

PRESS

“a landmark film” – *Martha Ackmann, The New York Times*

“fantastic” – *John Walters, Sports Illustrated*

“I’m not a movie critic, nor do I play on TV, but this [is] an important and powerful film... this film would inspire any woman to stand up for herself and be the woman she dreams of...” – *Robin Roberts, ESPN*

“a remarkable film...the triumph of the film is that it is upbeat and funny, never preachy, always entertaining... it made me grateful that my daughters, now 13 and 10, can take advantage of opportunities that girls and women who came before them in every field of endeavor have won and defended...” – *Bill Littlefield, NPR’s “Only A Game”*

“If you are a boy or man, and think Title IX was unnecessary, check out this film. If you are a girl or woman, and believe enforcing Title IX was a polite tea party, see this movie...” – *Jay Weiner, The Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“powerful” – *Barbara Huebner, The Boston Globe*

“By turns hilarious, poignant and duly serious... a well-made portrait of a woman whose experience serves to remind us that it isn’t necessarily just making the boat go fast (and Chris Ernst certainly did her share of that), but that rocking it to keep everybody awake is one of the truer definitions of ‘heroism.’” – *Oli Rosenblatt, row2k.com*

“You are a *&@#\$ genius. I can’t wait for my 10 and 12 year olds to see it.” – *Jim Braude, anchor for NewsNight (NECN)*

“a must see” – *Sports Illustrated for Women*

“inspirational” – *TV Guide*

“When Mary Mazzio decided to make a career shift from corporate lawyer to independent filmmaker, her goal was to produce movies about remarkable women... Certainly her first film, ‘A Hero for Daisy’... amply meets that objective.” – *Ken Gewertz, Harvard University Gazette*

“The demonstration [of the Yale women] took on a whole new life in 1999, when the documentary ‘A Hero For Daisy’ came out. Made by Olympic rower Mary Mazzio, it’s a delightful film — dedicated to her young daughter, Daisy — that chronicles the Yale demonstration and celebrates Ernst. (The film contains stirring footage of Ernst and C.B. Sands winning the 1986 world championship in lightweight doubles; their coach was Anne Warner.) Among the people interviewed for the documentary was Senator (and 1966 Yale graduate) John Kerry, who at one point calls Ernst the Rosa Parks of Title IX.” – *Steve Wulf, ESPN The Magazine*

“‘A Hero for Daisy’ tells the story of co-education in Yale Athletics” – *Phoebe Liu, Yale Daily News*

“dynamic...inspiring and engaging. Mazzio’s brilliant direction counterpoints principle with humor, preserving honesty and sensitivity to all participants in this struggle...” – *DVD-Reviewers.com*

“a must see” – *Sports Illustrated for Women, CNN SI*

“Don’t be fooled by the title. *A Hero for Daisy* is not your garden-variety, smarmy, after school special. Mary Mazzio and the Last Crusade would be an apt subtitle for a film whose point of departure is Title IX. Daisy is a fast-paced and fast cut film without the crutch of official narration, but with a bulging vein of humor...” – *Joe Snapper, The Advance*

“[In 2006], I was cheering from the bleachers this week when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal law banning sex discrimination in schools and colleges also protects whistleblowers from retaliation. The court’s decision, with both women justices voting in the majority and Justice Sandra Day O’Connor writing the majority opinion, allows gym teacher Roderick Jackson to take his case over losing his job back to U.S. District Court. Before Title IX and other key anti-discrimination laws, the paramount of which is the 1964 Civil Rights Act, girls and women did not have standing and, therefore, could simply be denied opportunity at the whim of an employer or coach or any other gatekeeper with the power of privilege. If you need context for the world of women before, look up the biographies of Justices O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg or see Mary Mazzio’s documentary, ‘A Hero for Daisy.’” – *Glenda Holste, St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Mazzio never does anything halfway. Passionate, visionary, and bent on social change...” – Helen Graves, Boston Herald Women’s Business “Mary Mazzio and her rowing partner were pulling on all their reserves when they approached a bridge during the Head of the Charles regatta in Boston last October. They were stunned and energized to hear a chorus of voices cheering encouragement from the bridge overhead. It was the girls of Toledo’s St. Ursula Academy, in Boston for a rowing competition and shouting for a rower they hadn’t met but from whom they had gleaned inspiration. For two years in a row, they had won the Chris Ernst/Hero for Daisy cup for being the fastest eight-woman boat at the Head of the Cuyahoga regatta in Cleveland...” – *Tahree Lane, The Toledo Blade*

“moving” – *Wall Street Journal* editor, Karen Blumenthal (recommending *A Hero for Daisy* in her new book *Let Me Play – The Story of Title IX*)

Featured on NPR’s *The Connection*

ESPN and OXYGEN had extensive coverage of the film. Also, PURE OXYGEN featured an Olympic Special in 2000 interviewing Mazzio, along with basketball great, Rebecca Lobo.

“a tour de force...the 1976 Yale women’s crew sent a wake-up call to educational sports programs nationwide... “Daisy” is today’s periodic awakening we need to realize that ultimately, maybe men and women are equally credible, both on and off the playing field...” – *Erika Snoberger, USOlympicTeam.com*

“Gender is everything...[in] *A Hero for Daisy*, Mary Mazzio’s rousing, inspiring documentary... This film’s deserving superhero is a Yale crew legend, Chris Ernst, a live wire of willfulness, audacity, and non-conformity...” – *Gerald Peary, The Boston Phoenix (three star review)*

OXYGEN has “*A Hero for Daisy*” on its list of top movie picks, along with *National Velvet*, *A League of Their Own*, and *Love and Basketball*.

“a compelling success” – *Mark Heller, The Minnesota Daily*

“Mary C. Mazzio’s “*A Hero for Daisy*” is such a rush that it should probably have a warning label. It profiles Olympic rower Chris Ernst, who masterminded the 1976 Yale women’s crew protest against the shockingly substandard conditions in which they had to function in comparison with the men’s crew. Ernst, who went on to become a plumber, is a feisty and fascinating character. But what really propels the film is the way it intersperses, among the talking head interviewees who trace the

evolution of women's athletics since Title IX, shots of Ernst and many other women and girls in action, rowing, running, lifting weights, etc. This is a movie that never stops moving." – *Betsy Sherman, The Boston Globe*

"A Hero for Daisy" does what the best documentaries do: it allows us to enter into a unique and fascinating world. We feel privileged to hear the inside story, and once having heard it, feel elevated. The crowd at the Copley Plaza loved it. It deserves to be seen because it is beautiful and because it is true. .." – *Andy Anderson, Dr. Rowing, Independent Rowing News*

"A Hero for Daisy makes the case for equity as well as any documentary I have seen. I recommend families go see this film. It would be particularly good for mothers to see it with their daughters..." – *John Douglas, Grand Rapids Press*

"the feeling that one comes away with after watching "A Hero for Daisy" is one of pure empowerment. Even the soundtrack, guitar-driven rock (no Lilith Fair warbling here), underscores this..." – *Julie Wolf, newenglandfilm.com* (four star review)

"The very first email to arrive after I published an innocuous list of rowing movies I happen to have enjoyed bore the subject line: "Shame on You!" Reader Ginny Cummings assumed that sexism and ignorance were responsible for the omission of A Hero for Daisy from my list. Actually, I thought the movie had already received plenty of publicity. Director Mary Mazzio graciously refrained from complaining, sending me a copy of the film which of course I enjoyed." – *Alex Beam, The Boston Globe*

Featured on Stephanie Simon's report on NPR affiliate's program, "She Got Game."

"This is a movie I want all my students and their parents to see" – *Kelly Osuna, Cobre High School Teacher, as quoted in the Silver City Daily Press (New Mexico)*

"...one of the biggest hits there [Boston Museum of Fine Arts] in recent months" – *Daniel Kimmel*

"The hand-painted sign at the entrance to the boathouse at the Colby College Hume Center is a reminder of how hard the task at hand is... "Dream a little, sweat a lot." – *Travis Lazarczyk, Portland Press Herald*

"Webster's [dictionary definition of] Hero: he-ro (hir'o) n. a man of great courage, nobility, etc. or one admired for his exploits. Daisy's hero: he-ro (hir'o) n. a 5'5" lightweight female world champion rower turned plumber." – *Karen Mittelstadt, USRowing Magazine*

“A Hero for Daisy.. presented at a kinetic MTV-music video pace. The story of this unlikely heroine inspires viewers to think positively about strong women...” – *Emily Harrison Weir, Mount Holyoke Quarterly*

“How many of us have sought appropriate material to celebrate the power of “ordinary” determined women to make a serious difference in the lives of others? A Hero for Daisy does this on two levels. The film itself has as its hero, Chris Ernst... who galvanized Yale (and by so doing led other, previously all male, ivy league institutions) into finally doing something about providing adequate facilities for women. The second level of heroism is provided by the successful quest of Mary Mazzio... making this film to provide a challenging and appropriate message for her daughter, Daisy. Christ Ernst was one wonderful role model; Mary Mazzio, the life-long learner, multi-skilling herself and following through to make such a powerful film was surely another...” –*Barbara Stone, Principal, MLC School, Australia, The Alliance*

“*****” – *Calvin College* (four stars = great)

“This story focuses on these women’s inability to accept defeat... they had the motivation to fight...” – *Katie Eichhorn, Bryn Mawr College paper*

Other press coverage includes: an hour special on NECN (New England Cable News) covering the film and Title IX, coverage on ESPN, Pure Oxygen, news stories on NECN, Fox News, Channels 4 and 7, a story on Channel 5’s “Chronicle,” television coverage on the ABC and NBC affiliates in Chattanooga, TN, and radio coverage on NPR, WBUR, NPR’s “Here and Now”; NPR’s “She Got Game;” WEEI, and Minneapolis’s CBS affiliate.

The New York Times

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SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2000

Years Later, Maker of a Landmark Film Still Stands Up for Title IX

By MARTHA ACKMANN

The contrast couldn't have been more stark. At the very moment 50 women contestants paraded across television screens recently in the sleazy spectacle "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire?" 15-year-old Allison Bransfield was flexing her muscles.

Allison was not among the hordes of viewers who tuned into the "smile-strut-and-win-a-man" sideshow on Feb. 15. Instead, she was with her classmates at the Emma Willard School in Troy, N.Y., listening to the filmmaker Mary Mazzio talk about "A Hero for Daisy," her new documentary about the Yale female rowers' protest in 1976 that sparked Title IX compliance action.

Thank you for making a film about girls and muscles," Allison told Mazzio at a reception that evening. Then they posed for a snapshot — Allison, her school pals and Mazzio — shoulder to shoulder, arm muscles tensed, grinning proudly for all the world.

Mazzio, a 38-year-old former Olympic rower who is now a Boston lawyer and filmmaker, came to the Emma Willard School to screen her film, which is as much about creating healthy images for young girls as it is about gender equity in sports. The film tells the story of Chris Ernst, a two-time Olympian, who led her rowing team in a protest against Yale's lack of athletic facilities for women.

Ernst and 18 teammates silently marched

Martha Ackmann is a writer and a women's studies professor at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass.

into Yale's athletic office, read a statement, and stripped to the waist — exposing the words "Title IX," which had been drawn in blue marker on each woman's back and breasts. A New York Times reporter stood behind the women observing the event; the next day the story appeared in the paper of March 4, 1976, and set off an international reaction. A photograph of the history-making event also ran in The Yale Daily News.

Within an hour of the protest, Yale administrators recognized they had a problem. Within two weeks, the female rowers had new locker rooms. Across the country, educators snapped to attention and began viewing Title IX — which had become law four years earlier — as legislation that required compliance.

In Mazzio's film, the Massachusetts senator and Yale alumnus John Kerry talks about the protest's profound social significance. "What Chris Ernst did," Kerry said, "is nothing short of spectacular."

Ernst, who now owns a plumbing company in Brookline, Mass., is not without a sense of humor about what she's doing nearly 25 years after the Yale action. Friends, she observes in the film, have pointed out that she has gone from protesting the lack of showers to fixing them. Her Yale crewmate Jennie Kiesling, now a history professor at West Point and the Army men's varsity rowing coach, believes that Ernst is as unforgettable now as she was in 1976. "I have seen the film twice," Kiesling said. "Seeing myself on film trying to describe Chris brought home how ineffably impressive she is."

Oarswomen bare all, want March showers

Yesterday afternoon twenty women marched into the office of Joel Barnett, director of physical education, and their leader said, "Mrs. Barnett, we have something to show you."

Indeed they did. The varsity women's crew defied their sweaters and stood naked before Barnett as Captain Chris Ernst, 1976, read a statement protesting the lack of showers and changing facilities for women at the Derby Boathouse.

"On a day like today the ice freezes on this skin," the statement said. "Then we sit for half an hour on the bus as the ice melts and soak through our suits to meet the sweat that's soaking us from the inside."

"We sit for half an hour with the chills... half a dozen of us are sick now."

Last year, the University rented a trailer with four working shower heads. This year there is a new trailer with twice the capacity, but it has not been hooked up to an electric line because the athletic department did not obtain the necessary zoning variance.

Until Tuesday's special meeting of the Derby Zoning Committee, the women must do without showers.

Joel Barnett was asked in November to obtain a variance, asserted crew member Anne Warner, 1977, "and reminded in December, January, and February. And still there is no variance."

The crew chose Barnett as the object of their dissatisfaction, because, according to the statement, "(Barnett) is the symbol of women's athletics at Yale. They acted without the prior knowledge of their coach, Nat Can.

Athletic Department Route
Joel Barnett expressed surprise over women's crew demonstration yesterday, but her countenance was something sadder.

—continued on page ten



The Yale Daily News

To protest the lack of athletic facilities for women, 19 female rowers marched to Yale's athletic office and stripped to their waists — exposing the words "Title IX" — in 1976.

For Emma Willard's athletic director, Judy Bridges, the film brought back memories of the days before Title IX. "I remember as a girl waking up every morning just so eager to play softball and how wonderful it was when I found other girls who enjoyed the competition as much as I did," she recalled. But opportunities for girls to play were slim then. Thinking back on that time fills Bridges not so much with regret as it does, she said, "with what-ifs."

Mazzio said the film touches different generations in different ways. For women, like Bridges who remember the days before

Title IX, the documentary strikes an emotional chord. For girls, like the audience at Emma Willard — many of whom did not know exactly what Title IX represented or when it came about — the documentary is about speaking your mind, standing up and the right to be strong, physically and mentally.

"These were women who were not letting their own inhibitions or the barriers others imposed stop them from doing what they wanted to do," said Julia Kinkel, a senior at the school. "A woman is not supposed to be strong."

Creating images of strong women was the primary motivation behind Mazzio's decision to make the film. In 1998, two weeks overdue with her daughter, Daisy, Mazzio was channel-surfing at home and happened upon a Victoria's Secret commercial. The images of smiling, banal, blond and leggy women striking sexual poses to sell products was more than she could take. "What is our daughter going to see?" she recalls asking her husband. "There's nothing out there for Daisy."

Writing, producing and directing the film with a new infant at home was "an act of lunacy," Mazzio said with a laugh. The film played to sold-out audiences in Boston at the Museum of Fine Arts; fathers of daughters, Mazzio notes, have been especially vocal in recognizing the film's importance.

At the moment, "A Hero for Daisy" is without a national theatrical distributor. However, the film, in 16-millimeter format, is being shown at museums, a few independent theaters, as well as independent schools, colleges and universities that can foot the bill for its screening. Mazzio would like the film to be shown in every public high school in the country.

In the meantime, girls like Emma Willard's Naveen Shakir are glad they have seen "Daisy." Naveen waited until most of the students had filed out of a classroom and then told Mazzio how much the documentary meant to her. The film, she said, "helped me realize that if you focus on one thing, you can really develop as a person." Lately, Naveen Shakir said, she wakes up thinking about pitching.

**LAKERS
TAKE IT!**



Sports Illustrated

Si view

The Week in TV Sports • by John Walters

Highlights

SATURDAY 6/24

► Nike Prefontaine Classic

CBS 3 PM Track transients will create an Oregon trail between Eugene and Portland this weekend to watch the best U.S. running talent. The Prefontaine has this year's top two American performers in the men's 400 meters (world-record holder Michael Johnson and Derrick Brew) and mile (Jason Pyrah and Richie Boulet) plus an intriguing women's 1,500 field that includes golden girl Suzy Favor Hamilton and the legally blind Marla Runyan, respectively Nos. 2 and 3 in the U.S. On Sunday the Adidas Oregon Classic (CBS, 3 p.m.) has the best U.S. men's 110-meter hurdler, Terrance Trammell.

► McDonald's LPGA Championship

CBS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 4 PM Karrie Webb was raised in Queensland, Australia, and often used a drive-in as her driving range. Now she has turned the LPGA Tour into her own theater of the absurd, winning six tournaments last year while setting records for season earnings (\$1.59 million) and lowest average score (69.43). This year, having already won four events—including 2000's first major, the Nabisco Championship—and finished in the top 10 in five others, the Down Under Par lass enters this major threatening to set a standard for Webbed feats.

► Mike Tyson vs. Lou Savarese

SHOWTIME 9 PM (TAPE-DELAY) Considering that the headliner is Tyson (47-3, 1 NC) and that the bout is being staged in Glasgow, is it more tellingly anagrammatical to rearrange the underdog's surname as SAVE EARS or SAVE ARSE? Savarese, a 6' 5" Bronx mauler (39-3), already has been bitten during a fight—in the chest, by Nathaniel Fitch. Savarese attempted to retaliate with a kick to the groin. In a country that gave us *Trainspotting* with the character Begbie, one of cinema's alltime dirtiest fighters, these blokes should feel right at home.

SUNDAY 6/25

► A Hero for Daisy

ESPN CLASSIC 9 PM In 1976 Yale oarswoman Chris Ernst did what every rower knows not to do: She rocked the boat. Upset that women didn't have shower facilities (as the men did) in the Elis' boathouse, Ernst led the crew into the office of the director of physical education, where they shed their clothes to reveal TITLE IX emblazoned on their bare chests. One rower's bold stroke, as this fantastic feature attests, was to have a ripple effect on athletic parity. Sparingly told, the 40-minute documentary wisely excises the melodrama. The irony: Ernst, who went on to become the '86 world championships gold medalist in lightweight double sculls, is now a plumber. "I've gone from fighting for showers," she says, "to fixing them."

TV GUIDE

For details of movies on premium channels, see page 237.

9PM
10PM

Sunday

(H&G) A Man's Castle 1:00 7697670

Six celebrity homes are toured.

(H&G) Sex and the City (CC) 5:00 922 MALS

Carrie copes with her date's sexual history.

(H&G) M+1 Introducing Dorothy Dandridge (CC) 1:55 1152632 Halle Berry.

(HIS) Korean War: Fire and Ice 1:00 52

General MacArthur's attack at Inchon. 2831767

(MMX) M+1 I'll Do Anything (CC) 2:00 7852477 Nick Nolte.

(NES) Sports News 3:00 835922

(NIK) Gilligan's Island—Comedy 137090 52

(SCI) Outer Limits (CC) 1:00 1080057 52

A man (Michael O'Keefe) believes he's being pursued by aliens. Stephen Mhattie.

(SND) M+1 Chutney Popcorn 1:35 52015 Nisha Ganatra.

(TLC) Ultimate Ten 1:00 246293 52

Unexplained phenomena, including ghosts.

(TMC) M+1 At First Sight (CC) 2:00 2938274 Val Kilmer, Mira Sorvino.

(TNN) Rodeo 1:30 524583 52

(USA) Pacific Blue (CC) 1:00 403545 52

A psychic helps the team locate a serial killer.

(VH1) Behind the Music (CC) 1:00 492545 52

A profile of the Monkees.

9:30 (5) (6) (9) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (CC) 1:00 89651/87293/64477

(56) Mission Hill (CC) 1:00 670361 5201

Andy and Kevin fall for the same girl (voice of Lisa Kushnell) and begin campaigning for her attention.

(CSP) Road to the White House 2000 1:30 927729

(ENC) M+1 The Wedding Singer (CC) 1:45 7230496 Adam Sandler.

(ES2) RPM 2Night (CC) 1:00 5188038

(FMC) M+1 The Boys from Brazil 2:05 19154583

(1978) Gregory Peck and Laurence Olivier play antagonists in Ira Levin's bestseller about a doctor's plot to create a Fourth Reich.

(H&G) Arliss (CC) 1:00 453403 52

Stanley tries to cure his ailing chess game.

(H&G) Making of 'The Avengers' (CC) 1:00 5503670 52

(MTV) Real World (CC) 1:00 846361 52

(NIK) Brady Bunch—Comedy 679651

9:45 (MAX) Making of 'Practical Magic' (CC) 1:00 51992212 52

10 PM (5) (6) (9) The Practice (CC) 1:00 24748/15090/53274

Conclusion. On trial for his wife's murder, legendary attorney Raymond Oz (James Whitmore) mounts his own defense, much to the chagrin of co-counsel Bobby (Dylan McDermott). (Repeat)

(25) (56) News (CC) 1:00 71274 52

(27) Picardia Mexicana 1:00 31670

(44) Call to Witness 1:00 31670

An examination of the Lutheran Church's dealings with the gay and lesbian members of its congregation.

(64) News (CC) :35

(63) Diagnosis Murder (CC) 1:00 52

Conclusion. On death row, Dr. Sloan meets an old nemesis he suspects framed him for murder. Malcolm Trainor: Dennis Lipscomb. Chief Masters: Fred Dryer. 1522767

(A&E) M+1 The Wild One—Drama (BW) 1:30 261816 52

(1954) Marlon Brando made film history as a flamboyant hoodlum leader in this hard-hitting tale of a small town besieged by rival motorcycle gangs. Kathie: Mary Murphy. Chino: Lee Marvin. Harry: Robert Keith.

(AP) Extreme Contact—Documentary 52

(CNB) Tim Russert—Interview 1:00 8139854

(CNN) Cold War—Documentary 1:00 411564

Recalling the collapse of Communism in eastern Europe. Interviewed: Lech Walesa, George Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev.

(COM) The Man Show—Comedy 3009458

Aaron, "The Man Show" boy, is introduced.

(OSC) Grizzly Diaries—Nature 1:00 877106 52

A researcher in the Arctic wilderness studies grizzly bears.

(E) Sexy Swimsuits 1:00 499458 52

Beach fashion is surveyed.

CLOSE-UP

A HERO FOR DAISY
SUN. 9 PM (ECL)

Chris Ernst



The inspirational story of Olympian Chris Ernst is detailed in this documentary. In 1976, Ernst led her rowing team into the Yale athletic director's office to protest the lack of locker-room facilities for women. In front of a *New York Times* reporter, the women stripped and exposed the term "Title IX" on their chests and backs. Blending talks with administrators, coaches and teammates, the film shows how the action sparked Yale and then the Nation to comply with Title IX, the gender-equity law passed four years earlier. The film was written and directed by Mary Mazzio, whose intent was to provide girls, including her daughter, Daisy, with strong role models. (1:30)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1999



Sports

THE BOSTON GLOBE • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1999



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / TOM HERDE

Mary Mazzio is a lawyer, rower, and filmmaker, with her documentary on the 1976 Yale women's crew protest, which brought Title IX to the forefront.

Rowers find a hero

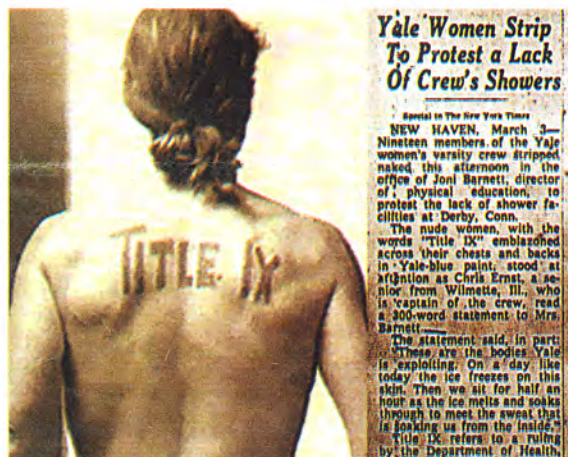
Yale protest made splash in Title IX

By Barbara Huebner
GLOBE STAFF

It's right there in the New York Times, dated March 3, 1976: "Nineteen members of the Yale women's varsity crew stripped naked this afternoon in the office of Joni Barnett, director of physical education, to protest the lack of shower facilities at Derby, Conn. The nude women, with the words 'Title IX' emblazoned across their chests and backs in Yale-blue paint, stood at attention as Chris Ernst, a senior from Wilmette, Ill., who is captain of the crew, read a 300-word statement to Mrs. Barnett."

"The statement said, in part: 'These are the bodies Yale is exploiting. On a day like today the ice freezes on this skin. Then we sit for half an hour as the ice melts and soaks through to meet the sweat that is soaking us from the inside.'"

In an article picked up by news



Left, a frame from Mazzio's film; right, the Times story from March 3, 1976.

outlets around the world, alumni read about Yale women getting pneumonia for lack of facilities. The phones in New Haven began ringing. The women got

showers, they got a classy new addition to the boathouse, and they won respect for female athletes everywhere.

Yet Mary C. Mazzio, herself a

rower, knew nothing about the Yale protest until housemate Ernst, an Olympian and 1986 world champion in lightweight doubles, told her the story in 1989 while they were both training at the Boston Rowing Center.

"I was blown away that I had never heard of it," said Mazzio, who went on to make the 1992 Olympic team and win the Head of the Charles that same year in the women's double. "One of the reasons I wanted to do a film is that it's in danger of being lost."

Thus was born "A Hero for Daisy," a punchy 42-minute documentary on the Yale protest that debuted last month at the Boston Film Festival and will be shown Friday at the West Newton Cinema as a prelude to this weekend's 35th Head of the Charles Regatta.

There were other reasons, too. Compliance with Title IX of the 1972 Education Act, which prohibits gender discrimination in programs receiving federal funds, remains an issue despite gains by women in the past 27 years. "Back then, the circumstances were so extreme, and now they're much more subtle," said Mazzio. "It's not like no

MAZZIO, Page E9

Athletes find hero in Title IX fight

■ MAZZIO

Continued from Page E1

bathrooms for the women. A number of coaches we interviewed said women have a lot more today, and because of that they accept less."

Finally, there is Daisy. Although the idea for a documentary on Ernst and the protest had been simmering for several years, ever since Mazzio did a two-minute film on her for a Boston University graduate film course, it suddenly grew urgent 20 months ago when daughter Daisy was born.

"I looked around and said, who the hell is she going to be like?" said Mazzio, 38, who lives in Wellesley. "I don't want her fretting that she doesn't look like Kate Moss or Cindy Crawford. I want her to be able to exert effort, and discover her limitations, and get out there, and get sweaty, and get dirty, and know she doesn't have to look gorgeous to have value in this society."

Ernst, now a plumber in Brookline, took months of persuading.

"She doesn't see that she did anything special," said Holly Hatton, the women's crew coach at Boston University, who has known Ernst for 20 years. "I think Chris lives her life that way, that she believes this was owed to her, and this is what it took to get it. You make your statement and you move on."

Mazzio, who used a seven-month maternity leave from the law firm of Brown, Rudnick Freed, and Gesmer, where she is a partner, to write, direct, and produce the bulk



GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / TOM HERDE

Mary Mazzio (right) rows with friend Carey "C.B." Sands-Bohrer.

of the film, calls herself blessed that Ernst eventually agreed to indulge her.

"Chris is a woman who has had a profound effect on a number of other women," said Mazzio. "She'll never admit it, and I don't even know if she knows."

Help came from many directions. Carey "C.B." Sands-Bohrer, Ernst's rowing mate and now marketing manager at Welch's, got her employer to provide major funding. A neighbor directed Mazzio to Margie Sullivan at Arnold Communications, who lined up sound mixers and an editing house. Her sister, Theresa, acted as assistant director

and bagel fetcher; her husband, Jay Manson, watched the kids and gets credit as an executive producer. The shoestring budget, said Mazzio, makes the \$50,000 tally for "The Blair Witch Project" look extravagant.

Perhaps surprisingly, the powerful film steers clear of hostility, despite forthright on-camera interviews with team members and former Yale athletic director Carmen Cozza and rowing coach Dave Vogel. To ease fears of embarrassment, Mazzio did hours of interviews before the cameras began rolling, giving everyone a chance to rehearse and retract.

"We could have easily demonized people and made it a polarizing piece, and that's not the point and it's not helpful," said Mazzio. "I really reinforced the fact that anything they said that they were not comfortable with would not go in the film. What we tried to do is create a balanced view of what life was like there."

Hatton said she got chills watching it. "I'm very excited that my athletes will get to see it, because it will be good for them to know about the women who got them where they are today. Chris and her teammates, they made an impact all over the world. They were heroes."

To more than just Daisy. As the film took shape, said Mazzio, her thinking underwent a metamorphosis. "I ended up making a film for my son, Jamie, as well," she said of the 3-year-old who wants to be a plumber when he grows up, just like Auntie Chris. "[Now] she's inspiring men and young boys, and isn't that fantastic?"

...

"A Hero for Daisy" will be shown Friday at 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the West Newton Cinema, 1296 Washington St. Tickets must be reserved in advance by calling 888-890-9227. The film will also be shown on Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, with tickets available at the MFA or by calling the box office at 617-369-3770.

StarTribune

Film tells human story behind Title IX's words; Showing at 'U' reveals a forgotten history.

Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN)

April 16, 2001 | Weiner, Jay

If you are a boy or man, and think Title IX was unnecessary, check out this film. If you are a girl or woman, and believe enforcing Title IX was a polite tea party, see this movie. If you are a sports fan, and have not yet heard of Chris Ernst, consider scooting down to the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Center on Tuesday to catch the local premiere of "A Hero for Daisy."

It's a quirky, cinematic slice of hidden U.S. sports history that tells a tale too often forgotten: 25 years ago girls and women didn't have a prayer in school sports, even at places such as Yale University.

"I made it for my daughter," director Mary Mazzio said. "It's turned out to be a film for a lot of other people's daughters." And sons.

This 41-minute documentary isn't a dry Title IX diatribe. It's a breezy treatment of righteous anger, thoughtful revolt and deserved victory.

Yale's 1976 women's rowing team – seven years after school went co-ed – still had no training facilities. While the men's teams showered after a workout, the women, drenched in sweat, sat on the team bus, waiting until they got back to campus to warm-up and shower.

Literally sick and tired of being marginalized, Ernst and her teammates did the only thing they could do: confront the Yale administration. In a well-planned demonstration, they walked into the office of the top women's sports administrator on campus, took off their shirts and read a moving protest statement.

"These are the bodies Yale is exploiting," Ernst read then. "On a day like today the ice freezes on this skin..."

There, half-naked, she and 18 other rowers had written "Title IX" on their chests and backs. Wisely, they invited a New York Times reporter to accompany them.

The embarrassment quickly forced Yale powers to move. The first Times story, on March 4, was only 8 inches long, on the bottom of the "B" section cover: "Yale Women Strip To Protest a Lack of Crew's Showers," the headline read.

But wire services picked up the story and, by March 11, in a smaller story still, the Times reported Yale arranged for a trailer for women's showers and changing, with permanent facilities to follow.

The event, the film suggests, was a turning point for Title IX across the country. The law giving females equal educational and athletic rights at institutions that receive federal funds was four years old then, but barely enforced.

Politics aside, “A Hero For Daisy” is about Ernst, 5-5 in a sport of often towering and beefy women, who makes two Olympic teams, 10 national teams and wins a world rowing title on all grit.

Film maker Mazzio, an Olympic rower herself, met Ernst while training, but didn’t learn about the Yale protest until years later. The story stuck with her. Meanwhile, Mazzio became pregnant with her daughter.

The little girl’s name is Daisy. And, thus, the title.

“The film is a message about commitment, overcoming obstacles and the courage that it takes,” said Mazzio, who will talk about her work at the film’s showing, sponsored by the university’s Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport.

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Girls can look up to 'A Hero for Daisy'

By Ken Gewertz
Gazette Staff

When Mary Mazzio decided to make a career shift from corporate lawyer to independent filmmaker, her goal was to produce movies about remarkable women.

Certainly, her first film, "A Hero for Daisy," shown May 7 at the Graduate School of Education (GSE), amply meets that objective.

The film profiles Chris Ernst, a two-time Olympic rower who left in her wake not only rival boats but inequalities and gender stereotypes as well.

Set to a rousing musical score that runs the gamut from Aaron Copland to Annie Lennox, the film tells Ernst's story through interviews and action footage, painting a portrait of a woman who, rather than conform to the world's expectations, has forced it to conform to hers.

Ernst enrolled at Yale in the early 1970s, shortly after the school went co-ed, and promptly joined the newly formed women's rowing team. The women did well in competition, winning more races than the men's team, but the respect and consideration with which they were treated were not commensurate with their performance.

The worst indignity was that the school refused to give the women their own locker room at the boathouse, a 30-minute drive from the main campus. While the men showered and changed into dry clothes, the women waited on the bus, shivering in their sweat-soaked workout gear, their hair freezing to their heads.

There was an up-side to this humiliation, however, as one of Ernst's team members points out in the film. While they waited on the bus the women had time — and motivation — to plan and strategize.

After the Yale athletics department consistently turned a deaf ear to their requests for better facilities, the women, led by Ernst, hatched a daring plan.



Accompanied by a New York Times reporter, they marched into the office of the director of athletic facilities and, at a given signal, removed their sweatshirts. Across the chest and back of each of the 19 women was written the phrase "Title IX," the federal legislation mandating that schools spend the same amount on women's athletics as for men's. The story was carried by newspapers all over the world, and within weeks the women had their own locker room.

"We learned that embarrassment is a wonderful thing," says Ernst, who now owns her own plumbing company in Brookline. "They were pretending we weren't there, and our protest was saying, 'Here we are!'"

Ernst has continued to announce her presence in this same forthright and emphatic fashion, an attribute that the film both portrays and celebrates. Sen. John Kerry, a fellow Yale graduate and one of the film's interviewees, compares

Ernst with Rosa Parks in terms of the catalytic effect she has had on women's athletics.

Mazio, who was herself a member of the 1992 Olympic women's rowing team, participated in a panel discussion after the film. Also on the panel were Carol Gilligan, the Patricia Albjerg Graham Professor of Gender Studies, and Mary Jo Kane, director of the Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sports at the University of Minnesota.

Mazzio explained that she chose Ernst as the subject of her first film because of the impact Ernst had on her own life. Impressed by the strength and determination Ernst displayed in the gym, Mazzio asked if she could work out with her.

Ernst agreed, but made Mazzio promise to "never cheat in practice, and when you race, take every advantage."

Mazzio said that her meeting with Ernst was a turning point in her life. "She taught me how to commit and to have

the courage to fail."

The idea for the film came to Mazzio when she was pregnant with her now 3-year-old daughter, the "Daisy" of the film's title. She was watching television when a Victoria's Secret commercial came on, peopled by supermodels with perfect, long-legged bodies.

"I thought, all these women are fabulous and gorgeous, but, my God! Eat something! It made me feel there was nothing out there for my unborn daughter, nothing that told her she could be strong, be ugly, be dirty, and say what she needs to say."

Kane added that Title IX has had an enormous and salutary effect on women's athletics.

"In one generation, we have gone from a situation where young girls hoped there was a team to a situation where young girls hope they make the team. That wouldn't have happened if not for Title IX."



Title waves

By [Steve Wulf](#) | Jun 14, 2012
ESPN The Magazine



Members of the 1976 Yale crew (from left): Anne Warner, Chris Ernst, Lynn Baker, Lynne Alvarez, Elaine Mathies, Cathy Pew, Chris Stowe and Jennie Kiesling.

The sun is out, reflecting off the water on the Derby side of the Housatonic, but there's too much chop for a decent practice before the upcoming Ivy League championships. So the members of the Yale women's crew prepare two of their sleek Vespoli eights, one of which reads "1979 national champions." In the meantime, several male rowers work to retrieve a football from the river before it plunges over the dam a few hundred meters downstream.

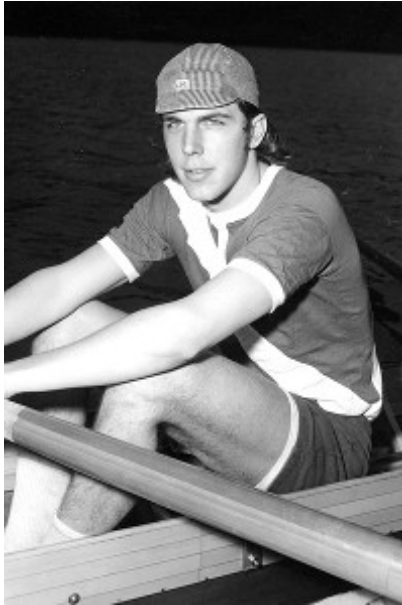
It's just a nice May afternoon at Gilder Boathouse, the striking cedar edifice built in 2000 and designed to resemble a boat. Looking like interlopers, two ordinary yellow school buses wait outside along Route 34 to take the rowers on the 30-minute ride back to New Haven.

If you were to think of Title IX as a river, with a source, tributaries and a mouth, this is the point where the rapids began. "These women are bearing the fruits of what the 1976 crew stood for," said Will Porter, the women's crew coach. "You can be sure that before their four years are up, they will hear the story."

Ah, the story. As with many legends, the facts of March 3, 1976 have gotten muddled over the years. Did it happen in late morning or early afternoon? Was Mrs. Barnett's office on the first floor,

or the fifth? Did the women use lipstick or magic marker to write the words on their bodies? Time and age have played tricks on their memories. But this much everybody agrees on: It began on the school bus.

Back in 1976, women were still new to Yale, which went co-ed in 1969, and women's athletics were a curiosity often treated with disdain. Nat Case, a former Yale rower, had taken the job as the women's crew coach for all of \$500 a year -- a stipend he supplemented by working at a foam rubber factory. "One basic problem," recalled Nat, "was that while Princeton and Harvard had fully funded women's varsity teams, Yale tended to treat women's sports like intramural programs."



Yale University

Nat Case, a former Yale rower, took the job as the women's crew coach for all of \$500 a year.

As for the rowing program, two Yale women, senior Christine Ernst from Illinois and junior Anne Warner from Massachusetts, had already made a name for themselves as members of the "Red Rose Crew," the surprising silver-medal eight from the 1975 World Championships. But at Yale, the men took precedence. In the normal hierarchy of rowing, the heavyweights picked on the lightweights, and now both groups of male rowers looked down upon the women -- quite literally.

"Chris and I would be lifting in the weight room," said Warner, "while the men stood over us, hooting and calling us names. It was horrible."

The men had state-of-the-art boats, but were mired in the program's worst rut (no Olympians since the 1964 Games). The women, who were far more successful, made do with antiquated, shoddy wooden shells. But the harshest indignity was the wait. After every practice at what was then the Bob Cooke Boathouse -- a Spanish-style building that was the footprint for the Gilder Boathouse -- the men would go into the showers, while the women got on the bus and waited for them. There was a small trailer with four showerheads for the women, but because Yale and the municipality

of Derby were at odds over the boathouse sewer line, the facility didn't have the variance needed to get hot water.

So the women sat on the bus, cold, wet, tired, and steaming that they had to wait to get back to Yale to shower. They had made countless entreaties to the athletic department and Joni Barnett, the director of women's athletics and physical education, but still, no showers. "I would sometimes work out in the morning, when nobody was there," said Warner. "But I still couldn't use the showers." In February of that Olympic year, Warner came down with pneumonia.

Trapped on the bus, waiting for the men and for answers, the women talked among themselves about what to do. As Ernst now says, "Never leave the prisoners alone." Keep in mind these "prisoners" had been admitted to one of the most prestigious universities in the world because of their intelligence, talents and strength of character. Now imagine that these bus passengers included not only future Olympians, but also women who would become doctors, attorneys, professors, the owner of a WNBA team, a taekwondo world champion, the head of an all-female plumbing company ... no one at Yale knew with whom they were dealing. "We didn't know who we were at the time, either," said Mia Brandt, a junior then and now the director of communications for UNICEF.

The athletic department also picked the wrong sport to ignore. As Elaine Mathies, a freshman then who would become a national team rower (and a systems analyst and Scandinavian folk dancer) said, "One of the greatest thrills of rowing occurs when the entire boat moves together, and you feel like you have the power of the boat at the end of your oar. That's what we call 'swing.'"



Nina Haight/Yale Daily News

March 3, 1976: Joni Barnett, Yale's Director of Physical Education, listens as Chris Ernst reads the team's grievance.

'We're human and being treated as less than such'

Despite their differences in size, age, ability, sexual orientation and background, the crew was literally in harmony with another. "We did a lot of singing on that bus," said Elizabeth de Bethune,

now an artist and teacher, but then a freshman. "Anne, as head of the Slavic Chorus, would lead us."

As the winter of '76 played itself out, someone on the bus jokingly suggested throwing Mrs. Barnett in the river to show her what it felt like. That idea was trumped by another: Let's stage a demonstration in her office where we show her the bodies Yale doesn't seem to care about. "I dare you," Anne said to Chris. "No, I dare you," Chris said to Anne.

The women, many of them freshmen who would become the core of Yale's 1979 championship eight, usually took their lead from Anne and Chris. "I was the stroke," said Warner, "and Chris was the captain, the best captain you could ask for." Susan Vernon, a sophomore then and a future sword champion in tae kwon do, said, "We would have followed Chris anywhere."

But there were a few holdouts. One of them was Lynn Baker, now the Frederick M. Baron Chair at the University of Texas School of Law. "Kind of ironic that I missed out on a protest to uphold a law and now I teach law," said Baker. "But back then, I was a sophomore from Hudson, Ohio on scholarship, working in the athletic department of all places, and I was afraid to risk that scholarship. I was torn, but I had to tell them, 'I'm not going to come with you guys.' I don't think Chris has ever forgiven me."

Chris, an English major, composed the text of the grievance they would read to Barnett. Anne, a Russian history major, edited it. On the eve of the protest, they ran it by the others members of the crew, who agreed not to tell Case, partly to protect him, partly out of fear he might talk them out of it. Warner told a Yale Daily News staff member, who doubled as a New York Times stringer, of their plans. On the afternoon of March 3, they assembled in their locker room in the basement of the Paine Whitney Gymnasium.

The idea of the demonstration may have begun as a lark, but it soon took on an air of solemnity, helped along by the gothic architecture of Paine Whitney. They wrote TITLE IX, or just IX, on each other's backs and sternums. "That's when the seriousness of what we were doing hit home," said Virginia Gilder, a freshman then who would become an Olympian. Then they donned their navy blue sweats and marched through the catacombs, past the workout tanks, past the stuffed bulldog who was the original Handsome Dan, and into Barnett's office in the adjacent Ray Tompkins House.

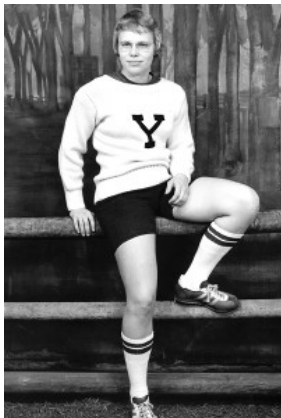
Awaiting them were the writer and a photographer from the Yale paper. Ernst had made the appointment to see Barnett, and as she remembers it, "Her secretary saw me and said, 'Oh hi, Chris,' and then she looked behind me and said, 'Uh oh.'" The 19 women then walked into Barnett's office and took off their sweats. The photographer, Nina Haight, climbed on a desk to shoot the event, while the writer, David Zweig, sat in a chair with his back to the nude women. In a calm and unwavering voice, Chris read her the statement, which said, in part:

These are the bodies Yale is exploiting. We have come here today to make clear how unprotected we are, to show graphically what we are being exposed to ... On a day like today, the rain freezes on our skin. Then we sit on a bus for half an hour as the ice melts into our sweats to meet the sweat that has soaked our clothes underneath ... No effective action has been taken and no matter what we hear, it doesn't make these bodies warmer, or dryer, or less prone to sickness ... We are not just healthy young things in blue and white uniforms who perform feats of strength for Yale in the nice spring weather; we are not just statistics on your win column. We're human and being treated as less than such.

Once Ernst read the statement, which Ginny Gilder describes as a "Declaration of Accountability," the women put on their sweats and walked back to the locker room. "I got the call to be at the office in an hour," recalled the photographer, now Nina Haight Frost and an author ("Soul Mapping") and blogger for Marble Collegiate Church in New York City. "I didn't know what to expect -- I was a freshman -- but what I witnessed was something that seemed both profound and eloquent."

Zweig, then the executive editor of the school paper and now a vice president for corporate consultant 5 Dynamics LLC, recalled, "I was the observer who didn't observe. But I vividly remember the feelings in that room. There was shock, surprise, hurt, pain, anger -- there isn't a single word that captures what went on in those five minutes." The story Zweig filed for The New York Times -- for which he was paid less than \$100 and received no byline -- ran on the front page of the second section the next day under the headline "Yale Women Strip To Protest A Lack Of Crew's Showers" with this quote from Warner: "We'll probably get [showers] when Peter Pan comes back to life."

"Did I really say that?" said Warner, now the International Counsel for Alexion Pharmaceuticals. "I do remember Chris and I telling Nat Case on the dock that afternoon what we did. That was hard because Nat was the one person at Yale who saw us as serious athletes -- he was a fabulous coach -- and we didn't want to get him in trouble."



Yale University

Senator John Kerry has called Chris Ernst the Rosa Parks of Title IX.

"I was actually standing right behind Chris and Anne when they told Nat," said Jennie Kiesling, Class of '78 and now a history professor at West Point. "I heard him give out a whoop and say, 'You did what!?'"

Case's coaching log for that afternoon makes no mention of the protest, only: "It was cold with flat water and we rowed three even boats and did 8 full pressure pieces of 2-½ min length just below race cadence." Said Case, "I probably wrote it at the Over The Hill Tavern in Derby. Let's just say I had a few beers that night, waiting out the storm that was about to hit."

It hit alright. The next day, Case called a meeting in Kiesling's suite, where he lay on the couch, slightly hung over, and explained to the women that the demonstration had been unnecessary: the showers were days away. But by then, reporters had descended upon the Yale campus and the boathouse. "That further pissed off all the people who weren't too thrilled with us to begin with," said Jean Rappaport, then a freshman and now a librarian on Mount Desert Island, Maine. Alumni started writing concerned letters with checks enclosed, and cartoonists took pleasure in drawing naked women in a boat. Yale was embarrassed, but the lines at the trailer were quickly hooked up, and no one was punished, at least not by the school. Sue Buckholz, a junior then and now an attorney in Quechee, Vt., recalls, "My father was not at all happy at what I did. I was a townie from New Haven, and he was a Republican alderman, so he perceived what we did as ungrateful, as a slap in the face. I'm afraid he never changed his mind."

By the next year, a women's locker room was added to the boathouse. "I do remember the feeling of joy being in the warm 'barnette,'" said Rappaport. "A steamy hot shower and warm dry clothes after a practice felt truly wonderful."

Even more wonderfully, the cause of Title IX suddenly had a rallying cry that resonated with other women on other campuses. "About 10 years later," recalled Warner, "I was on a party boat in the middle of San Francisco Bay when I was introduced to a woman from Princeton. When she made the connection that I was on the '76 crew, she threw her arms around me and couldn't thank me enough."

The demonstration took on a whole new life in 1999, when the documentary "A Hero For Daisy" came out. Made by Olympic rower Mary Mazzio, it's a delightful film -- dedicated to her young daughter, Daisy -- that chronicles the Yale demonstration and celebrates Ernst. (The film contains stirring footage of Ernst and C.B. Sands winning the 1986 world championship in lightweight doubles; their coach was Anne Warner.) Among the people interviewed for the documentary was Senator (and 1966 Yale graduate) John Kerry, who at one point calls Ernst the Rosa Parks of Title IX.

'Pain and power and teamwork'

'Rosa Parks? C'mon!' Ernst is sitting in a luncheonette down the block from the offices of Pipelines, her all-female plumbing company in Roslindale, Mass. She's somewhat embarrassed that she was the focus of the film, and not terribly pleased people always point out she went from fighting for showers to installing them. Still, she's proud of what she did, and what she does. Plumbing, after all, is not unlike rowing.

"We have a crew of four full-time plumbers and one part-time, though one is on maternity leave. I'm getting a little old for this, but I like the challenge. Working around Boston is like working in a plumbing museum."

But we're not here to talk about plumbing. "I adore the people I rowed with," said Ernst. "That's the gift I got from Yale. Otherwise, I don't have many warm feelings for the place, and I coached there for a few years after I graduated. Even now, I still feel a real anger. The men called us terrible names. Would they use that language to describe the mothers who gave birth to them? Or the women they married? Or the daughters they would have?"

The Yale 19

The members of the 1976 Yale women's crew who participated in the protest:

Cindy Barr
Joan Brown
Elizabeth de Bethune
Mia Brandt
Susan Buckholz
Beverly Deric
Christine Ernst
Sally Fisher Gschwend
Virginia Gilder
Eugenia Kiesling
Elaine Mathies
Mary O'Connor
Cathy Pew
Jean Rappaport
Caryl Salomon
Susan Vernon
Anne Warner

Nancy Wischusen
Sook Yeu

"That kind of stuff is still happening at Yale. That's why we have to keep fighting. That's why I'm proud of what we did. If I have one regret, it's that we embarrassed Joni Barnett. She was just the gatekeeper, and we turned her into collateral damage."

In "Silver Era, Golden Moments," a book that celebrates women's athletics in the Ivy Leagues, there is a reprint of a memo Barnett sent to the administration later that afternoon, and it casts her in a more sympathetic light. She wrote, "It is unfortunate that one of our finest, most dedicated teams has been so treated and alienated. Their resentment was such that they stripped off their practice uniforms and stood naked, wearing only Title IX in ink across their chests." She then urged that immediate action be taken to get the trailer hooked up.

Barnett was eventually replaced by Louise O'Neill, a dynamic woman who upgraded women's athletics while doubling as the basketball coach. Case, who had been given a full-time position earlier that year after Ernst and Warner paid a visit to the home of school president Kingman Brewster, stayed on as the women's rowing coach and won five national championships.

"Looking back," said Case, who now coaches crew at the Hopkins School and teaches special education at a Connecticut middle school, "I can see how important the protest was. I may not have liked it at the time, but sometimes, history needs to be pushed by youthful, exuberant revolutionaries. They were an extraordinary crew."

They proved that then, and later in life. More significantly, the splash they made in 1976 has had a rippling effect. Mary O'Connor, who went from being an Olympic rower to the head of orthopedic surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville (and the proud mother of a daughter who's a competitive rower), said, "Title IX has given women so much. What I'm most proud of is that we showed people the backbone of Title IX. We told Yale that this treatment of women was not acceptable to us ... or to the women who would follow us."

Buckholz recently attended a baby shower in which she met a prep school rower who had seen "A Hero For Daisy."

"She was awestruck that she was in the company of a member of the 1976 Yale crew," said Buckholz. "I felt like a star." And Dr. Cathy Pew, a pediatrician who is on the clinical faculty at the University of Washington, said, "To my kids, ages 18 and 15, I am an old and boring working mom with too many rules. But one of my son's teachers is a U.S. team-level rower who shared the story with the rest of his class, and made my son proud."

Then there's the Gilder Boathouse, which stands as a tribute to how far Title IX has come. It's named for three generations of Yale students, but it could not have been built without the support of the third, Ginny Gilder, the ex-Olympian who co-owns the Seattle Storm while serving as

president of the Gilder Office for Growth investment office. "When I brought up those times at a benefit dinner for the boathouse," said Gilder, "I looked out over the crowd and saw the discomfort of some of the rowers who had called us 'sweathogs.' That gave me some closure."

When Kiesling, who also coaches the Army men's novice crew, goes to Gilder, she sees something besides the stunning facilities. "What strikes me when I go back there now," said Kiesling, "is the change in the women rowers themselves. When we rowed crew, we didn't quite know how to balance being jocks and women at the same time. Now I see these women who are comfortable in both their femininity and their athleticism."

The two leaders of the protest, Warner and Ernst, are still rowing because, well, they love to. As Ernst said, "We were given all these gifts -- the beauty of the boats and the water, the physical growth and challenge, the company of people who, though they are very different, love the things you love about the experience."

Kiesling, whose naked back graces the poster for "A Hero For Daisy," puts it a little differently: "Someone once described rowing as having a vacuum cleaner hose stuck down your throat, sucking out your lungs, while having sulfuric acid splashed on your legs. That's the pain. But there's also the power you feel from pushing yourself through that pain, and the harmony you feel when everyone is pushing each other. That's rowing: pain and power and teamwork."

Come to think of it, that also describes the swing of March 3, 1976.

Filippi's F42 eight wins Worlds again

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ROW2K MOVIE REVIEW

'A Hero for Daisy' - Chris Ernst Rocks the Boat

May 5, 1999

Oli Rosenblatt



For years, it seemed, men held the monopoly on the widely available heroes in the sport of rowing. Legions of shaven-headed, tattooed freshman heavyweights could find heroic rowing ideals and tales of seatracing and manly grunting in the works of David Halberstam, Steven Kiesling and Brad Lewis, to name a few. And while one could argue that grunting is an attribute of rowers of either gender, and that stories of perseverance and racing prowess offer lessons to anybody who chooses to read them, the fact remains that, up until now, no one has offered a well-told tale of one of the many female heroes in rowing.

But luckily, rowing tales don't dull significantly with age, and in the fall of last year ex-Olympian and filmmaker Mary Mazzio and her co-producers reintroduced us to world champion rower and curmudgeon Chris Ernst in the documentary film "A Hero for Daisy."



For the as-yet uninitiated, and those who only know the phrase "Title IX" from the bows of boats christened by the oodles of newly-minted women's Varsity rowing programs, "A Hero for Daisy" recounts the rowing career of Chris Ernst, Yale oarswoman, two-time Olympian, world champion and plumber who is perhaps best known for leading the first highly-visible demonstration for equal athletic facilities for women, calling on the federal mandate known as "Title IX."

In 1976, angered by inequality in the rowing facilities at Yale, Ernst led 19 of her Yale teammates in a simple but effective protest: the women marched into the office of the Yale women's athletic director, stripped to the waist to reveal backs and chests bearing the phrase "Title IX." As a stringer for the "New York Times" snapped pictures

and recorded the event, Ernst read a 300-word statement expressing the rowers' outrage at being treated as inferiors to the men's team.

The "incident," as the episode is referred to by numerous people in the film, received national attention and resulted in the construction of showers for the Yale women's crew, and on a larger scale directed national attention to fiscal and physical realities of women's athletics. It is this incident that serves as the linchpin on which Mazzio's film turns.

But while Ernst's accomplishment at Yale alone are worth noting, "A Hero for Daisy" also traces Ernst's career as a national team rower, Olympian, and world-champion in the lightweight women's double sculls at the 1986 World Championships. By turns hilarious, poignant and duly serious, "A Hero for Daisy" shows Ernst making plenty of waves along the way as an uncompromising and outspoken competitor, in every sense of the word. Still photos from the period and modern footage of Ernst rowing and working in Boston today serve as the backdrop for the narrative as it moves between interviews. For the interviews Mazzio assembled, along with a reluctant Ernst, a well-rounded ensemble from Ernst's family, former teammates and Yale officials who provide the context for Ernst's story. (And while he certainly lends the weight of a "credible authority" to the movie, US Senator and Yale graduate John Kerry (D-Mass.) looks a bit like someone had to explain Chris Ernst, rowing and Title IX to him before he could do the interview.)

It is in these interviews that "A Hero for Daisy" makes its strongest points because they demonstrate the profound effect that Ernst had on those around her, both personally and athletically, and the legacy which she has left the generation for which she is now a reluctant hero.

What makes "A Hero for Daisy" different from (and a necessary addition to) the canon of rowing stories is that through the interviews with Ernst and her teammates, Mazzio makes it clear that the opposition which Ernst and others like her faced came primarily from OFF the water as opposed to on it. While she had demonstrated time and time again that she was a more than capable rower, her opportunities were limited, and her accomplishments diminished by those who tended (and still tend) to utilize different yardsticks for measuring the achievements of men versus women.

Towards the end of the movie, Mazzio works several statistics about women and girls in sports into the narrative, and in doing so brings the film full circle without appearing heavy-handed; Ernst's story isn't just a rowing story, it's the story about someone who saw something she didn't like, and did something to fix it.

"A Hero for Daisy" has value as a slice of rowing history, but beyond that is a well-made portrait of a woman whose experience serves to remind us that it isn't necessarily just making the boat go fast (and Chris Ernst certainly did her share of that), but that rocking it to keep everybody awake is one of the truer definitions of "heroism." Mary Mazzio has told a rowing story that ranks up there with the best, and has brought rowing and the women in rowing into the spotlight through a person thoroughly deserving of such attention.

(Oli Rosenblatt writes frequently for row2k.com, [The Independent Rowing News](http://TheIndependentRowingNews.com), and the German rowing magazine [Rudern](http://Rudern.de).)

You can purchase the video of A Hero for Daisy in the [row2k rowing mall](http://row2krowingmall.com).



“A Hero for Daisy” tells story of coeducation in Yale Athletics

PHOEBE LIU

2:47 AM, SEP 19, 2019



Courtesy of 50 Eggs Film

On March 3, 1976, the 19 members of the Yale women’s crew team marched into

the Yale athletics office and read a statement criticizing the lack of facilities for women's athletics. Led by team captain and two-time Olympian Chris Ernst '76, they then stripped to reveal the words "Title IX," drawn in blue marker on each woman's back and breasts.

The protest proved extremely effective — the following day, a reporter from The New York Times who witnessed the event ran a story that cast an international spotlight on the protest. Less than a month later, the University promised to give the women's crew team locker rooms.

In 1999, former Olympic rower Mary Mazzio created a 40-minute documentary on Ernst and the 1976 protest titled "A Hero for Daisy." Four years ago, the film, which earned widespread critical acclaim over the last 20 years, came full circle — the title refers to Mazzio's daughter, Daisy Mazzio-Manson '20, who enrolled in Yale College in 2016 as a member of the Yale women's crew team.

The film, which was released shortly after Mazzio-Manson's birth, included clips of Mazzio-Manson as a baby. In the documentary, Mazzio depicted Ernst as a hero for her daughter. In an interview with the News, Mazzio called the documentary her "personal anthem" for her daughter.

"I think that growing up in the context of that film meant that my house had a really strong female presence," said Mazzio-Manson. "My mom really emphasized [that] being able to be a strong woman would really make changes in the world, and I felt that I had so many strong women to look up to."

Ginny Gilder '79, a freshman on the team at the time who participated in the protests and is now an Olympic silver medalist in rowing, described Ernst as an "amazing, incredibly tough, take-no-prisoners kind of woman."

Ernst's actions came in the wake of the Title IX legislation enacted just four years earlier in 1972. The law requires that athletics facilities in federal institutions are equally accessible to all sexes.

According to Gilder's description of the daily scene prior to the protests, the men showered in their designated locker room nearby the rowing course after practice. The women, on the other hand, had to wait on the bus for the men's team before driving 12 miles back to campus so they could shower in their dorms.

Conversations between the women on the bus inspired Ernst along with teammate Anne Warner '77 to call attention to the inequity between the teams.

"We'd be soaking wet from sweating and the rain and the river's backsplash, and we would wait for 20 or 30 minutes in the bus for the guys," Gilder said.

Mazzio heard the story from Ernst when they were both living and training at the Boston Rowing Center, an Olympic training center at the time.

"She told me this story about how this crazy revolt came to be," said Mazzio. "She said, 'Look, we had no locker rooms and we exhausted diplomatic channels. We were thinking, aren't the girls paying the same tuition as the boys? Why aren't they entitled to [the facilities] they have?'"

Ernst then scheduled an appointment with Yale's athletics administration, and her teammates accompanied her, stripping while she read a statement that began with, "These are the bodies that Yale is exploiting."

In the film, the striking repetition of the phrase emphasizes the power of women who stand with each other, according to Mazzio.

"That demonstration served as a beacon for every athletic director around the country — this is what gender equity is like," Mazzio added. "If Chris's lessons can be picked up and spread, we'll be all the better for it."

Ernst helped a generation of women understand what it means to refuse to conform, Mazzio said.

According to Mazzio-Manson, generations of female athletes have carried on the protest's legacy.

"I think that in the [women's crew] team today, there's a history there that no other team really has," she said.

According to Mazzio-Manson, the crew team's alumnae still visit often, and the women's team now has access to a wide array of resources — a situation far removed from the nonexistent locker rooms of the 1970s.

"We have resources equivalent to all the men," said Mazzio-Manson. "The women's rowing league is so competitive that I think we even get better racing experience than the men."

After women's rowing became part of the NCAA in 1996, three years before the film was released, the number of Division I teams has increased from around 20 to 91, according to William Porter, the women's crew head coach.

"The resources and opportunity for women quickly outpaced that of men's rowing," said Porter.

Despite the increase in resources offered to female athletes, Gilder, as co-owner of the WNBA's Seattle Storm, believes that "equitable access to sports for women is still a huge issue across the country."

Both in the film 20 years ago and today, she urged young women and young people to push for change wherever they see inequity.

"How did Yale get to the tipping point where they finally admit women? New ideas start from terrible odds, from people who are unwilling to give up even though it might look ridiculous, and that's what generates change," said Gilder. "You build agreement to shift a point of view."

Porter, who originally helped Mazzio organize a screening for the film in New Haven, said that the documentary "brought to light the challenges that women of the '70s and '80s faced and it should not be forgotten."

"It is part of our history," she added.

Pulling for teens: Champion rower, filmmaker wants kids to find inspiration

4/6/2008

BY TAHREE LANE

BLADE STAFF WRITER



Mary Mazzio's film company, 50 Fathoms, is working on its fifth documentary.

Mary Mazzio and her rowing partner were pulling on all their reserves when they approached a bridge during the Head of the Charles regatta in Boston last October.

They were stunned and energized to hear a chorus of voices cheering encouragement from the bridge overhead. It was the girls of Toledo's St. Ursula Academy, in Boston for a rowing competition and shouting for a rower they hadn't

met but from whom they had gleaned inspiration. For two years in a row, they had

won the Chris Ernst/Hero for Daisy cup for being the fastest eight-woman boat at the

Head of the Cuyahoga regatta in Cleveland.

A filmmaker and 1992 Olympic rower, Ms. Mazzio continues the cycle of encouragement when she

speaks and shows one of her films at St. Ursula at 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Anybody can become an athlete, said Ms. Mazzio, 46. I'd like girls to figure out ways to get a little more self-esteem.

How? Look for inspiration, she suggests, be it in a role model, a book, or a movie. Eat well. And get physical.

Find something that's fun. It can be dance. It can be walking. It can be any one of a number of things. What matters is the intensity of the effort, she said in a telephone interview. Girls that are physically active are less likely to have depression, a teen pregnancy, less likely to use drugs.

Likewise, boys who have an hour of activity before school perform better during the school day, she noted.

Ms. Mazzio will bring a bottle of Spanish champagne she received at the

Barcelona Olympics as a member of the U.S. rowing team, and will christen St. Ursula's new boat (cost: more than \$30,000), to be named Daisy's Heroes. More importantly, Ms. Mazzio will

bring her 10-year-old daughter, Daisy, for whom she made the 40-minute film she'll show, *A Hero for Daisy*.

An upbeat, energetic brunette who writes a lively blog that's often a commentary on major sports stories (marymazzio.blogspot.com), Ms. Mazzio lives in the Boston suburb of Wellesley with Daisy, her husband Jay Manson (who she met rowing), and their 11-year-old son, Jamie. Her film company, 50 Eggs Inc., is working on its fifth documentary.

Like *A Hero for Daisy*, her films are about overcoming obstacles in a variety of ways.

The 1999 film she'll show Tuesday tells the story of the 1976 Yale University rowing team. After a long, cold, practice one wintry day, Chris Ernst and her drenched teammates shivered on a bus for a half hour, waiting for the men's team to finish their showers and change into dry clothes in Yale's boathouse.

They were fed up with the jeers and insults they'd received from the men when they worked out, and practice times that were scheduled around the men's.

Ms. Ernst and 19 teammates marched into the office of the women's athletic director and stripped to the waist, revealing backs and chests bearing the phrase

Title IX, the federal law enacted in 1972 that required equality for female athletes.

Accompanying the team was a New York Times photographer; the action got national attention and Yale built women's locker rooms.

Ms. Mazzio believes an all-female school is essential for young women at some point in their lives. Moreover, she said American attitudes about school sports need to change.

It is ludicrous to cut kids from a team, just from a public health standpoint, she said. All the attention goes to the quick-burn kids. If you're not a star at 8 or 10 or 12, that's too bad, which is crazy because your body doesn't mature until 15, 16, 17, 18. But if you're not a star by 10, you can't learn the skills you need.

She's also a fan of failure, calling it an underrated experience.

People think if you fail you're a loser the stakes for losing are so high. If you fail, it's OK. It's about getting back up and not quitting.

It might have been informed by my own experience. I was cut from every team in high school I tried out for. I have no eye-hand coordination.

She wanted to play sports, and did play a bit and became a cheerleader.

When she got to the all-women's Massachusetts college, Mount Holyoke, the rowing coach stopped her as she strode across campus one day.

He said I should try out for rowing.

She was tall and had strong legs.

So I did.

She loved it, and continues rowing in doubles competitions.

I think girls face what we faced, but the obstacles are much more invisible, she said. Girls have more, but they're willing to accept less. They don't seem to fight like women did in the 1970s did because discrimination is not as blatant.

Mary Mazzio will speak at 1 p.m. Tuesday in St. Ursula Academy's field house. The talk is free but reservations are requested by calling 419-531-1693.

Contact Tahree Lane at: tlane@theblade.com or 419-724-6075.

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**Rowing // News****Film Review: 'A Hero For Daisy' Uncovers Cold Truth of Title IX**

Olympic rower produces film on women in sports

By Erika Snoberger // USOlympicTeam.com
Erika.Snoberger@usolympicfan.com

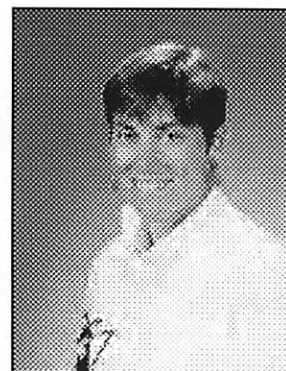
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – (Jan. 30, 2001) - March 3, 1976 must have been a cold day in New Haven, Conn. But for 19 members of the Yale women's rowing crew, the only difference from that day to any other day was that their freezing bodies were actually dry this time. And they were painted. Blazing into the athletic director's office, the women stripped off their shirts to reveal "Title IX" printed in Yale blue across their bare chests, while the stunned director gawked and a New York Times photographer frantically snapped pictures.

Oars under fire...

Title IX, which was passed four years earlier, required athletic facilities in federally funded institutions to be equally accessible to men and women. For the Yale women, it was being grossly overlooked.

But the display wasn't over. From within the group a voice emerged. Sacrifice, sweat, hours upon hours were what these women had given, she said. Now, here are the bodies upon which only one thing had been bestowed by their school: exploitation. A voice cut through the silent stupor of the shocked onlookers to read the team's 300-word mission statement. The message, while in meaning owned by all the women, belonged to one. One heroic revolutionary, Chris Ernst.

Thanks to the fireworks sparked by Ernst that day, the sky is again lit up through producer Mary Mazzio's feature documentary 'A Hero For Daisy.' The film is a 40-minute tour de force that follows the life of and, perhaps more importantly, the far-reaching accomplishments of former Yale- and Olympic-rower Chris Ernst. Mazzio, herself encouraged by a friendship with Ernst, also participated in the Olympic Games as a member of the USA women's rowing team in 1992. The film, inspired by the birth of her daughter, Daisy, is Mazzio's effort to realize 'heroes' in the hard work of everyday people, and courage found in unlikely places. But back to the story...



Mary Mazzio is an Olympian from the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain.

The simple issue: showers.

The more complex version: The women's crew suffered through season after season of trudging 30-minutes off campus to a practice field where they gave every ounce of energy to their sport, only to return, filthy and freezing, to a cold bus and an agonizing wait until the men's team finished their showers in the boathouse's all-male facilities. Not to mention being a female athlete had consequences of its own. Jeered at by a school rooted in patriarchy, women's sports were hardly taken seriously, let alone given funds to operate at the same level as their male counterparts.

Not a threat, not a challenge, but a voice...

Despite the seemingly intuitive bitterness caused by such a situation, "A Hero For Daisy" elicits no such response. It is not the girl-power fluff we see saturating our culture whenever a new female icon enters the public eye. It is not a dig toward male-heavy collegiate sports programs. Its purpose is not to criticize, and in that effort, the film is a huge success.

The documentary gives credence to true gender equality in sports, and perhaps more importantly, in life. And its justification comes with a purpose; not just because equality should, idealistically, take place. It squares off with issues point blank, issues that are traditionally swept under the proverbial rug in the name of convenient ignorance.

"It's really not even a film about sports," Mazzio said. "It's a film about human courage, about having a voice to say what's right and what's wrong. There are two messages here. The first is to have a voice and not be afraid to use it. The second is when you fall flat on your face, you can't be afraid to get back up."

It is easy to look around and think the world is populated by the Cindy Crawford, Jennifer Anistons and Christina Aguileras that fill modern media and public communications outlets. 'Daisy' proves it's not only possible, but it's admirable to be a grunting, sweating athlete and a woman at the same time. The 1976 Yale women's crew sent a wake-up call to educational sports programs nationwide, reminding them of the whats and the whys of Title IX. 'Daisy' is today's periodic awakening we need to realize that ultimately, maybe men and women are equally credible, both on and off the playing field.

The big dogs, and the "bulldog"...

Of course, the appropriate authority graces the film through interviews with such big names as Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and legendary Yale football coach Carm Cozza but the truth is, they are not the essence of why this biography is so luring.

It is Chris Ernst herself. By friends, coworkers and admirers she is called fierce, intense, tough, a bulldog and at the same time sweet, big-hearted and an iconoclast. She is the role model girls (athletes or otherwise) need today in a world that bombards with Weight Watchers, Cover Girl, Sex in the City, and the like. She doesn't attempt to prove herself on gender alone because she doesn't have to. A breakthrough, highly successful career in itself says "Look men, here I am, not as a female athlete, but as an athlete. Watch me play, look what I've done and now see if you can top that!"

"When I met Chris, I was scared to death of her, just like everybody else," Mazzio said. "She was the toughest, most committed woman I had ever met. When I watched her lift weights, she would lift these huge barbells and I just thought 'This woman is awesome. She is unbelievable.'"

But really, we're not talking about the eye-popping, headline-grabbing bra burner you might expect from such a pioneer. Sure, Ernst went on to row in the 1976 and 1984 Olympic Games, but what is she doing now? A job she loves; she's a plumber. She jokes that after fighting so hard to get showers in the first place, she now fixes them.

"It's vintage Chris, to go to Yale and then say 'I'm going to become a blue-collar worker, a union plumber,'" Mazzio said. Chris has pushed the barriers wherever she's gone, and she hasn't done it in an ideological way, but in a very practical way. She is an incredible leader, someone who's not afraid to go after what's wrong and make it right. She is wonderfully courageous."

Edgy, bold and brutally truthful is the lean in "A Hero For Daisy". It speaks a contemporary language while at the same time proving a point through history. Just one year before Title IX was enacted, a Connecticut Judge said, "Athletic competition builds character in our

boys. We do not need that kind of character in our girls."

Well, your honor, take a look at the character of the Jackie Joyner-Kerseyes, the Marion Joneses, the Chris Ernsts of the sports world and then tell me that.

(National Women and Girls in Sports Day is Feb. 7, 2001)

Film Information

A Hero For Daisy

Written and directed by Mary Mazzio

Produced by Mary Mazzio, Theresa Mazzio and Eric Hamilton

Available for home, educational and institutional use by calling 1-877-98-DAISY
Or visit www.aherofordaisy.com

Editor's note: www.USOlympicTeam.com welcomes the opportunity to review films featuring or worked on by U.S. Olympians.

For more information or to submit a film for review, contact Erika Snoberger at Erika.Snoberger@usolympicfan.com.

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Film centers on struggle for athletic equality

By Gretchen Flemming
The Grand Rapids Press

'A Hero for Daisy' to be shown here Monday

Mary Mazzio just couldn't shake the story.

An Olympic rower in the 1992 Barcelona Games, Mazzio had grown up with every opportunity afforded female athletes of her generation. But while working out years later with Chris Ernst, who had been a rower at Yale in the 1970s, Mazzio discovered a true pioneer.

After Ernst spoke about the hardships she had to overcome to compete in athletics, Mazzio took action.

"I was an Olympic athlete, a rower, and I had never even heard of her story before she told it to me," Mazzio said. "It was an important story that was in danger of being lost."

So Mazzio, a lawyer who was taking filmmaking classes at Boston University at the time, began the process that led to the 40-minute feature, "A Hero for Daisy."

The film will be shown in Grand Rapids on Monday at three locations. Mazzio will travel from



Mary Mazzio

her home in Boston to accompany the showings at Grand Valley State University (9 a.m.), Calvin College (4 p.m.) and at Studio 28 Theaters (7 p.m.).

The two student events are free and open to the public, while the Studio 28 showing costs \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 742-2389.

The film tells the story of Ernst, a two-time Olympic world champion in lightweight double sculls, who first made waves in 1976 by leading her Yale women's crew team in a Title IX protest centered around their lack of locker room facilities.

"They were booed at, hissed at, leered at and made fun of," said Mazzio. Title IX, which prohibits

sex discrimination in educational institutions that receive federal funds, had been enacted in 1972, but few were paying attention.

So the Yale crew team decided to take matters into their own hands. In front of a reporter from the New York Times, the women stripped, exposing the phrase Title IX written in blue marker across their backs. The story was carried by major news outlets the next day, then the phones at Yale began ringing off the hook.

"It was such a great act of courage and rebellion," Mazzio said. "It woke up so many people."

Mazzio had conceived of the idea in 1996 and produced a two-minute short for a filmmaking class she was taking. But while on an extended maternity leave, she wrote the feature script and had it produced by Arnold Communications, which produces television commercials, most notably for McDonald's.

"It started out as a personal, private process," Mazzio said, "then my husband said to me,

'you've got to tell this story.'"

The film is named for Mazzio's 3-year-old daughter, Daisy. The movie debuted last year and has been shown on ESPN Classic. Mazzio has taken the film to a number of schools along the East Coast.

The film includes interviews with Yale graduate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., former Yale athletic director and football coach Carm Cozza, and Dave Vogel of the U.S. Rowing Association and Yale's head rowing coach.

Mazzio calls the documentary-style film a cross between "Ken Burns and MTV." She said it took a while to convince Ernst to do the movie, but she had little trouble convincing people at Yale to speak about the subject because she didn't take a confrontational approach.

The result was a film that is receiving rave reviews.

"It's an inspirational film," said Mary McLoughlin, a member of the steering committee that helped bring Mazzio and the film to Grand Rapids. "It shows what people can do if they want to change things."

VIEWER REVIEWS

“My wife and I loved your film...brava!” – *Richard C. Levin, President of Yale University*

“Here’s the kind of impact that Mary and her film had at Trinity...the very next day, one member of our audience sent us a check for \$30,000 for a new boat for the women’s program...” – *Robbin Shepard, Senior Women’s Athletic Director – Trinity College (at the 2006 NESCAC Symposium)*

“Loved, loved, loved the film” – *Emme, host of E! Fashion Emergency*

“truly inspiring... one of the highlights of the 2000 NACWAA [National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Directors] Fall Forum.” – *Bridget Belgiovine, Assistant Chief of Staff – NCAA*

“It was a special moment watching [your film] with my daughter. It brought tears to my eyes.” – *Jim Laughlin, Director of Communications, Life is Good*

“I was a member of the boat team who won the Hero for Daisy trophy at the Head of the Cuyahoga in 2006...Thank you for the hats. Every time I wear it I think of your daughter and I know that there really are heroes out there. I can definitely say that you are one of my heroes.” – *Amber Holmes, University of Toledo*

“We all LOVED it! Great use of humor, compelling story, perfect length, great shots of rowing and gritty play.” – *Stacey Vollman, Sports Illustrated for Women*

“A Hero for Daisy was a smash hit here at Miss Porter’s School...you have done this school and innumerable girls a great service. You have also done yourself, your daughter, your mother and all within your radius proud.” – *M. Burch Tracy Ford, Head of School*

“I was at a cocktail party and your film came up. Did you know that a friend of ours was so moved after seeing the movie that she named her baby Daisy?” – *Bob Glowacki*

“Awesome... inspiring... this film is so important...” – *Carol Gilligan, author of In A Different Voice*

“Hello 50 Eggs... I am the head Novice Women’s coach for the Lincoln Park Juniors Rowing team. One of the more pivotal moments in our season was when I organized a team movie night and decided to show

the girls *A Hero For Daisy*. Your landmark portrayal of the now famous “Title IX Crew” had a significant effect on me, my girls, and the rest of our season. We won the Midwest Championship races in all three of the events we entered...we broke the course record in all three events ... It was by far the greatest day of our athletic lives. For me...the single greatest day I’ve ever had. We have your film, and the women you showcased, to thank. So from the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU for helping my girls believe that they were stronger than the stereotypes, stronger than the doubts, and stronger than they ever imagined possible.” – *Austin Work, Lincoln Park Junior Rowing Team, Chicago IL*

“Your film inspired us [Connecticut College Rowing Team] to take a stand against the unfair treatment of our team by the college administration... I cannot thank you enough for making a film as empowering as *A Hero for Daisy*. The story of Chris Ernst and your portrayal of it inspired 45 women to stand up for what we believe in. At dinner tonight, the captain of my team belted out “Hey, we’re heroes for Daisy!” – *Julia Greenleaf, Connecticut College*

“Mary Mazzio arrived in Grand Rapids in a windstorm, touched our minds and hearts, and left behind hope for change. Our organization has worked for over 6 years to battle the inequities in our daughters’ athletic programs. But now hundreds and hundreds of girls have seen “Hero”... we are all inspired to pick up those oars and keep rowing.” – *Connie Engel, Communities for Equity, Grand Rapids, MI*

“On Martin Luther King Jr. day, Americans celebrate the spirit that Dr. King used to help guide American people towards equality. Chris Ernst also embodied King’s spirit of hard work, determination, and non-violence. She helped organize the female rowers at Yale to stand up against gender discrimination and fight for their rights. Her actions set an example for women all over the country. Martin Luther King had a dream: that one day, all people would be equal. Chris Ernst also had a dream of equality that required hard work and a determined spirit...” – *Mary Laurant Hall, 10th Grade (excerpted from an award-winning essay in 2005 about contemporary people who embody Martin Luther King’s spirit, which earned an honorable mention from Newton North High School)*

“after watching the film, I’ve been attacking my work (and my workouts) with a new kind of vigor...whenever I see a really well made documentary, I’m always struck by the parallels between that form and journalism — finding the right ‘characters,’ relying on them to be articulate and engaging, the importance of creating a ‘story.’...every element was in place...but even more astonishing is that you brought to light such a significant story that so few of us who care about issue of justice/equality/women had never known about...” – *Marci Alboher, Journalist/Author/Writing Coach. Alboher, a frequent writer for The New York Times, is currently at work on a new book on dual careers to be published by Warner Books in 2007*

“great movie...” – *Alex Beam, Columnist for The Boston Globe*

“I was in a cab on the way to the airport to fly to Toledo to see *A Hero for Daisy* at St. Ursula’s – and the cab driver told me that he had been trying to get the film for his daughter, but couldn’t find it at Blockbuster.”

– *Kate Broderick, St. Ursula’s Academy alumnae*

“THE MOVIE WAS MASTERFUL AND INSPIRING! On behalf of my daughter, my future granddaughters, and women everywhere, I thank you for making it. And I thank the 19 women – Chris Ernst, Anne Warner, and all the others – who were involved in the actual incident. These are some truly incredible women...”

– *Daniel Paul*

“I left there [Babson College] with a whole new look on my life and self as a woman athlete. I don’t know how I could ever let you know how much that night meant to me... Thank you Thank you Thank you... You truly are a hero for me... I never expected anything like it...” – *Allie Libby, Needham High School*

“your film was one of the greatest I have ever seen. thank you for the work you are doing, it’s quite phenomenal...” – *Claire Nollman, high school student, Shackleton Schools*

“I teach a social studies course... this is the second year that I have used *A Hero for Daisy* as part of the curriculum, and it is such an asset to my class... it is a perfect example of someone who was not a bystander... I just thought I would let you know one way your film is being used and how one teacher is grateful!” – *Sarah Martin, 8th grade social studies teacher – Dana Hall*

“I had the opportunity to attend “Daisy” with two of my three daughters. I thought the film was wonderful for the lessons that I hope they one day will learn (they are 12 and 10) but also a reminder of how far we have come but also how much further we need to go. As we spoke on the way back to the car, it dawned on me that it was almost impossible for the girls to understand a world without access to girls sports, facilities, etc., so we talked about other ways the lessons of the movie could be used to address other challenges facing them. Thanks for the creating the opportunity to begin this conversation...” – *Jeff Levitan, coach and father of 3 daughters*

“Mary, the film is TERRIFIC!!!! I’m so pleased and excited to show it here on campus. I think it is so inspiring, particularly because it gives a great example of how to make change. I think Chris is going to become a hero for whole new generation of young women...” – *Brenda Meese, Assistant Athletic Director, College of Wooster*

"I saw the film on Saturday at the MFA ... It was wonderful, moving...so refreshing to hear these things spoken honestly... your portrayal of Chris was sharp and consistent. There was a nice balance between when my tears were welling and I was laughing out loud. There was an older gentleman at the screening who kept talking back at the screen seeming to encourage you. He raised his arms up in a Nixonian sort of triumph on more than one occasion! Funny." – *Julie Marren*

"You and your film both were fabulous! Your dynamic spontaneity as a speaker was enormously appreciated...the film is just spectacular! It is visually exciting as you portray the personality of Chris and the many people who laud her, the hallowed Harkness tower and the campus view at Yale, and the wonderful rhythms of the rowers. Your photographs of the water – the sunshine glinting on the water, the droplets hanging off the oars – is so sparking and beautiful...thank you so much for coming to talk to us in tandem with your amazing film. You and the film – inspiring!" – *Elizabeth Dodson Gray, Theological Opportunities Program, Harvard Divinity School*

"I recently saw your movie and I thought it was wonderful. I particularly enjoyed how you were able to show the victories and success of the story without creating a 'bad guy' ... It is a testament to the greatness of the story... I also appreciated it on a personal level as I have a younger sister..." – *Sam Batchelor, Captain, Yale Heavyweight Men's Crew*

"Where can our girls find heroes? To whom can they turn for guides and healthy role models?... One Boston filmmaker asked herself these questions when she gave birth to her daughter, Daisy. Mary Mazzio came to the School to present and discuss *A Hero for Daisy*. Mary received a standing ovation from her Winsor audience. One Winsor rower exclaimed that the film was "the most unbelievable thing I have ever seen. It showed many strong women, contradicting the modern societal image of women and thin and beautiful." Another student commented that "Winsor already encourages us to stand up for ourselves, but this film shows that if you do it, you can get even farther." ...This spring, a new girl entered my life... Hailey Peter...my first grandchild. Like Mary Mazzio, we now have a new reason to worry about the troubling images of girls and women pictured in popular culture. Still we know that thoughtful people everywhere are inspiring girls to see themselves as strong and capable, and we believe there will be many heroes for both Daisy and Hailey, whether it's the likes of Chris Ernst... Rosa Parks... or perhaps even Miss Winsor herself." – *Carolyn McClintock Peter, Head of School, in a speech to the Winsor School Board of Directors*

"Because of these truly heroic women, young girls and women everywhere are better able to reach their goals and strive for excellence in sports today. *A Hero for Daisy* is more than a story about the rise of Title

IX, it is an inspiration and a film that will make every woman athlete want to push herself to her limits and beyond.” – *Kelly Harris, Captain, Women’s Crew, UNH*

“I attended *A Hero for Daisy* last night ... I wanted to let you know that I thought the film was great and truly captured Chris. I was one of the nineteen women who participated in the protest at Yale and found your method of recounting “the incident” fascinating. Great job! Thanks again for a great film experience that brought back some wonderful memories.” – *Joan Brown Hoelzel*

“I want to thank you for an extraordinary morning...it is vitally important for our boys to understand the obstacles that girls and women have faced in our society... to make sure our boys do learn those important lessons. They can read about them in history books, but more importantly, they need to learn to live them. That comes, importantly, in daily work with the terrific women on this faculty... this education also comes from meeting, listening to, and working with dynamic women. You are all of that. It was a treat for me personally to meet you, speak with you, watch you work. You bring energy, dynamism, enjoyable irreverence, and also powerful messages... a great event for the school.” – *Richard I. Melvoin, Head of School, Belmont Hill School*

“After seeing the film, I left that auditorium with tears of gratitude and a lump in my throat. Thank you for getting the message across for many of us Title IX athletes who had our lives touched by someone like Chris Ernst.” – *Laura Gaito*

“Thank you for speaking in my US History class and for giving so much to our Emma Willard community during your visit. I was moved, encouraged, and challenged by the incredible film that you’ve crafted. I remembered, in the course of discussing the film with some of my students, that my high school basketball coach resigned his coaching position in 1974 to devote his full energies to fighting the implementation of Title IX in my public high school...” – *Robert Naeher, Teacher, The Emma Willard School*

“We went as a family and we all were truly inspired. It was particularly important for my daughter... like all my children, she is so tall, she is completely out of scale with her peers. She does not always get an opportunity to see that this is ok, despite what we tell her. Hats off for a wonderful job.” – *Alex Thomson, father of a 9 year old girl*

“Your movie was very interesting. She [Chris Ernst] is a confident, inspiring woman. I hope that I will be brave like her when I need to be... – *Michele Davis, age 12*

“Thank you for giving those of us who are going through the pain of a sport, the pain of adjusting to college life, and sometimes the pain of being a woman, a person who did exactly what she set out to do. It really gives me the feeling that I can do anything.... Right after the movie ended – all of my teammates looked around at each other and we had these huge smiles on our faces. ‘So, who wants to go lift?’ one of my teammates said. It was perfect.... Thank you for making me believe that no matter how hard it gets, there’s a way of getting to what I want.” – *Susan Evans, Boston College Novice Rowing Team*

“Thank you for coming to Andover with your amazing film...The experience was inspirational to rowers and non-rowers, men and women alike. Seeing such determination and perseverance embodied in one woman, and hearing you speak of Chris’s and your own experiences was truly something that none of us will forget...” – *Phillips Andover Girls’ Crew*

“Just a note of thanks and congratulations for your great work on making this film. I have seen it twice, once at the USRowing Convention and once when it was shown to about 300 women from Iowa, Texas, Kansas State, and Tulsa Univ. Since all of these women are recipients of Title IX legislation and the opportunities it is providing, it was most enjoyable to see the looks of awareness and appreciation on their faces afterward. Everyone should somehow, somewhere in their lives, give thanks and credit to the heroes who made and walked the path you are walking. Thank you for making a lasting difference.” – *Jenny Hale, Head Coach of Kansas State University Women’s Crew*

“Hey Mary, I saw the film at the Berkeley High School fundraiser. It was awesome. [Have you heard about] the story of how the show was sold out through advance sales, and I went down to try and get a ticket anyway? Well as a last resort I pulled out my Cal/Stanford men’s hoops tickets for later that afternoon—a game which has been sold out since last fall—figuring it would be an easy scalp, and no takers! So I guess you could see that “Hero...” is in demand. Great job...” – *an unidentified Cal/Stanford hoops ticket scalper*

“I am still hearing comments about *A Hero for Daisy*. It was awesome...” – *Patti Suppe, California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*

“Thank you for your wonderful, inspiring, and powerful movie!!” – *The Doherty Middle School Girls Club*

“absolutely fabulous” – *UMass Dartmouth Blog*

“Organizations can use this story to inspire and empower individuals or groups to speak out, exercise influence, and affect change...The widespread change that these women created at Yale University is a

compelling reminder that, regardless of authority, every person is capable of great accomplishments using the power of leadership.” – *The Management and Leadership Network – United Kingdom.*

“Title IX created many opportunities for women in the United States; however, the protests at Yale University served as not only a symbolic event for women, but also as a catalyst for the movement towards total equality women’s programs throughout the country...” – *Abby Snyder, 10th grade history paper, Nobles and Greenough School (2005)*

“I want to thank you for making *A Hero for Daisy*. I watched it for the second time today when I showed it in my Intro to Women’s Studies Class – it is such a fabulous piece of work, and so perfect on so many levels. I love it for the message it sends about women being able to be strong, and I love it for its lesson on how to organize and bring about social change.” – *Dr. Valerie Barr, Professor, Hofstra University*

“Thanks so very much for coming to Schlesinger last night... your discussion inspired me more than you can imagine... and your words last night resonated with me deeply. I wanted to thank you especially for sharing what Chris said to you about needing to believe in yourself and stop making excuses... I know I can do it too. So thank you so much for sharing your story and for signing the poster. I will look at it every time I feel like giving up...” – *Marilyn Morgan, PhD Candidate – Harvard University*

“Thanks for caring enough to tell the story and being concerned about having a hero for your daughter – and all of our sons and daughters. That is exactly why I first started teaching women’s history as a former elementary school teacher because there are so many male role models in our history books and not many females ones...” – *Pat Hunter-Williams, Kaua’i Commission on Women (Hawaii)*