

**RECORDING REALITY:
PORTRAITS OF SOCIETY IN NARRATIVE AND DOCUMENTARY**

*Saturday April 16th, 2005
(2PM at Tisch School of the Arts, auditorium 006)*

Through the experience of directors and cinematographers, we want to highlight elements of contemporary society as viewed in documentary and narrative films. Our panel guests will share their ideological and aesthetic views on how and why they choose to portray social issues in their films.

Where do the citizen and the filmmaker meet?

Why are certain social and political issues chosen against others to be documented today?

When does sincerity towards a documentation of reality affects the decisions of the filmmaker? Or does it affect them ever?

Is there a conceptual framework that arises from a particular issue introduced in fiction work?

GUEST SPEAKERS

Director Nicole Kassell:

Kassell is a recent graduate of NYU Tisch School's graduate film program, where her thesis film, "The Green Hour", was honored with the Warner Bros. Pictures Film Production Award and was an official selection of the 2002 Sundance Film Festival. She made her feature-directing debut with "The Woodsman", starring Kevin Bacon released in 2004. The screenplay took first prize in the 2001 Slamdance screenplay competition and the film was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival 2004.

Director, Producer and Cinematographer, Kristi Jacobson:

An award-winning independent documentary filmmaker whose body of work tackles a wide range of significant social concerns including violence against women, workers' rights, HIV and AIDS, capital punishment, and homelessness. Her work has been featured on HBO, A&E, Lifetime, ABC Television, Sundance Channel and PBS. She directed and shot "American Standoff" in 2002 ; she is currently in post-production of "Toots Shor: Bigger Than Life" about famous personality and New York City restaurant owner Shor.

Director Maryann DeLeo (Academy Award Winner, 2004)

A documentary filmmaker for the past 20 years, Maryann DeLeo has received numerous awards, including 2 National Emmy Awards, for her work in various social and international issues. Her last film "Chernobyl Heart", produced and released on HBO by Sheila Nevins, captures the effects of radiation on the children of Belarus since the nuclear accident in 1996. For "Chernobyl Heart", she received an Academy Award For Best Documentary Short Subject in 2004.

The Discussion will be moderated by NYU Graduate Film Professor of Aesthetics, Gail Segal

Gail Segal has worked in the documentary film community in New York City for 20 years, as a producer and a writer. She is also an accomplished poet and writer. She is currently developing a feature film project set in Southwest, Georgia and is committed to her long time practice of taking one photograph a day.