Dumaresq is Canada’s reigning National Champion in women’s downhill mountain biking. But for her first 20 years, Michelle was Michael. In 2002, Michelle became the first openly transgendered athlete to be named to a national team in any sport. As the first transsexual ever to represent her country in international competition, Michelle set a precedent which likely influenced the IOC’s decision in May of this year to open the door to transsexual athletes - starting with this summer’s Olympic Games in Athens.

Michelle may have been the first, but she certainly won’t be the last.

100% Woman documents Michelle’s history-making and controversial foray into international women’s competition, and explores the thorny question raised by transgendered athletes. Since the world of sports is one of the few gender-segregated arenas left in our society, it poses a unique dilemma when the demand for equal rights runs up against charges of unfair advantage.

Shot over 2 years, the hour-long film follows Michelle from her first local race - where angry competitors immediately protest her win - to the World Championships in Kaprun, Austria and the glare of the international media spotlight. Along the way, this smart and fast-paced documentary examines the fundamental conundrum posed by transsexuals, who in enlisting medical science to overrule biological destiny throw the very idea of defining ‘womanhood’ into question.

The first feature-length film for director Karen Duthie - herself an avid mountain biker and former racer – ***100% Woman*** combines vérité scenes from the race course with interviews, super8 home movie footage and adrenaline-charged mountain bike photography to create a deeply moving examination of an important and timely question.

“While making this film, I was continually inspired by Michelle’s positive spirit, courage and persistence in the face of tremendous adversity, both on and off the race course – whether it was losing friends or dealing with the invasion of her personal life by the media,” said director Karen Duthie. “I think it was these same qualities, coupled with her sense of humour, that got her through the transitioning process in the first place, and which ultimately make her a great role model, not just for other trans folks, but for anyone facing challenges in their life.”

100% Woman is directed by Karen Duthie; written by Karen Duthie and Diana Wilson; produced by Diana Wilson; and Executive Produced by Cari Green and Harry Sutherland. The documentary is produced by Artemis Dreams Productions and Producers on Davie Pictures, with the participation of the Canadian Television Fund created by the Government of Canada and the Canadian cable industry, Telefilm Canada: Equity Investment Program and CTF: Licence Fee Program. Produced and developed in Association with Documentary Channel. Produced in Association with Life Network Inc. Produced with the Participation of the Province of British Columbia, Film Incentive BC; The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit; and CanWest Western Independent Producers Fund. Developed with the participation of British Columbia Film, Television and Film Financing Program; and the Canadian Independent Film and Video Fund. Produced with the assistance of the TELUS New Media and Broadcast Fund; and the Cineworks Independent Filmmakers Society.

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