

Lamm & Wigmore discuss, 'Birth Story: Ina May Gaskin & The Farm Midwives'

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<http://birthstorymovie.com/>

Birth happens everyday, but the honest details of birth are rarely talked about in a real way. More than 40 years ago Ina May Gaskin and the ladies of **'The Farm'** decided to reclaim the birthing experience. Filmmakers Sara Lamm and Mary Wigmore bring their story to the big screen in the new documentary, **"Birth Story: Ina May Gaskin and The Farm Midwives."**

Ina May, along with a trusted group of like-minded women, began their journey to home births in San Francisco in the 1960's. On a caravan of hippie school buses the women began to train themselves as midwives and helped each other deliver their babies. When the time came to settle down they realized, as is still the case today, the Bay Area is an expensive place to live. The group decided to settle in a rural area of Tennessee and in 1971

the 'The Farm' was created.

Filmmaker Lamm says she was introduced to Ina May in the same way most new mothers are, "A friend gave me a copy of **'Spiritual Midwifery'** when I was pregnant with my daughter. Then Mary got pregnant with her son not long after that and I gave her a copy of the book and we both read it, and separately thought, oh my gosh what an incredible film this would be." The pair was surprised to learn that a film had not already been made, Wigmore explains, "I remember looking for the documentary about her and it didn't exist. We felt like, we've really got to do this."

Ina May is, arguably, the world's most famous midwife. She has been approached in the past, but never felt a connection to the filmmakers. The fact that Lamm and Wigmore are working mothers is one reason Ina May agreed to the film. Lamm says, "Motherhood is not separate from the filmmaking in this particular instance. Not just because we were mothering while we were filmmaking, but also because it is a film that our motherhood was directly informing. When we met Ina May she said, 'You know, a lot of people have come to me and asked to make a film about me, but you are the first mothers who have asked me.' I think she wanted to know that the person, the people, who were going to be asking her questions had been through the process of giving birth."

The film seamlessly weaves together archival footage with new interviews and offers women an option they might not know exists. This film is not a debate between home births and hospital births, Lamm explains it is more basic than that, "For women to hear positive birth stories is very helpful...I think we want to highlight the skills that midwives have, and for people to really understand midwifery, midwives, as experts in low risk, normal birth."

"Birth Story: Ina May Gaskin and The Farm Midwives" is now showing in **San Francisco** at the **Roxie**, and in Cupertino at the **Bluelight Cinema**.

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