



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### ***Ground-breaking autobiographical film Orchids: My Intersex Adventure screens at Frameline35.***

San Franciscan audiences will be treated to a 'world first' when *Orchids: My Intersex Adventure* receives its international premiere at the Frameline35 San Francisco International Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Film Festival, the world's longest-running, largest and most widely recognized LGBT film exhibition event.

*Orchids: My Intersex Adventure*, which was voted in the most popular film at the Brisbane International Film Festival's, candidly examines, with warmth and humour, the shame and secrecy surrounding the filmmaker's intersex condition (also known as a 'hermaphrodite' or a Disorder of Sexual Development (DSD)).

"*Orchids* is arguably a 'world first' of its genre and its authorship, as it is the first professionally produced long-form documentary film made about the subject of intersex by a filmmaker who is a member of that same community," says director, producer and star of the Australian feature documentary Ms Phoebe Hart.

Ms Hart has Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS), a congenital intersex condition that can either occur spontaneously at conception or be passed down the generations. People with AIS have a typical male pattern but develop atypical reproductive organs as a result of their bodies being insensitive to male hormones.

"In my life, I have struggled with unwarranted categorization and medical interference," says Ms Hart. "I actively seek to disrupt this cataloging and meddling with as much honesty as I can muster. It's the reason why I wanted to make this film."

Renowned American sexologist Professor Milton Diamond commented on the film's core message of 'no cosmetic surgery' on children born with a DSD or ambiguous genitalia.

"Infants, when they mature, are to be afforded the right to make up their own mind as to if and what is to be done," says Professor Diamond.

Screen Queensland and Screen Australia financed the documentary, which is a JTV Doc ABC/Screen Australia initiative produced in association with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. The international sales agent for the project is First Hand Films of Switzerland and Germany and the North American distributor is Women Make Movies of New York City.



*Orchids: My Intersex Adventure* screens at 1:30pm on Saturday 25 June 2011 at the Roxie Theatre.

For more information about *Orchids: My Intersex Adventure* contact hartflicker Moving Pictures' Media Liaison Officer on +61 (0)405 143 086 or email your query to [info@hartflicker.com](mailto:info@hartflicker.com). Further information and an electronic press kit can be found at [www.orchids-themovie.com](http://www.orchids-themovie.com)

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## KEY REFERENCES

### Books

Colapinto, J. 2000. *As nature made him: The boy who was raised as a girl*. New York: HarperCollins.

Diamond, M. and H. Glenn Beh 2006. The right to be wrong: Sex and gender decisions. In *Ethics and intersex*, ed. S. E. Sytsma, 103-113. Netherlands: Springer.

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Dreger, A. 1999. *Intersex in the Age of Ethics*. Hagerstown, MD: University Publishing Group.

Eugenides, J. 2002. *Middlesex*. London Bloomsbury Publishing.

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Lee, P. A. 2006. Consensus statement on management of intersex disorders. In *Pediatrics*. 118 (2): e488-e500

Preves, S. E. 2003. *Intersex and identity: The contested self*. New Brunswick, New Jersey and London: Rutgers University Press.

### Websites

ALS Support Group (Australia) <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~aissg>

ALS Support Group (UK) <http://www.medhelp.org/www/ais/>

Intersex Society of North America (ISNA) <http://www.isna.org/>

Intersex Initiative <http://www.ipdx.org/>