

# PRIVATE PRACTICES: THE STORY OF A SEX SURROGATE

## AWARDS

BEST DOCUMENTARY, USA Film Festival

BEST DOCUMENTARY, Atlanta Film Festival

FINALIST, American Film and Video Festival

## CRITIC'S QUOTES

"Controversial and startling, a documentary with real power"  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"A combination of frankness and sensitivity, with moments of heroic honesty"  
LOS ANGELES WEEKLY

"A startling and rare portrayal of human vulnerability"  
NEW YORK POST

"Provocative and fascinating"  
NEWSDAY

"Investigative journalism at its best"  
TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL

"Sensational"  
VILLAGE VOICE

"PRIVATE PRACTICES: THE STORY OF A SEX SURROGATE"

"Private Practices" is a remarkable new documentary about a radical new form of sex therapy. The psychiatrists and psychologists who practice this therapy arrange for their clients to work with a substitute sexual partner, known as a sex surrogate. The client and surrogate go through a sex therapy course together, seeing each other once a week for three months to a year. Beginning with a hand caress, each weekly exercise become progressively more intimate, until the two become lovers.

The film examines all aspects of this controversial new therapy, focusing particularly on Maureen Sullivan, the country's most well known surrogate, and two of her clients, Christopher and John. With the consent of their therapists, Maureen, Christopher, and John all agreed to be filmed, to actually allow a camera to record every moment of their therapy. "Private Practices" is the compelling and emotional story of Maureen's work with each of these men over a four month period.

Before he met Maureen, Christopher lived with an everpresent fear of women and sex. At 25, he was so shy he had never dated. John, a 45-year-old high school teacher, had never had a satisfying sexual experience in his life. Recently divorced, he too was afraid to begin dating, for fear of another sexual failure.

Using actual footage from their sex therapy session, "Private Practices" profiles Christopher's struggle to overcome his fear, and John's attempt to forge new ways of relating to women. Week by week, Maureen helps these men, offering them everything from emotional counseling to sexual instruction to advice on dating.

Their progress comes in fits and starts. Christopher is so shy at first that he can barely bring himself to touch Maureen. John, on the other hand, is a good learner, almost too good. Six weeks into therapy he confesses to Maureen that he is falling in love with her. Maureen's work is complex, full of demands from not only her clients. On one occasion, her father intimates that she is a hooker, and the interaction that follows reveals Maureen's painful childhood.

Throughout the show, there are moments which are sensual, sometimes erotic. All sensual and sexual interaction has been portrayed with taste and sensitivity. "Private Practices" not only examines the life and work of a sex surrogate, it goes deeper into human sexual behaviour than any documentary has ever gone before.

## PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

The International Professional Surrogate Association (IPSA) is the only recognized organization of sex surrogates in this country. IPSA is in full support of this documentary and has cooperated extensively in its production. In addition, two clinics and 14 sex therapists have assisted this production. They are as follows:

### CLINICS

The Center for Sensory and Social Learning  
The Center for Marital and Sexual Studies

### SEX THERAPISTS

Dr. Ruth McConnell  
Dr. Barry Reynolds  
Dr. David Johnston  
Dr. William Hartman  
Dr. Jack Spund  
Dr. Paul Tobias  
Dr. Ernest Bruni  
Marilyn Fithian  
Warren Jason  
Michael Freeny  
Barbara Roberts  
Diane Dunlap  
Jim Turk  
Don Bing

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Producer/Director	Kirby Dick
Camera	Christine Burrill Catherine Coulson
Sound	Alan Barker David Brownlow
Associate Producer	Barbara Zheutlin
Video Technicians	John Jebb Alan Barker
Production Associate	Deborah Roetman
Additional Assistance	Uri Raicon Tom Tyson Lore Seligman Dwight Adair Kathy Zheutlin
Production Assistants	Mark Sirinsky Barbara Bloom Tommie Smith
Technical Consultant	Christopher Gray
Interviewers	Catherine Coulson Kirby Dick
Editors	Lois Freeman Kirby Dick
Assistant Editor	Linda Tadic
Post Production Consultant	Patrick Gregston
Re-Recording Mix	Charle Thompson
Narration	Noreen Hennesey
Titles	Rita Valencia