



JENNIFER FOX

Producer/Director/Cinematographer

Zohe Film Productions

116 Franklin Street, New York, NY 10013

Zohefilms@aol.com

www.zohefilms.com

www.pbs.org/lovestories

In 1980, Jennifer formed her own production company, Zohe Film Productions. She produced, wrote and directed two narrative shorts, entitled **POMELLO: ONE DAY AND A BOY** (1980), and **THE FIRST ILLUSION** (1981). She worked as an Assistant Producer and Writer for the nationally syndicated television program, *PM Magazine* and on the production of several shorts for WNET's *Sesame Street*. In 1987, Fox produced, directed and wrote the internationally acclaimed, award-winning feature documentary, **BEIRUT: The Last Home Movie**. The film provided a portrait of the last days of an aristocratic family living in war torn Beirut, Lebanon in 1981. **BEIRUT** was released theatrically in seven countries and televised in seventeen countries worldwide, including an American broadcast as a *Frontline Special* in 1991. Invited to over twenty of the most prestigious documentary film festivals world-wide, it won seven international awards, including Best Film of the Year and Best Cinematography, Sundance Film Festival (1988), Grand Prize Best Film, Cinema Du Reel, Paris (1989), The Young Forum Selection, Berlin Film Festival (1989), and Golden Gate Award, San Francisco Film Festival (1989). **BEIRUT** is often used in film theory and criticism classes in film schools around the world, as well as in history and Middle East studies courses. **BEIRUT** was available for educational and commercial home video in December of 1991 on Esseday Video and is now distributed by Women Make Movies.

In 1989, Jennifer was hired as a director and cinematographer to spend a year and a half videotaping the world tour of the Tibetan Buddhist Lama, Namkhai Norbu Rimpoche with his close friend and Nobel Prize Laureate, His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The footage is currently part of an extensive Buddhist archive in Archidoso, Italy.

In 1992, Jennifer began to produce, direct, and photograph the groundbreaking ten-hour documentary series, **AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY**, which aired nationally on PBS September 12-16, 1999. The series chronicles two years in the life of the Wilson-Sims, an interracial family living in Queens, New York. Jennifer shot more than a thousand hours of footage of the family during seven years, making **AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY** one of the most comprehensive and profound portraits of one family ever produced. **AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY** was screened to critical acclaim at the 1999 Sundance, Berlin, and Edinburgh Film Festivals (as well as others), and at the Film Forum in New York City. The screening of a television series of this magnitude is unprecedented in the history of Sundance and rare among other festivals. A shorter

five-and-a-half hour version aired internationally on the BBC in the fall of 1999 and on ARTE (in France and Germany) in February of 2000 to extraordinary press. The series has also aired in Israel, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Canada. A soundtrack CD featuring original music created for the series by Marcus Miller and Bill Sims was produced by PBS Records and distributed by Warner Brothers, the home video was distributed by New Video Group, and an interactive web site to accompany the series was developed by Web Lab and Zohe Film Productions, in association with PBS Online.

Jennifer is currently directing two new films of her own. The first is a feature co-production with Dutch television about a modern Tibetan Buddhist master called **LEARNING TO SWIM**. Principle photography has been completed on **LEARNING TO SWIM** and editing will begin next year. Meanwhile, Jennifer is in the final phases of post production on the groundbreaking six part series called **FLYING: Confessions of a Free Woman**. **FLYING** is the first time Jennifer has turned the camera on herself as she chronicles her own life and the lives of other women around the world. The series is being co-produced with Claus Ladegaard of Easy Films, a Danish production company, and has been funded to date by the Danish Film Institute, Danish TV, BBC, ARTE, SBS Australia, Finish TV, Swedish TV and HBO. For **FLYING**, Jennifer received a prestigious CREATIVE CAPITAL artist grant. The series has just been selected to have its European premiere as a Special Event at IDFA 2006 in Amsterdam. It will have its theatrical premiere in New York at the FILM FORUM in July 2007.

Jennifer's other credits include Executive Producing **ON THE ROPES**, a feature-length documentary produced, directed, and photographed by Nanette Burstein and Brett Morgen. The film examines the lives of three boxers at Brooklyn's Bed-Stuy Boxing Center. At its premiere at the 1999 Sundance Film Festival, **ON THE ROPES** was awarded a Special Jury Award. It went on to win the Best Feature Documentary of the Year award at the IDA 1999, Best Documentary at Urban World Film Festival 1999, the Golden Gate Award in San Francisco 1999, and an honorable mention at the Amsterdam Documentary Festival 1999. The film is funded by Fox Lorber and TLC and has been released theatrically in fifty markets. It was broadcast in April of 2000 on The Learning Channel.

Jennifer also Executive Produced the two and a half hour film for PBS that chronicles twelve years in the life of four generations of one African American family on welfare, titled **LOVE AND DIANE** by Jennifer Dworkin. **LOVE AND DIANE** was funded by ITVS and co-produced by ARTE with a pre-sale to the BBC. It recently won the Golden Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival 2002, the Independent Spirit *Truer Than Fiction* award, and was one of the rare documentaries invited to the prestigious New York Film Festival last year and screened at Sundance 2003. The film also won Grand Prize at the One World Festival, Prague and opened theatrically in New York at the Film Forum in 2003.

She also Executive Produced two other films. The first entitled **DOUBLE EXPOSURE**, Kit-Yin Snyder's half hour art documentary that explores the personal journey of a traditional Chinese artist in the modern world. Kit Yin received a Jerome Foundation grant to complete the film and her film premiered at the 2003 Tribeca Film Festival. **DOUBLE EXPOSURE** premiered on PBS's Independent Lens in 2003. The second film, **ABSOLUTELY SAFE?** is a personal investigative film about breast implants and the Dow Corning and Mentor Corporations that manufacture them, by Carol Ciancutti. **ABSOLUTELY SAFE?** received an ITVS grant and is currently being finished for broadcast on PBS.

Jennifer has consulted on numerous documentary film projects in all phases of production and distribution over the last ten years. Most recently, she consulted on the 2001 Sundance Grand Prize Award winner, **SOUTHERN COMFORT**, by Kate Davis, and the 2002 Slamdance Grand Prize Winner **STONE READER** by Mark Markowitz.

Jennifer has lectured about documentary filmmaking in numerous festivals and universities in both Europe and America. She has also given Master Classes on documentary filmmaking around the globe. She was sent by the United States Information Service to give seminars on independent filmmaking in Pakistan and India. Jennifer has taught filmmaking for over ten years at New York University's School of Film and Television and Film Video Arts in New York. She was the 2000/2001 Artist Mentor in Residence at F.V.A., where she mentored three filmmakers, in a program funded by the Jerome Foundation. She previously taught at The School of Visual Arts for two years. She has recently completed the feature length screenplay, **LILA: A FAIRY TALE**.

In 2001, she was part of an international team consulting with filmmakers in South Africa on a collection of 35 films on HIV and AIDS, called **STEPS FOR THE FUTURE**, produced by Don Edkins and Executive Produced by Iikka Vehkalahati at the Finnish Broadcasting Company. For **STEPS**, Jennifer made five trips to South Africa and was part of the development and execution of the project. The entire **STEPS** series won a special award at the 2001 Amsterdam Film Festival and another award at the 2002 Banff Festival. Jennifer has recently been hired by the Maurits Binger Institute in the Netherlands to develop a unique training program in South Africa to run concurrently with the production of 13 films for South African Television. This new television series called **PROJECT 10:Real Stories from a Free South Africa** is a collection of intimate, personal stories from the new South Africa about the last ten years of freedom. Jennifer spent the first few months of 2003 working with a group of local young filmmakers, mentoring them from initial training through post-production. Jennifer is one of the Executive Producers of the series and developed the yearlong training program and ran several workshops in SA throughout the year. The project launched in 2004 by being invited to the Sundance Film Festival and the Berlin Film Festival.

Jennifer was invited to be a US Shop Steward at both the 2001 and 2002 Inputs (the International Public Television Conference) in South Africa and Rotterdam respectively.

There she was part of an international selection committee as well as one of the leaders presenting programs from around the world both years. Jennifer is one of three filmmakers featured in the film, **THE HECK WITH HOLLYWOOD!**, a portrait of the trials and tribulations of independent filmmaking in America. She is also a featured documentary filmmaker in the Canadian film about the history of the cinema verite movement called **CINEMA VERITE, DEFINING THE MOMENT** by Peter Wintonick.