

Melody Gilbert: Director/Producer/Editor/Educator

www.frozenfeetfilms.com

Melody Gilbert is an award-winning independent documentary filmmaker and educator whose work is noteworthy for featuring a rare intimacy with her subjects as she unearths previously hidden worlds. She works mostly solo, querying her subjects from behind the camera, giving voice to ordinary people with extraordinary stories. She has the uncanny ability to get people to open up and reveal their innermost thoughts, whether it's the family of a child who can't feel pain, a couple who gets married at the world's largest shopping mall, a former vice president of the United States or a physically healthy person who desperately wants to become an amputee.

She has directed, shot, produced, filmed (and sometimes edited) 5 independent feature-length documentaries since 2002: *Married at the Mall*, *A Life Without Pain*, *Whole*, *Urban Explorers: Into the Darkness*, and *Fritz: The Walter Mondale Story*. The Documentary Channel calls her "One of the most fearless filmmakers in contemporary documentary cinema."

All of Melody's films have screened at major film festivals around the world and have been broadcast in dozens of countries, from Australia to France and everywhere in between. Her documentaries have been aired on the Sundance channel and featured on Oprah, CNN, ABC, Entertainment Tonight and Good Morning America. Articles about her films have appeared in many publications, from the New York Times to Newsweek, the Hollywood Reporter and Variety.

Ms. Gilbert enjoyed a long career as an award-winning television news producer and reporter. Her specialty was investigative reporting as well as covering the arts. Awards include regional Emmys as well as a national Investigative Reporters and Editors award. In 1996, Ms. Gilbert started teaching broadcast journalism and documentary production at the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and continues to teach students how to make documentaries when she is not making her own. She has taught at Carleton College, IFP, College of Visual Arts, Walker Art Center and in Romania and Kyrgyzstan. In 2001, she formed her own company, Frozen Feet Films, and has been an independent director/producer since. As a filmmaker, Ms. Gilbert has received several fellowships and grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, The Jerome Foundation and the McKnight Artist Fellowship for Filmmakers.