

NEWS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE
(October 30, 2009)

New! Coming soon on DVD

***“IT’S A TEEN’S WORLD: wired for sex, lies and power trips”:*
Teens Sound Alarm About the Influence of Internet, Media, and Pop Culture
On their Sexual Behaviour and Attitudes**

(TORONTO): Launching **November 16, 2009** to coincide with National Bullying Awareness Week in Canada, the new and enhanced DVD ***IT’S A TEEN’S WORLD: wired for sex, lies and power trips*** is a unique and compelling project in which teenagers themselves sound the alarm about the hyper-sexualized image of young women and young men offered up as role models in the 21st century mainstream.

The social world of today’s teenagers is *dramatically* different from anything most of us have ever experienced. They are immersed in the most sexually explicit popular culture in history. The Internet and new personal technologies have made sexuality immediate, accessible and "in the moment" for teens. At the same time, sexist behaviour in the extreme has shaped a new definition of “cool” and is seen as the ticket to acceptance.

Distributed in Canada by CBC Learning, ***IT’S A TEEN’S WORLD*** is an unprecedented, unvarnished exploration of the impact this brave, new, wired world has on the sexual behavior and attitudes of teens. The film reveals a generation pushed into flaunting their sexuality without grasping its real-life consequences – a powerful cocktail of bullying and harassment with degrading sexual stereotypes providing the kick.

Award-winning filmmaker and journalist Lynn Glazier (director of the acclaimed and influential film *It’s a Girl’s World* about social bullying) takes us inside a culture of sexual harassment that is widespread among today’s teens. Whether it’s posting racy photos and raunchy video online, grabbing a girl’s ass in the school hallway or spreading explicit gossip and lies, some 85 per cent of Canadian youth report they’ve been sexually harassed by the time of their high school graduation.

“Teens are being bombarded with messages in the media and on the Internet that they need to act like sexual barracudas in order to be popular and cool. That’s going unchallenged,” says Glazier. “Sexual harassment is the number one form of bullying among teens today and it’s warping them just as they are forming their identities. As adults, we just can’t shrug our shoulders and dismiss it as a normal part of growing up.”

In ***IT’S A TEEN’S WORLD***, Glazier challenges three groups of Toronto teens (ages 13-17) to think more critically about their hypersexual and high-tech social world, following them inside all-age clubs, checking out their computer screens and candid personal diaries, and inspiring each of the three groups to make its own short dramatic video about sexual pressures. For many of the teens in the documentary, this process was a life-changing experience.

By questioning and confronting their own and each other’s stereotypes and assumptions, the teens in ***IT’S A TEEN’S WORLD*** go a long way towards figuring things out themselves. And that’s a real eye-opener for adults. More awareness and support can help teens make better choices in their lives and become ambassadors for change in their schools and communities - just as the teens in the film have done.

A short version of the film, with the title ***Wired for Sex, Lies and Power Trips***, aired on CBC Newsworld (now CBC News Network) in October 2009. It was praised by the Globe & Mail as “chilling and compelling viewing”. TV Guide described it as “an honest look into the lives of teenagers, as it is told only through their voices...Glazier’s film opens up a discussion among Canada’s youth.” Tribune Media said the film was “a brutally honest look at the world of the modern teenager, a world in which boys have come to believe that sexual harassment is just harmless fun, and girls have been sold a sexual image of themselves that is one step away from serfdom.”

The enhanced DVD package ***IT’S A TEEN’S WORLD*** includes:

- **A feature-length, director’s cut version of the documentary film. The DVD version is divided into chapters and accompanied by its own User Guide.**
- **Three interactive classroom modules based on the full 8-minute dramas on sexual pressures created by the teen participants in the film, and accompanied by its own User Guide.**
- **The hit rap video "Under Pressure" - Ryan’s catchy, insightful rap tells the story of a teenage girl who found out too late that putting herself ‘out there’ sexually in order to be cool and popular would seriously backfire on her.**
- **Excerpts from Lynn Glazier’s three-part radio documentary series as heard on the CBC Radio One program IDEAS.**

The DVD and 3-disc CD set of the IDEAS series are available separately and as a bundle. Be advised that the content contains mature themes and coarse language and should be pre-screened for a teen audience. Recommended for Grade 7+.

IT’S A TEEN’S WORLD is an essential tool for promoting awareness and change, as told through the authentic voices of teens.

For more information about the film, resources, suggested classroom activities and to download the User Guides, visit www.itsateensworld.com - a must-see destination for teenagers, their parents, and teachers concerned about sexual harassment among youth.

For information about purchasing the DVD and the CD set, visit www.CBCLearning.ca.

IT’S A TEEN’S WORLD is directed, written and produced by Lynn Glazier and produced by Ed Barreveld. The film is produced by Teensworld Productions Inc. with Storyline Entertainment Inc., in association with CBC Newsworld and developed by Bouley Films with assistance from CBC TV and the National Film Board of Canada. It is also produced in association with Knowledge Network and Canal Vie, and with the assistance of the Canadian Independent Film and Video Fund, the participation of the Canadian Television Fund Canadian Television Fund created by the Government of Canada and the Canadian Cable Industry, the Rogers Cable Network Fund and the Rogers Documentary Fund, and with the assistance of the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit and the Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit.

For high-resolution photos available to download, please visit:

www.storylineentertainment.com/publicity (select "teens world", select "Teen's World Photos", download the JPG files)

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