Eggsploitation: Maggie's Story

THE CENTER FOR BIOETHICS AND CULTURE presents "EGGSPLORTATION: MAGGIE'S STORY"

Directed by JENNIFER LAHL
Written by MATTHEW EPPINETTE and JENNIFER LAHL
Produced by JENNIFER LAHL and MATTHEW EPPINETTE

RUN TIME APPROX. 23 MIN

Eggsploitation:
Maggie’s Story
PRESS KIT
Press Inquiries, contact:
media@cbc-network.org
FILM TITLE:
Eggsploration: Maggie’s Story

LOG LINE:
One woman’s journey through egg donation . . . and its consequences . . .

CONTACT INFO:
The Center for Bioethics and Culture Network
3380 Vincent Road STE HUB
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-407-2660
info@cbc-network.org
media@cbc-network.org
cbc-network.org/maggie
facebook.com/cbcnetwork
twitter.com/cbcnetwork

Jennifer Lahl, Writer/Director/Producer
jennifer.lahl@cbc-network.org

Matthew Eppinette, Writer/Producer
matthew.eppinette@cbc-network.org

TECHNICAL INFO:
Running Time: 23 minutes
Exhibition Format: Online
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Shooting Format: HD
Color, English
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SALES:
Available worldwide through Vimeo On Demand https://vimeo.com/ondemand/maggie

BROADCAST INQUIRIES:
Broadcast rights are available through the Center for Bioethics and Culture Network.
EDUCATIONAL INQUIRIES:
Educational Licensing for *Eggsploration: Maggie’s Story* is available through the Center for Bioethics and Culture Network.

COMMUNITY & FESTIVAL SCREENING INQUIRIES:
We encourage university, civic, church, and local community groups to use this film for outreach and engagement on the important issues addressed in the film. Please contact the Center for Bioethics and Culture Network for public performance rights.

SYNOPSIS SHORT:
*Eggsploration: Maggie’s Story* follows one woman’s journey of learning about “helping” others have a child they desperately want, what she discovered in becoming an egg donor, and the consequences that followed. Maggie was told how special she was, but she was never informed of the risks egg donation posed to her own health and wellbeing. She was used repeatedly for others’ gain, but when things turned bad, she was left on her own to navigate tests, treatments, surgeries, and an unknown prognosis.

CREDITS:

Directed by
Jennifer Lahl

Written and Produced by
Jennifer Lahl and Matthew Eppinette

Associate Producers
Christopher White
Amy McRoberts

Production
Matthew Eppinette
PRESS RELEASE:

New Documentary Exposes the Exploitation of Another Egg “Donor”


Eggsploration: Maggie’s Story follows one woman’s journey of learning about “helping” others have a child they desperately want, what she discovered in becoming an egg donor, and the consequences that followed. Maggie was told how special she was, but was never informed of the risks egg donation posed to her own health and wellbeing. She was used repeatedly for others’ gain, but when things turned bad, she was left on her own to navigate tests, treatments, surgeries, and an unknown prognosis. Maggie’s harrowing story shows how the medical professionals she trusted ignored abnormal health signals along the way, all for their own financial profit. Sadly, Maggie joins the ranks of other young women harmed and hurt by egg “donation,” and left forgotten.

In all the slick marketing around egg donation there is never any mention of the real and serious potential health risks to the young women who serve as compensated donors. One of the many glaring, dirty little secrets is that there has never been a single major, peer-reviewed, long-term study of the otherwise healthy young women who are enticed with large sums of money to sell their eggs to make the dreams of others come true.

Janice Raymond, Ph.D., author of Women as Wombs: Reproductive Technologies and the Battle over Women’s Freedom and Professor Emerita at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, says Maggie’s Story is “a personal story that is much larger than one woman’s experience. Maggie serves as a warning to all of us concerned about the harm done to women through egg donation. An urgently needed and articulate indictment of the world of eggsploration.”

Feminist activist Melinda Tankard Reist calls out the multi-billion dollar infertility industry stating, “Many others in the fertility industry dismiss the stories in Eggsploration as being insignificant. They want to reduce women’s experiences to the lesser categories of ‘anecdotal evidence’ and ‘scare tactics’ – ironically, using their own reassuring anecdotal evidence that they have never personally seen a donor die or develop cancer.”

Eggsploration: Maggie’s Story is available on demand worldwide at https://vimeo.com/ondemand/maggie

Contact:
media@eggsplotation.com
ENDORSEMENTS:

“A must-watch film for anyone contemplating becoming an egg donor. Maggie’s story shows how well meaning women who want to help others risk their own health and indeed lives, and how unscrupulous doctors put their profit before the egg donor’s state of health. Also, a must-watch for anyone contemplating using donated eggs for IVF or surrogacy. Remember, there is a woman from whose body these eggs come who might die because of your desire to have a child. Don’t proceed. Stop right now.”
— Renate Klein, Ph.D., women’s health researcher and FINRRAGE coordinator

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— Janice Raymond, Ph.D., Author of Women as Wombs: Reproductive Technologies and the Battle over Women’s Freedom; Professor Emerita, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

“Maggie’s story is another cautionary tale of the scientific and ethical gray zone of ‘assisted reproduction.’ Her case illustrates the mercenary manipulation of a kind-hearted, generous young woman who received a pittance in compensation for a very valuable commodity: her eggs. She takes the risks. The clinic collects the money.”
— H. Rex Greene, M.D., board certified in Internal Medicine, Hematology, Oncology, and Hospice-Palliative Medicine

“Anyone who has been fed the lie that egg donation is safe and ethical: watch this film. The harm goes beyond mental and physical health consequences. The commercialization of any part of a woman’s body is always harmful.”
— Julie Bindel, journalist, author, and feminist campaigner

“Anyone contemplating becoming an egg donor or using an egg donor must watch this film. To hear this woman's chilling and sobering story of her journey into the Brave New World of reproductive technology is to see where trendy medical science and amoral market forces meet.”

“Maggie’s Story is a devastating look into the hidden dark side of the fertility industry and the dangers that egg donors don't realize they face. It's a reminder that commercializing the human body can have permanent consequences.”