



247 centre street floor 2 nyc ny 10013
p 212.274.1989 • f 212.274.1644 • <http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/DVDpressroom>
For home media requests contact Elizabeth McKee at elizabeth@zeitgeistfilms.com

GROUNDBREAKING SEX THERAPY IN 1985: ZEITGEIST RELEASES KIRBY DICK'S CULT DOC "PRIVATE PRACTICES" ON DVD

New York (November 25, 2008) — From provocative documentarian Kirby Dick (*This Film Is Not Yet Rated*, *Derrida*, Oscar nominee *Twist of Faith*), **PRIVATE PRACTICES: THE STORY OF A SEX SURROGATE** is a fascinating look at a unique form of sex therapy that is still radical twenty years later. One of Dick's first films and winner of Best Documentary prizes at the USA and Atlanta Film Festivals in 1985, this previously hard-to-see movie **comes to DVD for the first time ever on January 27, 2009.**

In 1981, Kirby Dick approached Maureen Sullivan who was a leader in the budding field of sex surrogacy—a kind of therapy in which patients treat their sexual dysfunctions through structured physical and emotional intimacy with a surrogate partner. Dick offered to pay for the therapy of two of her clients in return for allowing him to tape their sessions, and what emerged is a disarming and compassionate look at the struggles people face in connecting with one another. Twenty-five-year-old Kipper is a virginal grad student who gets nervous just talking to a girl, let alone touching her; and John, at 45, is newly divorced and suffering from fears of sexual inadequacy. As Maureen attempts to build up their confidence, she also exposes her own doubts in this moving film that dismisses a clinical approach to sex.

* * *

"What gives the documentary its real power is not the pretty therapist at work but the abrasive confrontations—man and ex-wife, therapist and family—that leave no doubt the film is finally about love, and the absence of love." —Charles Champlin, *The Los Angeles Times*

"A sympathetic account of a sort of human frailty that is not easy to talk about, much less make a movie about." —Walter Goodman, *The New York Times*

* * *

The **first ever DVD release** of Kirby Dick's groundbreaking documentary features a brand new **director commentary** and a **new interview with sex surrogate Maureen Sullivan**, as well as English subtitles for the deaf and hearing impaired.

PRIVATE PRACTICES: THE STORY OF A SEX SURROGATE

1985 • 75 minutes • U.S. • Color • In English • 1.33:1 original theatrical aspect ratio • Not Rated
• Cat. No. Z1106 • UPC 795975110631 • SRP \$29.99

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary as one of America's preeminent independent distributors, New York-based Zeitgeist Films has built an impressively diverse catalogue of foreign, documentary and arthouse titles by such renowned directors as Todd Haynes, Jan Svankmajer, Peter Greenaway, Abbas Kiarostami, Guy Maddin, Kirby Dick, Atom Egoyan, Agnès Varda, François Ozon, Derek Jarman, Yvonne Rainer, Olivier Assayas, Philippe Garrel and the Quay Brothers. Recent releases include Oscar winner *Nowhere in Africa*; blockbuster doc *The Corporation*; dance doc hit *Ballets Russes*; Oscar nominee *Sophie Scholl—The Final Days*; Oscar nominee *My Country, My Country*; Sundance winner *Into Great Silence*; Caméra d'Or winner *Jellyfish*; and 2008 Golden Gate Award winner *Up the Yangtze*. Launched in 2001, Zeitgeist Video has released dozens of highly praised DVDs, including the recently-released remastered Two-Disc Collector's Edition of Quay Brothers shorts, entitled PHANTOM MUSEUMS; and a Four-Disc Box Set of Derek Jarman masterworks entitled GLITTERBOX, starring Oscar winner Tilda Swinton (*Michael Clayton*).