

## CHILDBIRTH & PARENTING

### Pain Management for Childbirth, Volume 1: Comfort Techniques ★★★

(2011) 29 min. DVD: \$69.95; public libraries; \$199.95; high schools, colleges & universities. InJoy. PPR. Closed captioned.

This first program in a two-volume set covers “natural comfort techniques” that women can use to manage pain during childbirth—either solely or in combination with pain-relieving medication. A female narrator and a childbirth educator/doula offer specific suggestions—for creating a soothing physical environment, lying or leaning in various physical positions, and performing deep breathing relaxation exercises—while also covering massage and hydrotherapy. Doula Laurel Wilson explains what causes pain during labor (illustrated with cutaway animation), suggests how to prepare for the discomfort, and discusses relevant common myths. Couples are interviewed both before and after un-medicated births, and labor room footage captures how they used various comfort techniques. Wilson explains that during the birth process, “pain” is “Purposeful, Anticipated, Intermittent, and Normal,” and

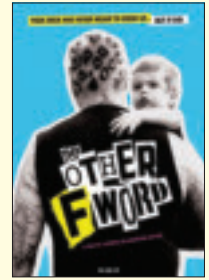
understanding that the situation isn’t a sign of injury or disease can be comforting in

itself. The program also includes numerous tips for birth partners. DVD extras include

### The Other F Word ★★★

(2011) 99 min. DVD: \$29.99. Oscilloscope Laboratories (avail. from most distributors).

First-time filmmaker Andrea Blaugrund Nevins builds her sympathetic, yet fair-minded documentary around an intriguing question: what happens to punk rockers when they become parents? In an opening inter-title, she introduces *The Other F Word* as “a coming of middle age story,” which proves to be an apt description, since she looks at both parenthood and aging. As Brett Gurewitz (Bad Religion) puts it, punk “was never meant to grow up, but it did.” Many of Nevins’s California-based subjects, from musicians to professional skaters, grew up with absent or overbearing fathers, but found a second family through punk rock. Now they have to figure out how to raise a kid while staying true to their anti-authoritarian beliefs. Nevins has selected some particularly forthcoming subjects, like *Punk Rock Dad* author Jim Lindberg (Pennywise), a father of three who admits that he dyes his hair to maintain his image. Lindberg provides the narrative center, since he has a lot to offer about the history of L.A. punk, which began as a particularly violent variant of the genre (Lars Frederiksen of Rancid is the only Bay Area participant). Lindberg and Ron Reyes (Black Flag) admit that they have, out of necessity, become a part of the same system they once rejected. Nevins also speaks with reps from MySpace and Napster, as well as a few teenagers, such as Clara, the piano-playing daughter of Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers). Interspersed throughout are animated sequences and music clips that keep the pace moving right along. DVD extras include audio commentary (with Nevins, Lindberg, and Everclear’s Art Alexakis), extended interviews, music videos and bonus performances, and outtakes. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennesy)



**KidSafety of America**  
proudly presents

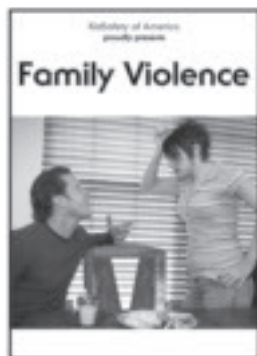
## Highly Recommended DVDs

Health • Safety • Prevention • First Aid • Children • Parents • Educators • Caregivers

Order Online  
and receive  
**15% off**

Coupon code: VLAPR

Coupon expires 4/30/2012



**Family Violence**  
Impact on Children, DVD Series  
Vol. 1 - An Overview  
Vol. 2 - For Educators and Caregivers  
Vol. 3 - For Parents

Available in Spanish  
Priced at \$89.95 each.



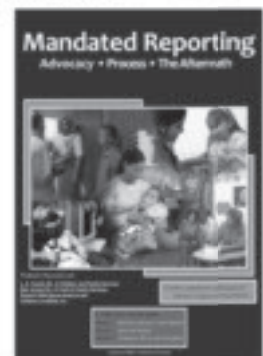
**Child Abuse & Neglect**  
A Prevention and Reporting Guide  
Vol. 1 - For Parents  
Vol. 2 - For Educators and Caregivers

Available in Spanish  
Priced at \$79.95 each.



**The Home Visiting Video Library**  
Reality-Based Training for Home Visitors  
Effective training for home visitation. For the first time these videos make it possible to “shadow” real home visits for analysis and discussion. 11 DVD set plus manual.

Priced at \$95.00



**Mandated Reporting**  
Advocacy, Process, The Aftermath  
Vol. 1 - Reporting Advocacy  
Vol. 2 - Reporting Process  
Vol. 3 - Reporting Aftermath  
Myths and Challenges

Priced at \$159.95

**KidSafety of America**

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

6288 Susana Street, Chino, CA 91710  
Phone: 800/524-1156, Fax: 909/627-8777

a bonus segment focusing more specifically on one of the featured couples. Also newly available is the second volume in the series: *Analgesics & Epidurals*. Recommended. Aud: H, C, P. (M. Puffer-Rothenberg)

## RELATIONSHIPS & SEXUALITY

### **Mutantes** ★★1/2

(2009) 91 min. DVD: \$149 (\$249 w/PPR). Kino Lorber Edu.

In *Mutantes*, French author/filmmaker Virginie Despentes documents the rise of “post-porn” feminism, which began in the 1980s in reaction to mainstream pornography and is pro-gay, pro-prostitution, and pro-punk. Annie Sprinkle, Carol Queen, and Candida Royalle are among those who talk about their introduction to sex work, while film critic B. Ruby Rich, director Catherine Breillat, photographer Del La Grace Volcano, and musicians Lydia Lunch and Lynnee Breedlove add their related perspectives. As Breillat sees it, “The concept of obscenity is a totalitarian tool to reduce women.” While the sex workers all feel more empowered than victimized (although some have now left the field), their origins are strikingly different. Norma Jean Almodovar, for instance, started out as a police officer, but after being disillusioned by widespread corruption in the LAPD, she protested through prostitution, an experience that led to the book *Cop to Call Girl*. Other topics include lesbian pornography, fetish and bondage films, legalization versus decriminalization, and porn versus erotica (jokes Rich, “It’s the lighting”). In between interviews, Despentes intercuts an array of sexually explicit scenes from the films of Sprinkle, Royale, Richard Kern, Shu

Lea Cheang, and Todd Morris. Despentes presents some provocative ideas and images here, but *Mutantes* ultimately loses its way at the end with a long sojourn amongst Barcelona’s post-porn scene that revels in exhibitionism and degradation in a manner that seems more amateurish than empowering. Academic collections will want to consider, but the explicit sexual material makes this optional for all but the most adventurous of public libraries. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

### **Shut Up Little Man! An Audio Misadventure** ★★★1/2

(2010) 90 min. DVD: \$26.95. New Video Group (avail. from most distributors). ISBN: 1-4229-9254-3.

Cult audio history was made in 1987 when two young Midwest transplants named Eddie and Mitch moved into a rundown apartment in San Francisco and found that their next-door neighbors, aging chronic alcoholics Raymond Huffman and Peter Haskett, fought verbally and sometimes physically throughout the night. Initially the youths made cassette-tape recordings as potential evidence for the police, but soon their taping of the profane harangues, homophobic slurs, and almost ritual insults (“Shut up, li’l man!”) became an entertainment pastime. Eddie and Mitch included samples in music-mixtapes circulated amidst friends, ultimately issuing some 14 hours of Raymond-Peter arguments, which went “viral” before the term was coined. The ensuing years have witnessed Raymond and Peter CDs, remixes, stage dramatizations, and at least three Hollywood film projects that failed to launch—and now this oft-uproarious Australian-made documentary, written and directed by Matthew Bate, that details the backstory. The bulk of the film consists of interviews with Eddie and

Mitch, supplemented by archival photos and footage, a few re-enactments, and contributions from graphic novelist Daniel Clowes and others. Along the way, Bate considers the impact the tapes had on pre-reality TV pop culture, and raises (but never really answers) questions about copyright and whether the whole phenomenon simply exploited two sad drunks (a finale aspires to restore some dignity to the now-deceased roommates). DVD extras include a behind-the-scenes featurette, an interview with cartoonist and comics scholar Ivan Brunetti, and deleted scenes. Highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)

### **When Strangers Click: Five Stories from the Internet** ★★★

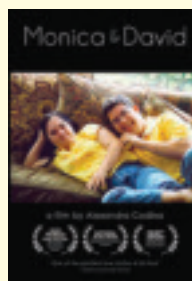
(2011) 56 min. DVD: \$19.98. *The Disinformation Company* (avail. from most distributors). ISBN: 978-1-934708-1-1.

In this HBO-aired documentary, director Robert Kenner (*Food, Inc.*) explores modern dating habits, with an emphasis on the Internet. Interspersed among the five stories featured here are interesting observational tidbits, such as “Women are afraid of meeting a serial killer. Men are afraid of meeting someone fat.” New Jersey divorcee Kim had no luck with blind dates, so she went online and found a man from Prague, whom she wound up marrying (nine years later, they’re still together). Dave, a diminutive New Yorker, lacked the confidence to approach women in person, but the virtual world opened up occasions to flirt, have sexual encounters, and form a lasting relationship. Fellow New Yorkers Beth and Andy also found love through the web. The only foreign interviewee, Jonas, reinvented himself through Second Life, since his remote location in Sweden made socializing difficult. Within the game, his avatar performed music for other players, including a woman with whom he enjoyed a virtual romance with real-world repercussions (in an odd touch, Kenner interviews him as a Second Life avatar). The fifth subject, Ryan, grew up in a conservative Montana home and had nowhere to turn as a gay teen, but when his dad brought home a computer, he discovered chat rooms. His story takes the most surprising twist after he moves to Spokane to attend college, where he forms an online bond with the least likely individual, leading to a scandal that broke nationwide. DVD extras include an interview, deleted scenes, and a Q&A session. Recommended. Aud: C, P. (K. Fennessy)

### **Monica & David** ★★★1/2

(2010) 67 min. DVD: \$29.95. *Docurama* (avail. from most distributors). ISBN: 1-4229-8633-0.

In this HBO-aired documentary, the titular couple—two high-functioning Down syndrome adults living in Florida—defy expectations by falling in love and planning to marry, with the blessing (and assistance) of their families. First-time filmmaker Alexandra Codina is Monica’s cousin, allowing the film to achieve a sense of intimacy that is never intrusive or voyeuristic during the wedding ceremony and the newlyweds’ first year together as man and wife. Although employed part-time, Monica and David necessarily live with the bride’s mother and stepfather, both retirees (the latter, not unkindly, doubts that the couple will ever be able to sustain themselves and function independently), a situation that leads to the family moving across town to a custom-designed divided suite. The stress of the move and a health crisis for David seem to be the greatest surface challenges faced by the pair, whose affection for each other appears to be strong and deep. While an ideal support system, including social welfare agencies, seems to exist around Monica and David, both of their biological fathers left their mothers behind soon after their respective births, and for Monica in particular it’s a heartache that still hurts. A powerful, emotional documentary, this is highly recommended. Aud: C, P. (C. Cassidy)



## FOOD & SPIRITS

### **A Community of Gardeners** ★★★1/2

(2011) 60 min. DVD: \$25: individuals; \$89: public libraries & high schools; \$195: colleges & universities. *Cintia Cabib*. PPR.

Cintia Cabib’s documentary examines the