

Crescent Diamond No More Nice Girls

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

CAPTURING THE ENERGY OF A COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO RAISE AWARENESS AND EMPOWER WOMEN,

The Heretics gives voice to the dynamic women who were on the first-front of second-wave feminism in the 1970s. Making its world debut at MoMA in New York this past October, *The Heretics* is the first feature documentary to tell the story of second-wave feminism. The film is scheduled to screen at the Santa Barbara Film Festival on Sunday, February 7th at 1pm at Santa Barbara Museum of Art and again on Tuesday, February 9th at 10am at Victoria Hall.

“The film is really about women working

as a collective,” said Crescent Diamond, producer for the film. “The women of Heresies were propelled into their artistic careers by working together, which made them stronger.”

The opening sequence captures Director Joan Braderman as a young woman moving to New York to become a filmmaker in the early 1970s. Shortly after her arrival, she joined Heresies, a feminist art collective situated at the epicenter of the 1970s art world in lower Manhattan. Through a series of intimate interviews, the film profiles 24



Crescent Diamond

women who, like thousands of others, met in small, private groups to discuss issues relevant to women, including the launch of *HERESIES: A Feminist Publication on Art and Politics*, published from 1977 to 1993.

“One of the big questions asked by the film is why young women today don’t want to be called feminists,” said Diamond. “What I’ve discovered while

working on this film is that the movement isn’t over. We’re still in the middle of it. The young women who have seen the film have said, ‘You made this for me. I really needed to see this.’ We hope the film inspires these young women to start their own movement.”

Diamond grew up in Santa Barbara and attended Santa Barbara Junior High and Santa Barbara High School. She was active in several theatre groups including Santa Barbara Summer Stock youth theatre and the Planned Parenthood Teen Theatre

as well as drama club in high school. “There’s a strong community in Santa Barbara that is very supportive of film and the arts,” said Diamond. “The film festival is especially important, and I’ve noticed how films often come to Santa Barbara before going anywhere else.”

Diamond studied film and video at Hampshire College as a student of Braderman’s. They worked together on projects in the 1990s while Diamond was studying and again in 2003 when Diamond accompanied Braderman on a school trip to Cuba. While visiting with Braderman in 2006, Diamond was asked to participate in the making of *The Heretics*. As a producer for the film, Diamond has helped with many aspects of the film including pre-production work and fundraising as well sound recording, driving,



The Heretics, 2009. Written and directed by Joan Braderman. Produced by Crescent Diamond.

the hiring of film editors, marketing, and promotion.

“Personally, what I found changed for me while working on this film is that I wanted to become a professor,” said Diamond. “After meeting these women, I realized that the way they continue working as artists is through teaching and having the support of an academic institution. I never really thought of myself as an academic, but the film has motivated me to go to grad school.”

Diamond resides in Berkeley and is currently pursuing an MFA in Cinema from San Francisco State University. The film is dedicated, among others, to the memory of Diamond’s father, long-time Santa Barbara resident Steve Diamond, who passed away in 2006.

Tickets can be purchased through the SBIFF website at www.sbfilmfestival.org or by calling 962-8543.



Movie still from *The Heretics*, 2009.

Russ Spencer

Hana Surf Girls

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

KNOWN TO MANY AS THE “LAST HAWAIIAN PLACE”, the small

real plan and nothing more than a feeling about these two extraordinary young women, filmmaker Russ Spencer set out to turn their

Clemente and Dana Point as they strive to develop the strength and independence to strike out on their own.

Spencer met the two young women while vacationing in Hana in 2007. Every day around 3pm as school let out, Spencer noticed a group of local girls pull into the parking lot, get out their boards, and, as Spencer described, “proceed to totally dominate the peak.”

