

# Tomboys! Feisty Girls and Spirited Women

A film by Julie Akeret and Christian McEwen



Documentary, 2004  
28 min, Video, Color

## CREDITS

Directors: Julie Akeret and Christian McEwen  
Editor: Tricia Reidy  
Camera: Alan Dater  
Additional Camera: Jeff Rathner and Martin Gruber  
Music: Brooks Williams



## SYNOPSIS

Are tomboys tamed once they grow up? This lively and inspiring documentary explodes that archaic myth with the stories of spirited and proud tomboys of all ages: African-American teenager Jay Gillespie; Massachusetts firefighter Tracy Driscoll, lesbian artist Nancy Brooks Brody and the inimitable political activist Doris Haddock, aka "Granny D", whose walk across America in support of campaign finance reform has gained global attention. Interviews with these feisty women are intercut with personal photographs and archival footage to celebrate tomboys of all ages. Exploring the myriad ways gender identity is constructed from a very young age, TOMBOYS! makes the connections between rebel girl and spirited women gloriously clear. With additional commentary by girls' studies pioneer Carol Gilligan, these tales of energy and enterprise are a revelation to us all.

## FESTIVALS

For the most updated list, please visit [www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com).

- San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival
- London Lesbian Film Festival, Canada
- Wingspan LGBT Film Festival, AZ
- Cine Mujer
- Fresno Reel Pride Film Festival
- Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival
- Northampton Independent Film Festival

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Julie Akeret is an independent filmmaker working in western Massachusetts. She has a BA from Columbia University in psychology. For the past twenty years, she has worked in various capacities of the film business: sound editor, assistant film editor, soundperson, cameraperson, and director and producer. Her films have won many awards, such as First Prize, USA Film Festival and Best Religion & Philosophy Program, Birmingham International Educational Film Festival. Julie lives in Leeds, Massachusetts with her husband and children.

Christian McEwen is an award-winning writer, editor, and teacher. The film TOMBOYS! is based on her anthology *Jo's Girls: Tomboy Tales of High Adventure, True Grit, and Real Life* (Beacon Press 1997). She is the editor of "The Alphabet of the Trees: A Guide to Nature Writing" (Teachers & Writers Collaborative, 2000), *Naming the Waves: Contemporary Lesbian Poetry* (Crossing Press, 1988), and, with Sue O'Sullivan, *Out the Other Side: Contemporary Lesbian Writing* (Crossing Press, 1989). Her stories, poems, and articles have appeared in *Granta*, *The American Voice*, *Teachers & Writers Magazine*, and numerous anthologies such as *Out of the Class Closet: Lesbians Speak*; and *My Mother's Daughter: Stories by Women*. She has received a Fulbright Scholarship, a Lambda Literary Award, and a Fund for Poetry Award, as well as fellowships at the Yaddo, Millay, and MacDowell Colonies, Cottages at Hedgebrook, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. She was educated at Kings College, Cambridge (England), and the University of California, Berkeley.