

Buoyant

A film by Julie Wyman



Documentary, 2004
28 mins, Color and B&W

CREDITS

Director/Producer: Julie Wyman
Cinematography: Rian Brown, Evie Leder,
Dan Martinico, Julie Wyman
Music: Jeremy Jacobsen. "The Lonesome Organist"



SYNOPSIS

Julie Wyman's tantalizing experimental documentary intertwines the story of the Padded Lillies, a troupe of fat synchronized swimmers, Archimedes, the Greek mathematician obsessed with floating bodies, and the inventor of the "Drystroke Swimulator" to investigate, proclaim and celebrate the fact that fat floats!

As the Padded Lillies prepare for their appearance on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," BUOYANT follows their rigorous training and strategizing as they promote their message of body-acceptance, fat-empowerment, and fitness at any size. A school-marmish voiceover moves on to tell the story of Archimedes, classical Greek mathematician, discoverer of pi, as he tackles one of his more difficult problems: how to measure the volume of an irregularly shaped object. The final vignette, performed by Wyman herself, captures the trials and tribulations of the inventor at work on the "Drystroke Swimulator" (patent pending)—a contraption designed to allow its user to swim outside of water. Giddy and irreverent, moving fluidly between color and black and white, video and film, handheld and locked-down camera styles, BUOYANT draws attention to its own surface and leaves us with the exuberant possibility of a fat body that literally and culturally rises, like cream, to the top.

FESTIVALS

- Museum of Modern Art, Premieres Series
- MOCA, La Jolla
- Mill Valley Film Festival
- Mix: New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
- Inside Out: Toronto Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Julie Wyman is a Bay-Area based award-winning filmmaker whose previous work has screened internationally and on broadcast and cable television. Her widely screened 1998 short "Enjoy" won awards and was named "one of the best films of 1998" by the San Francisco Bay Guardian. Her previous shorts "Stunt Double: Mediations on My Life with Buffy" (1999) and "I Shot My W.O.D." (1995) have played widely in gay/lesbian festival circuits. In 2000, she released "A Boy Named Sue", her first full-length documentary. Wyman holds a B.A. degree from Amherst College and an MFA from UC San Diego.