

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES COMPETITION



A LIFE WITHOUT PAIN

Dir/Prod/DP/Ed: Melody Gilbert, Music: Dan Solovitz
DigiBeta, 70 MIN, 2005

WORLD PREMIERE

What would it be like to never feel the sensation of pain? Bliss? Not so for Gabby, Miriam, and Jamilah, three children who were born with Congenital Insensitivity to Pain. Superficially, this extremely rare condition seems like the most desirable of afflictions. *A Life Without Pain* reveals that being pain-free is not all it's cracked up to be.

Filmmaker Melody Gilbert subtly chronicles the unfolding of three different cases. Seeing each child in the context of their family illustrates how age and disposition play a major role in the outcome of the disease. Without pain as a learning mechanism, a parent must either safeguard the child every waking moment or subscribe to the philosophy "what happens, will happen."

A Life Without Pain simply fascinates, with its snapshot moments in the lives of the three girls. Throughout the film, the families attempt to maintain normalcy while dealing with this extraordinary condition. At the core, they struggle with the same issues every family does: sibling rivalry, parental responsibility, and illness. Watching the girls suffer in their painless bodies, it is impossible not to ache for them.

—Tammy Lynn Bolton

Melody Gilbert is an Emmy award-winning independent documentary filmmaker and educator from St. Paul, Minnesota.

3/12	1:30 PM	ACC
3/15	12:00 PM	Dobie
3/19	NOON	ACC

A Life Without Pain

Frozen Feet Films » Melody Gilbert
651/336-5111 » melody@frozenfeetfilms.com