

my left breast
an unusual film about breast cancer



----- A Video Tape by Gerry Rogers-----

“An honest, heartwarming tale of a charming, witty, and wonderful woman’s outlook on life, love and breast cancer. It is an amazingly candid film, not to be missed.”
— *Rosie O’Donnell*



A WOMEN MAKE MOVIES RELEASE

WMM • 462 Broadway, 5th Floor • New York • NY • 10013
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SYNOPSIS

“Every once in a while someone comes up with a film that sends us a clear signal that it's time to re-evaluate our lives. The film 'My Left Breast' is not just for women living with breast cancer--it's for everyone.” – Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Incorporating a unique blend of wit, wisdom and resilience, filmmaker Gerry Rogers bravely recounts her story of breast cancer survival to share with the world that life, indeed, can continue with full force and vigor. Shortly after being diagnosed at age 42, Rogers began to document her ordeal on camera in an attempt to confront her own questions and fears about breast cancer. Rather than present a somber and morose meditation on this difficult experience, she decides to invoke humor to frankly reflect on the meaning of this disease on her life, as well as on the lives of her friends and family. The result is a one-of-kind approach to positively coping with a potentially fatal disease.

Rather than merely chronicling how one copes with an infirmity, "My Left Breast" serves as a model for overcoming every challenge and obstacle in life with clarity and honesty. In the same vein as the most highly regarded films on health, such as "Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter", this powerful film intimately embraces the emotional challenges of disease, demonstrates acceptance and, above all, affirms life.



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QUOTES

"An honest, heartwarming tale of a charming, witty, and wonderful woman's outlook on life, love and breast cancer. It is an amazingly candid film, not to be missed."

— Rosie O'Donnell

"...[a] straightforward picture of one woman's treatment for breast cancer...a loving and tender depiction of the relationships and community that helped her through it. Every woman would benefit from viewing 'My Left Breast.'"

— Susan Love, MD,

Author, Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book

"Rogers demonstrates remarkable clarity and humor...An informative film about breast cancer, it also reveals, subtly and powerfully, the healing power of love."

— Chuck Wilson, *LA Weekly*

"...a documentary whose immediacy and stunning honesty were even more impressive on second viewing. I'll watch it a third time...it's that good. This is a lovely, artful piece of filmmaking that illuminates the ordeal of illness and delight of recovery with wit, wrenching honesty and hopeful humanism."

— Michelle Lansberg, *The Toronto Star*

"...intimate, starkly honest, humorous and inspiring - all at the same time."

— Susan Hiller, *The National Post*

"...probably one of the most powerful breast cancer stories you'll hear or see..."

— Marilyn Linton, *The Toronto Sun*



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CREDITS

Director
Gerry Rogers

Editor
Terre Nash

Camera
Peggy Norman

Producer
Paul Pope

Music Composer
Paul Steffler

Produced by Pope Productions Ltd.
in association with
CBC Newsworld

Canada • 2000 • 57 minutes • Color • Video



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FESTIVALS

**Gemini Award (Canadian Oscar)
Best History/Biography Documentary
Best Direction in a Documentary**

Gold for Best Canadian Documentary,
Hot Docs, Canadian International Documentary Festival

Best Female Director, Inside Out The Toronto Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

Best Canadian Film or Video,
Inside Out The Toronto Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

Best Director, Best Documentary, c1TV Audience Award for Favorite Film,
Dallas International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Best Documentary, The Nickel Independent Film Festival, St. John's Int'l Women F&V Festival

Silver Hugo, Chicago International Television Competition

Bronze Remi, Worldfest-Houston International Film Festival

Sheffield International Documentary Film Festival

SF, NY, LA, Philadelphia, DC, Vancouver, Dallas, Austin, Tampa, Ottawa, Vancouver,
Toronto, New Zealand, Berlin Gay and Lesbian Film Festivals

Women in the Director's Chair

Doclands, Ireland's Documentary Film Festival

Banff Television Festival

Telescience Film Festival, Montreal

Cineffable, Paris Lesbian Film Festival



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BIOS

DIRECTOR GERRY ROGERS began her film career in 1982 at the National Film Board's Studio D in Montreal. In 1992 she returned to her native Newfoundland and founded Augusta Productions. Among the many film she has produced is the internationally award winning **To a Safer Place**. Her directorial credits include the NFB/CBC co-production **After The Montreal Massacre**, the internationally award winning **Vienna Tribunal**, and **Kathleen Shannon: on film, feminism, and other dreams**. Gerry's latest film, **My Left Breast** is an intimate and starkly honest portrayal of her struggle with breast cancer, from post mastectomy, through chemotherapy and radiation. Filmed mostly by her partner Peggy and herself, through tears, humour and courage she opens her body, heart and soul to the camera.

EDITOR TERRE NASH'S first film, **If You Love This Planet**, not only won her and OSCAR[®], but had the singular distinction of being labeled political propaganda by the United States Department of Justice. Opposition to the ruling led all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court and finally culminated in a U.S. Congressional Hearing on free speech. For the first time in the 7-year battle Nash came face-to-face with the men who had accused her of being a foreign agent. Nash's journey to Washington to testify in front of the Congressional Committee, was itself made into a film by the CBC, **If You Love Free Speech: An Unguided Tour Through the Twilight Zone**. After a serious horse riding accident in New Zealand while filming her documentary, **Who's Counting? Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies and Global Economics**, Nash recovered by editing the films of other directors. Most recently, she cut Martin Lavut's 2-part series on human genetics **After Darwin**, and co-write and co-edited the part CBC series **Niagra Falls**, produced by Galafilm. Terre's films, many made while freelancing with the National Film Board's Studio D, have garnered over two dozen international awards. The most recent film she has edited is **My Left Breast**, about Gerry Rogers ordeal with breast cancer.

PRODUCER PAUL POPE is a filmmaker living in St. John's, Newfoundland. He has produced the feature films **Extraordinary Visitor**, **Secret Nation**, and **Welcome to Canada** (Associate Producer 1987). He is currently producing the feature **Rare Birds**, set to start shooting in October 2000. As well, he has produced a number of documentaries and short films including: **My Left Breast**, **The Plumber's Waltz**, **Congratulations**, (a Prelude film for the Toronto Film Festival), **Rock Choral**, **Eye of the Storm In Caribou Country**, and **Lend Me Your Ears**. Paul has been active in the Newfoundland film community for many years. He has been involved in countless television, commercial and feature productions as a First Assistant Director, Producer or Mentor. A member of The Newfoundland Independent Film Cooperative (Nifco) since its inception, Paul continues to play an integral role in the development of a vibrant film and video scene. Many filmmakers have benefited from his generosity and extensive knowledge of the industry.



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FILMOGRAPHY

GERRY ROGERS - DIRECTOR

- 2000 **My Left Breast**
Director (Documentary, Pope Productions/Newsworld)
- 1996 **KATHLEEN SHANNON: on film, feminism and other dreams...**
Director. (Documentary, NFB)
- 1996 **REFERENDUM: Take Two**
Co-director-collective piece (Documentary, NFB)
- 1994 **THE VIENNA TRIBUNAL: Women's Rights Are Human Rights**
Producer/Director (Documentary, Augusta Productions /NFB)
- 1991 **Safer for Women, Safer for Everyone**
Director (Documentary, Council of Ontario Universities)
- 1990 **After the Montreal Massacre**
Director (Documentary, NFB/CBC)
- 1988 **Faithful Women**
Assistant Director (7 x 1 -hour documentary series for television, NFB)
- 1987 **To a Safer Place**
Producer (Documentary, NFB)



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