

# Orgasmic Birth

The Best-Kept Secret

A documentary that examines the intimate nature of birth and the powerful role it plays in women's lives when they are permitted to experience it fully

[www.orgasmicbirth.com](http://www.orgasmicbirth.com)

## About the Production Team...

### DEBRA PASCALI-BONARO, Director/Producer



Debra is an internationally renowned childbirth expert, a 26-year speaker in childbirth education, and a Lamaze-certified veteran in maternity care with a passion for birth. She is the mother of three sons and two stepchildren.

A graduate of McGill University, Debra travels the world working to ensure women and their partners understand their rights related to the circumstances of giving birth. She teaches nursing, midwifery, and medical students at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, and New York University; has spoken about doula care at the White House; and has been instrumental in the development of several hospital-based and community-based doula programs. Abroad, she provides consultation to H.O.M.E. – a project of the European Community – and works in Brazil to implement doula programs. She provides in-service programs to nurses, midwives, and residents and Grand Rounds to physicians at hospitals and universities internationally.

Debra is Co-Chair of the International MotherBaby Childbirth Initiative, which works in collaboration with global leaders and groups to reduce maternal and infant mortality and improve care for mothers, babies, and families. She serves on the Board of Directors for Childbirth Connection and is a DONA-approved doula trainer. She co-authored *Nurturing Beginnings: Mother Love's Guide to Postpartum Home Care for Doulas and Outreach Workers* and received Lamaze International's Elizabeth Bing Award in 2002.

Debra began videotaping births worldwide, traveling to New Zealand, Mexico, the U.K., and South America, as well as throughout the United States to help educate and inspire people to consider their options and the implications of the circumstances of birth for women's and babies' health and well-being. *Orgasmic Birth* is her first film.

### KRIS LIEM, Producer/Editor



A three-time Emmy winner for Outstanding Achievement in Film Editing, Kris has edited many award-winning documentaries, including episodes of the Emmy winners for Outstanding Nonfiction Series for both 2004 and 2005, *Broadway: the American Musical*, and *10 Days That Unexpectedly Changed America*. She co-produced a number of the films she has edited, including *They Came For Good: A History of the Jews in the United States*. Kris started her career in the early 1970s with the Maysles brothers and has since worked at all the major networks, including ABC, CBS, NBC, and PBS, as well as HBO, A&E, and The History Channel.

### DAVID A. FORD, Director of Photography



In the last decade, David has shot numerous commercial, narrative, and documentary films. His credits include two Emmy Award-winning documentaries: *New York: A Documentary Film* by Ric Burns (Steeplechase Films) and *Divided Highways: The Interstates and the Transformation of American Life* (Florentine Films). Recently David was Executive Producer and Director of Photography for an hourlong documentary on gay rodeo for MTV's new channel, LOGO. David is a successful signed Producer/Director with Image Bank, the largest stock footage supplier in the world. He teaches cinematography in the graduate film department at Columbia University.

### JOHN McDOWELL, Composer



John is an internationally award-winning pianist, percussionist, producer, commissioned composer, and instructor. He wrote the music for the film *Born Into Brothels*, which won the Academy Award for Best Documentary in 2005 and 25 other film awards. John's touring and recording credits include Mamma Tongue, the platinum-selling band Rusted Root, Krishna Das, and Ram Das. He has performed with Sting and Carlos Santana. He has produced several albums, including *Pilgrim Heart*, *Live on Earth* by Krishna Das, *Beloved Chants* by Shyamdas, and *A Night of Sufi Music* by the Jerrahi Dervishes. His latest release, *Speaking the Mamma Tongue*, on Raven Records reached #19 on top 100 World Radio.

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**SABINA SCIUBBA, Additional Composition and Lyrics**



Born in Rome and raised in Bavaria, Sabina has lived in France and now resides in New York City. Sabina sings and composes in six languages and is the lead singer of the New York Brazilian Girls. Besides

recording and touring worldwide with the Brazilian Girls, she has collaborated with many artists, including Bebel Gilberto, Adria Petty, Meshell Ndegeocello, Baaba Maal, Wax Poetic, Herbert, MSTRKRFT, ThreeASFOUR, and Gemma Kahng. Original scores besides the score for *Orgasmic Birth* include *The Party's Over* (2002), *Dogs in the Basement* (2003), *Born into Brothels* (2004), and *Forty Shades of Blue* (2005). Sabina has acted in the films *LL* (2006), *The Doorman* (2006), *The DIG* (2005), and the German television series "Marienhof" (1995-96).

**TOM PAUL, Sound Mixer**



An accomplished sound professional with more than 20 years in the business, Tom has mixed and sound-designed more than 80 films, including both dramatic features and documentaries.

After a busy start as a boom operator and then a production mixer, Tom began a transition into postproduction audio in 1994, having developed a keen interest in sound design. Gaining post chops and a loyal clientele, he moved his operation up to Rockland County, New York, where he designed and built his first mixing studio in a 1940s vintage streamside cottage that has become the mixing and sound-design studio of choice for many New York film projects over the years, including Academy Award winners *Born Into Brothels* and *The Fog of War*.

**JUDITH ELAINE HALEK, Photographer**



Since 1987, Judith, who is the director of Birth Balance, has filmed and photographed waterbirth conferences and pregnancy/labor/birth/postpartum, nationally and internationally. Judith filmed, directed, and edited 39 "Alternatives in Childbirth" documentaries that aired on the Manhattan Neighborhood cable station.

**JADA SHAPIRO, Photographer**



Jada is co-founder of Birth Day Presence, a company that provides professional birth photography, birth and postpartum support, and childbirth education to expectant women and their families in the New York City area. Her intimacy with the birthing process allows her to witness and record the beauty and power of a birthing woman and her partner as they make the transition into parenthood.

**ARP LASZLO, Website Designer and Webmaster**



Arp is a web designer and developer who became involved in the film *Orgasmic Birth* because of a personal interest in homebirth and a desire to expand the options available for women during their birth journey. He and his family also appear in the film in scenes in which his wife gives birth to their daughter at home.

