



ALL OF ME

a story of love,
loss and last
resorts

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY
ALEXANDRA LESCAZE



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A co-production of ITVS,
in association with
KLRU and Chicken & Egg Pictures


Executive Producer for ITVS
Sally jo Fifer

[i]NDEPENDENTLENS  **[ITVS]**

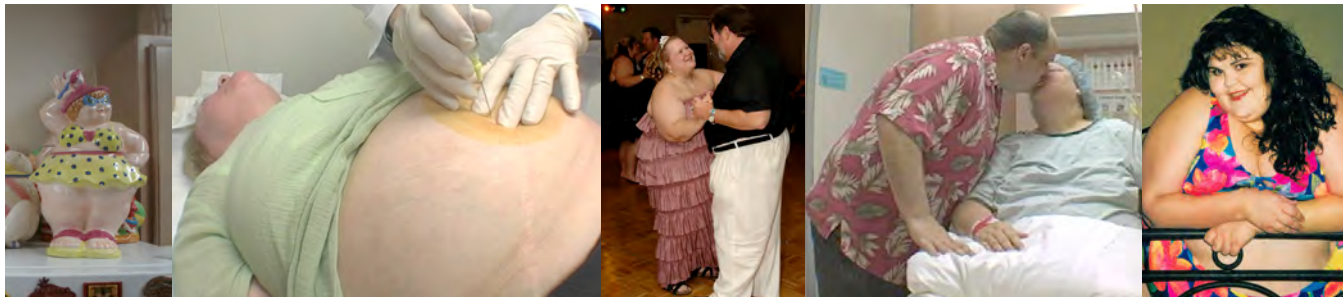
Mighty Fine Films, Inc. | USA | 2013

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Running time 76 minutes

World Premiere 2013 Los Angeles Film Festival

Texas Premiere 2013 Austin Film Festival

Sunday, October 27, 3:00 PM

Galaxy Highland Theater

Wednesday, October 30, 7:15 PM

Rollins Theatre at the Long Center

Broadcast PBS Independent Lens

2013-2014 season

Screening Format HD HDCAM | 16:9 | LT/RT

SYNOPSIS

The “Girls” have been friends—and morbidly obese—for years. Their bond goes deep and wide, literally and figuratively. They are smart, intuitive, complex, warm, and compelling and speak openly about their inner lives. The Girls met via the Austin chapter of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance and partied together among Austin’s Big Beautiful Women community. Meanwhile they tried every diet and every pill. Now they’re going through the life-changing process of weight-loss surgery in an effort to lose hundreds of pounds. The experience presents a host of issues and consequences—some they knew they were in for, some they feared, and some they never could have imagined.

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DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I started the journey of making *All Of Me* thinking about the experience of weight-loss surgery and wanting to know what it would be like to quickly—and almost magically—lose hundreds of pounds and live in a totally “new” body.

But the more people I met and stories I heard, the more I learned about the real journey of weight loss surgery—the one beyond what can be marketed as a “quick fix.” The real journey is long, difficult, disorienting, and never-ending, even for those whose surgery is “successful.”

I was fortunate to meet the “Girls,” a close-knit group of friends in Austin, Texas who had been fat all their lives and who were now choosing to have the gastric-band or gastric-bypass surgery, in essence, together. My crew (Deborah Eve Lewis – camera, and Andrew Garrison – sound) and I totally bonded with the “Girls” and they truly let us in to capture the intimate, the sweet, the ugly, and the deeply personal.

My goal was to offer a unique and thoughtful look at a community that is often vilified, the butt of the joke, or quite simply ignored in our culture.

I hope that by tapping into the rich networks already in place, *All Of Me* will provide an opportunity for all audiences to think about their own relationships to their bodies and to food, as well as open discussions about weight-loss surgery, mental health, fat-girl stigma, eating disorders, body acceptance, Health at Every Size, and the false promises of the diet industry.

I hope that by giving the “Girls” a platform in the film, they can share their stories, be heard, and pave the way for other women to come forward and share their own voices, experiences, struggles and wisdom.

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THE FILMMAKERS



Alexandra Lescaze

Director/Producer

Alexandra Lescaze is a NY-based documentary filmmaker and the Executive Director of the Sidney Hillman Foundation, home of the annual *Hillman Prizes in Journalism* and monthly *Sidney Awards*, honoring excellence in journalism in service of the common good. Her first film, *Where Do You Stand? stories from an American mill*, documented the 25-year effort of North Carolina textile workers to organize a union in the face of modernization and globalization. Her current film, *All of Me*, will air on PBS' Independent Lens series during its 2013-2014 season.



Deborah Eve Lewis

Co-producer/Director of Photography

Deborah Eve Lewis' documentary feature cinematography credits include *The Calling* (dir. Danny Alpert), *Sunshine* (dir. Karen Skloss) *Troop 1500* (dir. Ellen Spiro), *Last Man Standing* (dir. Paul Stekler) and *Writ Writer* (dir. Susanne Mason). She's done additional cinematography for *Casino Jack and the United States of Money* and *Better this World*. Her narrative feature credits include the award-winning films *The Slow Business of Going* (Athina Rachel Tsangari) and *Afraid of Everything* (David Barker). She also shot the production stills on Robert Altman's *Secret Honor*. Deb serves as an adjunct lecturer in filmmaking and cinematography at the University of Texas at Austin where she recently created the Cinema Laboratory. Deb is also a founding member of the public art collaborative Legge Lewis Legge.

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"THE GIRLS"



DAWN

"The highest weight I've been at is probably about 415. It was so hard for me to go from point A to point B. The big threat was, if you don't get the weight off, you're definitely going to be in a scooter, and for me, at my age, and what I still want to do in life, it was way way too challenging for me to *not* do something."



JUDY

"One thing that's always pissed me off is that our society tends to see being overweight as a character flaw. No, we all have problems that we have to deal with. Unfortunately, mine's just more visible than anybody else's."



ZSALYNN

"Men who like fat girls, they like fat girls. They don't want a skinny girl. When it comes to my husband, I'm at a loss. There's a big fetish within the community where men like fat women to sit on them. Just sit on them and bounce on them, and probably try and hurt them."

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CREDITS

Director/Producer Alexandra Lescaze
Co-Producer Deborah Eve Lewis
Director of Photography Deborah Eve Lewis
Editor Sarah Devorkin
Sound Andrew Garrison
Co-Editor Jennifer Fineran
Associate Producers Karen Bernstein
Sarah Devorkin
Additional Editing Provided by The Edit Center and
Annie Bernstein, Ben Cawiezell,
Abigail Fuller, Rachel Kenaston,
David Lim, Josh Melrod, Meghan Olsen,
Emiliano Pinto, Nina Sacharow,
Ronnie Sandahl, Zaida Souissi,
Cathy Trentalancia, Kate Walker
Assistant Editors Betsy Kagan
Stephanie Schweitzer
Original Score Gregory Talenfeld & Melanie Rock
Additional music by Scott Anderson
Graphics Eve Tarlo
Post Production Facility Glue Editing & Design, NYC
Online Editor/Colorist Steve Pequignot
Post Production Assistant Jordan Thompson-DeSon
Re-recording Mixer John M. Davis
Music Clearance Coordinator Ilyse Wolfe Tretter, Esq.
Bookkeeping Debi Zelko
Legal Steven C. Schechter
Sales The Film Sales Company
Outreach Nancy Schwartzman
Melissa Campbell
Executive Producer for ITVS Sally Jo Fifer



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Susan Wilmink & Thomas Schneck
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and other individuals

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Center for Independent Documentary

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Incubating and Hatching — all at once.

In Association with Chicken & Egg Pictures
Julia Parker Benello, Wendy Ettinger and
Judith Helfand

