



PRESS KIT FOR TAMI TUSHIE'S TOYS

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Tami Tushie's Toys

**A short documentary directed by Melody Gilbert
(8 minutes/HD)**

LOG LINE

A typical suburban hockey Mom leads an atypical work life.

SYNOPSIS

Just as their mothers may have done, women still give parties in their homes to sell merchandise to friends and neighbors. But now, there's a new twist. Tami Tushie, a Minnesota hockey Mom, happily dishes out spaghetti by day, but at night she is doing something she never thought she'd do.

BACKGROUND/DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Tami Tushie's Toys was made as part of the International Documentary Challenge, a timed filmmaking competition where filmmakers have 5 days to make a short non-fiction film (4-7 minutes). Director Melody Gilbert assembled a team of 15 people who agreed to enter the competition with her. They called themselves the "Minnesota Docclubbers." They all agreed to give up their normal lives for a long weekend of intense production.

The morning the competition began, the producer received an e-mail informing us of the genre (character study) and theme (dreams and nightmares) that must to be included in the film. We immediately called Tami, who had agreed to be on stand by, and told her we were on our way. By 10 am, we were out the door with a crew of 4 (director, producer, cameraman and production assistant) while the rest of the crew waited back at the office to begin transcribing and editing. Thus began " 5 sleepless days and nights .

The next few days were a blur. We worked around the clock. Scripting. Drinking. Editing. Some people brought food and coffee. Others looked for old footage. Rough cuts were watched and re-edited and watched again. Titles were discussed. Graphics were made. Composers scored music. We ran into technical problems. Someone fixed them. Hardly anyone slept. It was all a blur.

In the end, we finally got it done. The team was exhausted, but someone managed to put the film on a flash drive. The producer rushed out the door to the post office where we had about an hour before it had to be postmarked to qualify for the competition.

A few weeks later, we heard that *Tami Tushie's Toys* was selected as one of 12 finalists for best film out of 130 submissions from around the world. The film premiered at the Hot Docs International Documentary Festival in Toronto and, through online voting, it won the audience award. Would we do it again? Maybe.

SCREENINGS

World Premiere: Hot Docs International Documentary Festival, Toronto

Additional festivals: Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival, Free Range Film Festival, Big Water Film Festival, Big Sky Film Festival

AWARDS

Audience Award, International Documentary Challenge

CREW

Director: Melody Gilbert

Producer: Kiersten Chace

Cinematographer: Adrian Danciu

Lead Editor: Emily Rumsey

Additional Editors: Melody Gilbert, Kevin McKeever

Associate Producers: Angela Andrist, Amira Cohen, Emily Rumsey

Researcher: Glenn Strand

Transcribers: Ken Fox, Michael Joyce, Micheal Reano

Graphics: Vanessa Van Alstine

Composers: Thomas Case, Benny Weinbeck

Still Photography: Sara Rubinstein

LENGTH: 8 MINS/ SHOT ON HD



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