

SEX: FEMALE

A new documentary film

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mirian Arias/Oxygen
212-651-9391
Louis Alvarez or Andrew Kolker
212-630-9971

OXYGEN TO BROADCAST HILARIOUS AND POIGNANT LOOK AT FEMALE SEXUALITY BY AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKERS LOUIS ALVAREZ AND ANDREW KOLKER

What's on the mind of the woman next door when it comes to sex? Two award-winning filmmakers set out to find out, and came up with ***SEX:FEMALE***, a new documentary that will receive its broadcast premiere on the Oxygen channel on **Saturday, June 21 at 10:00 pm Eastern time.**

Noted public TV documentarians Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker turned their attention to sex after having looked at such important topics as social class (PEOPLE LIKE US), motherhood (MOMS), and politics (Peabody Award-winner VOTE FOR ME). This new film marks the first time they have collaborated with Oxygen, the women's cable channel.

"We wanted to make a candid film about real people's sexuality," Alvarez said, "featuring people who might not be the 25-year-old hardbodies you usually see on these kinds of programs. And we wanted it to be funny and not take itself too seriously." The result is a 90-minute special that is a real-life *Sex in the City*, starring four dozen women from around the country who share some of their most intimate secrets with viewers with surprising lack of self-consciousness. Topics include first-time sexual experiences, clumsy lovers, oral sex, and achieving orgasm. But mixed in with the fun are some serious considerations of body image as well as the decline of sexual attraction among long-time couples.

Alvarez and Kolker consciously sought out women who had never been interviewed on television, were not sex-industry professionals or counselors, and who were representative of the general population. The women in the ***Sex:Female*** come from a wide range of ages, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and physical types. As co-producer Andrew Kolker says, "we want the audience to see themselves and their experiences reflected by the women in the film." */over/*

Sex: Female consists of free-spirited discussions around particular topics – everything from “How I Learned About Sex” to cheating spouses to frequency of lovemaking. One woman tells her friends “I wouldn’t touch a penis if you paid me!” A sexy single mother says “when I do need sex, I get the man out of the drawer. He’s not going to complain, he’s not going to give me any trouble. He’s just going to do his job, wash off, and then get back in the drawer.” A long-married couple compare notes on why sex has completely vanished from their lives, despite their efforts to spice it up with such things as edible panties. An older woman reminisces about a romantic sexual interlude in her life with a man who didn’t speak English.

These free-for-all discussions are mixed with some close-up portraits of several women. Among these are

- Linda, a young mother who got pregnant the first time she had sex and has never really been able to enjoy lovemaking. “It’s like paying the bills when I give in to my husband – I’m good for another two or three weeks after that.”
- Simone, an energetic seventeen-year old who is totally enamored of being a lesbian but confesses to feeling that “the logistics of performing oral sex on a woman are hellish”;
- Casey and Amanda, two New York City teenagers with sex on the brain who share stories of their old-beyond-their-years sexual encounters and pass along tips on how to dress seductively: “I’ll wear a bra two sizes too small so my breasts will look bigger”.

Sex: Female ends with a discussion featuring four couples – three married and one lesbian pair – who have seen their sexual passion recede over the years. It’s a poignant and provocative conclusion to the film, and a refreshing reality check to a lot of the gauzy views of sexuality presented in American media.

Sex: Female was produced and directed by Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker, who have long been known for their ability to treat important topics with an appealing blend of humor, poignancy, and toughness. The team has won all the major American television awards, including two Peabodys and two DuPont-Columbias, for such work as *Vote for Me -- Politics in America*, *American Tongues*, and *Louisiana Boys -- Raised on Politics*. Their most recent film was the two-hour PBS special *People Like Us: Social Class in America*, the first American film to explicitly profile the American class system. Prior to that, they created the PBS special *Moms*, a look at American motherhood.

Sex: Female received its world premiere at the South by Southwest Film Festival in Austin, Texas, in March 2003. Executive Producer for Oxygen Media was Nicolette Donen.

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