

# Searching For G

the truth is coming

## **NARRATIVE SUMMARY**

*Searching for G* is a feature documentary that examines the greatest sexual discovery of the 20<sup>th</sup> century: The G Spot. Is this every woman's "magic button" for outrageous orgasms or is it a lucrative con run on an unsuspecting population? No one knows.

While some studies suggest that an overwhelming majority of North American women believe in this "Holy Grail of female sexuality," research has also shown that somewhere between 5% and 15% of American women has never had an orgasm. A multi-million dollar industry of books, videos, toys and other products has sprung up to help these women locate and connect with their G Spots.

The catch is that science has not endorsed the existence of the G Spot. Most doctors and researchers believe it is an unproven hypothesis at best. At worst, the G Spot represents a fundamental but lucrative misunderstanding about female anatomy. Science offers few answers, as this topic draws neither prestige nor funding. While everyone can agree that we need more information, few are actively seeking it. This void exposes the uncomfortable fact that women's health and their sexuality remain second-rate subjects of intellectual inquiry.

In the absence of an unequivocal answer, *Searching for G* turns to a broad array of characters, including, gynecologists, porn stars, feminists, professors, and journalists, as well as experts on masturbation, female sexual response and female ejaculation. All of them are invested one way or another in the idea of the G Spot; these individuals support their opinions with different methods, verbiage and evidence, in the process revealing their own biases.

## **STATUS OF PROJECT**

The work-in-progress cut was drawn from 40+ hours of footage, shot over the last two years. It touches on several main characters and themes of the feature film, including: the prevalence of the G Spot, the lack of scientific evidence for its existence, the roles of commercialism and pornography in sustaining this idea, personal testimony from G Spot enthusiasts and detractors, and how ignorant many women are of their own bodies and sexuality. We have attended events such as a "G Shot" party and the set of a squirting pornographic video.

Beyond the overarching question of whether the G Spot exists, this film will further examine sex in the 21<sup>st</sup> century from many different perspectives: Are women having more orgasms than ever before? Does the average American female know more about her sexual anatomy than she would have twenty years ago? Is pornography dictating how the Internet generation will have sex? Or are other commercial enterprises directing our culture's sexual destiny? Would society be keen on (or condone!) the scientific analysis of the human female's sexual apparatus? Is such a study even possible?

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Further production plans include:

1. A thorough exposition of the history of the G Spot, from Aristotle to present day, using animation for comedic and educational impact, archival footage (especially of the early 80's sensational coverage of the book, The G Spot) as well as historical images and testimonies to fact-check common G Spot assertions.
2. A verite-style shoot of a sonogram-based G Spot experiment that has already garnered international media attention and will continue through 2009 at the University of Aquila in Italy.
3. Personal stories of several "everyday" pre-orgasmic women searching for sexual satisfaction, including scenes of workshops, surgeries, tutorials, etc.
4. An "Axel Braun Female Ejaculation Symposium," in which Axel presents his technique (which earned him \$2 million worth of insurance on his expert hands) and makes any and every female volunteer squirt.
5. A short, fictional comedic film to act as an interstitial element and narrative device exposing intimacies that are impossible to capture in documentary.
6. Further coverage of the sex toy industry, especially the urban, female-friendly sex boutiques (e.g. Good Vibrations, Toyland, Come As You Are, etc.) that are largely owned and operated by bi/trans/homosexual women.

## **KEY PERSONNEL**

### **Liz Topp – DIRECTOR**

Writer/Director Liz Topp is a freelance writer in New York. She has written for magazines like *Maxim* and *Shape*. She is the co-author, with her OB GYN mom, of VAGINAS: An Owner's Manual (Thunder's Mouth Press, 2004), which received rave reviews from diverse periodicals, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Marie Claire*, and *Bust*. The book is published in eleven countries on five continents. The duo's next book, The Stress-Free Pregnancy Guide, will be out in August, 2008. Liz developed and taught the women's health class *VaginaLiteracy* for local high schools, and continues to speak at events and universities around the country. Liz is a graduate of Harvard College and The Dalton School, and she is currently pursuing an MFA at Columbia University. *Searching for G* is Liz's first film.

### **Sabrina Tubio-Cid – PRODUCER**

Sabrina Tubio-Cid made her first film at the age of 14 while attending Saint Ann's school in Brooklyn, NY and has been working in the industry ever since. While still in school, she studied the business of film and video production, distribution, and exhibition from the ground up through internships and PA jobs. After receiving her BS in film production from the University of Texas at Austin, Sabrina landed a staff position with MTV's On-Air Promos Department. Since leaving her staff job, Sabrina has been a New York-based freelance producer and line producer focusing on filmmaking. Two of Sabrina's projects, the documentary film **Seamless** (2005) and the narrative feature, **The Killing of John Lennon** (2007), had theatrical releases following successful premieres at the *Tribeca Film Festival*. In addition to features, Sabrina continues to work with commercial directors and advertising agencies producing creative web programming for companies such as Nike and Nokia.

## **Karen Kourtessis – EDITOR**

Karen Kourtessis is a partner and senior editor at Crew Cuts, a renowned New York based commercial post production house. Karen is a Texas native who got her first taste of editing in the US Army. Since joining Crew Cuts in 1993, Karen has cut commercials, short films, music videos and features. While at Crew Cuts, Karen has joined forces with top directorial talents like David Shane, Bennet Miller, Andrew Zuckerman, Bennet Miller and Gary McKendry. Along the way, she nabbed an **Emmy** nomination for Pella, a **Clio** for her work on Visa, and two **London International Awards** for work on McDonalds and Black & Decker. Karen has also been part of several non-commercial successes, among them: Sony Dreams' *Flight*, *Intolerable*, and - all films directed by Alison McClane; *The Drummer*, a short film directed by Bill Block; and music video, *Amma*, directed by Aine Careys.

## **Joe Foley – DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Joe Foley has been working as a Director of Photography for over twelve years. He has shot eight feature films, one of which "Killing Time" was in competition at Sundance in 2002. The latest documentary he shot, "Anytown, USA," is presently enjoying a limited theatrical run. Joe's first feature, "Dogs: The Rise and Fall of an All-Girl-Bookie Joint", was distributed around the world, and reviewed *American Cinematographer* (as was "Killing Time."). He has shot over 40 short films and dozens of commercials and music videos. He received his Bachelors at New York University and a Masters at Columbia University. He has taught filmmaking and cinematography at Hunter University, The New School of Social Research and the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

## **Paul McCarthy - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Paul E. McCarthy has been working in the NYC film industry for over 12 years. Starting, as a camera PA on **Seinfeld** second camera unit, Paul has worked his way into the role of Director of Photography. He developed his craft as a gaffer lighting many internationally released feature films and national commercial campaigns. He has been shooting professionally for companies that include, Michael Mailer Films, Off Hollywood Studios, Funky Pumpkin, Vertigo Films, Night Agency, Matthew Modine, The Crook Brothers, The Spike Network, The Seventh Floor, The Food Network, AETN, and VH1. Paul is now shooting and directing commercials and music videos for The History Channel and The Beggars Group/Matador Records. He is also co-founder in his own production company, The Arsenal Film and Creative.

## **Roman Zeitlin – COMPOSER**

After graduating from Berklee College of Music with a degree in Film Scoring, Roman moved to New York and began a successful career in music production. He has worked with a wide variety of artists such as Zap Mama, Ingrid Michaelson, The Mingus Big Band, Robert Miller, and Fareed Haque, and composed music for numerous advertising campaigns. Recent projects include the MAC Cosmetics campaign against AIDS with Pamela Anderson, Anheuser Busch spots directed by Spike Lee as well as episodic television work with Redline Films and Fox Sports Network.

## MARKET ANALYSIS

Documentaries that do well in the marketplace have the distinguishing qualities of breaking new creative ground, exposing new truths, and/or dealing with taboo topics. *Searching for G* has all three!

### **Jesus Camp - Oscar Nominated**

**2006**

Gross: \$902K

The characters of this film tell their own stories through interview and documentary footage, without the distraction of a narrator. These characters take us into the hidden world of evangelicals, who exist inside the much larger, more familiar Christian church. In the same way, the G Spot will be illuminated and then used as a springboard for larger issues about female sexuality and sexual pleasure.

### **Super Size Me - Oscar Nominated**

**2004**

Gross: \$11.5M

This film documented a search to prove something about a ubiquitous topic, employing humor to entertain and educate. *Searching for G* will root its comedic moments in candid interviews and scenes with characters who are knowledgeable on topics that make most people blush.

### **Capturing the Friedmans – Sundance Grand Jury Winner**

**2003**

Gross: \$3.12M

This film explored a taboo subject and unresolved debate by presenting both sides of the issue through a clear lens; this film convinced you that the Friedmans were guilty, then convinced you they were innocent, guilty, innocent. *Searching for G* will present compelling evidence on both sides of this debate, convincing the audience that the G Spot exists and then dissuading them, many times over.

### **Roger and Me – Toronto International Film Festival People’s Choice Award**

**1989**

Gross: 6.71M

Michael Moore establishes himself as a public advocate for truth in this groundbreaking, essay-style film. He finds unexpected characters who relate to his larger story, and uses their personal narratives to chronicle an issue that everyone can relate to. *Searching for G* will likewise include all those with a stake in the G Spot (scientists, professors, sex toy manufacturers etc.) to tell a story about a topic even closer to the human heart: sex.

### **Sex and the City**

**2008**

Gross: \$401M

While this movie was obviously not a documentary, it proves that a female-centric topic can translate into big box office dollars worldwide.