

## *Whatever Floats Your Boat... Perspectives on Motherhood*

### Sample Feedback

“I was very impressed with the documentary. I am going to ask my library to order a copy and will be using it in the mothering course I begin teaching next week. It addresses the complexities of motherhood, female identity and womanhood. Many thanks.”

*Dr. Fiona J. Green  
Co-ordinator, Women’s and Gender Studies  
University of Winnipeg*

“This documentary does an excellent job of presenting multiple facets of the topic without advocating any one particular option. Issues addressed include societal pressures about the importance of motherhood and the need to make a personal choice that fits one’s own lifestyle and beliefs. This title is recommended for public, school, and academic collections.”

*Mary Laskowski  
University of Illinois Library  
Urbana, IL*

“This documentary is a timely, much-needed resource for any woman considering motherhood. As a 35 year-old psychotherapist specializing in women’s issues, and as a woman asking herself the same questions about motherhood, I found the stories to be extremely captivating, thought-provoking and real. This film gives women a lot to consider when contemplating motherhood and its alternatives.”

*Esther Kane, MSW, RCC  
Courtenay, B.C.*

“This is an amazing documentary. The honest and real snapshots of so many women’s diverse thoughts on some aspects of motherhood were captivating. When tragedy is part of the backdrop of choices about becoming a mother, there is added poignancy and pain. Thank you for this film and for the chance to celebrate women.”

*Juleta Severson-Baker  
Calgary, AB*

“Motherhood has been on my mind lately, so it was good timing for me to watch the documentary. I really liked it. One of the comments was something like: “either way there is sacrifice and joy.” That really spoke to me. I think that most of the influence has been that one choice is right and the other is wrong. Anyway, I really appreciated the facilitated discussion part of the DVD as well. Thanks for doing such great work.

*Crystal Olson  
Regina, SK*

“The documentary screening went REALLY well. We had a great turnout and the discussion afterwards lasted almost 2 hours! People shared their own experiences and seemed grateful to have the opportunity to do so. We had women from Canadians for Choice, as well as a woman from the Association for Research on Mothering and several other women's organizations. All in all, it was an inspiring and moving evening. I can't thank you enough for making this important and inspirational film. I look forward to many more screenings in the future.”

*Kim Sedgewick; Red Tent Sisters  
Toronto, ON*

“It was brutal in its honesty. It left us with a desire to discuss various viewpoints that were raised and did well in telling a story and inspiring discussion. It was interesting to understand why certain individuals felt certain ways due to their circumstances and personal histories.”

*Neil Gilbert; Calgary, AB*

“Thank you for the honesty you showed in your film. It really touched my heart...from the vulnerability and raw truth, to feeling your need to search for answers. For those of us who viewed the documentary that are going infertility, we have found that for us, having an endpoint/goal re: how far you will go/to what length to become a mother is a necessity for keeping our sanity. We hope that endpoint includes peace and sanity and an acceptance of our situation. Making a conscious decision to have children or not makes it an easier decision for whoever is driving the boat...the problem is when the control over the decision is made for you (infertility)!”

*Trish Chapman  
Edmonton, AB*

“Light and safe on the surface yet powerful. The issues explored ran as deep as the lake . . . as if the boat was a metaphor for scratching the surface of the motherhood issue.”

*Corrina Tuckey  
San Francisco, CA*

“During the 53 minute documentary, three themes emerge: the choice to mother, freedom/independence as a mother, and the societal expectations of mothers. If I could choose one word to summarize the entire film, it would be “ambivalence”; these women illustrate what Adrienne Rich so importantly theorized as maternal ambivalence. The dialogue is refreshingly honest, sometimes cringe-worthy and heartbreaking. The filmmakers should be commended for enabling the space to work out issues about motherhood in a culture that tends to marginalize or silence honest dialogue about these experiences. The education kit is a fabulous resource as it includes further readings, discussions and potential assignments for students.”

*As reviewed in Atlantis, Women's Studies Journal, Jan 2009*

*Jennifer Musial  
York University*