

## THE BUFFALO FILM SEMINARS

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT GREAT FILMS WITH BRUCE JACKSON & DIANE CHRISTIAN

PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO AND THE MARKET ARCADE FILM AND ARTS CENTER

8 NOVEMBER 2000

# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ROSIE THE RIVETER

Directed by Connie Field. 1980. 65 minutes.

Connie Field on Rosie:

"*Rosie* was made as a documentary because the story could not have been told as a fiction film. One of the main concepts was myth versus reality. The film is as much a statement about the effects of media propaganda on our lives as it is a history of women workers. Therefore, the documentary form, which allows for the juxtaposition of real experience as told by the women themselves with the actual newsreels of the day, creates a stronger impact." "Another thing that I consciously went for was a dramatic curve to the film, and I used that concept to structure the film. I was very conscious of wanting the audience to feel the experience, for it to have an emotional experience."

"I think the disembodied voice of a narrator distances people from the material. And I don't mean Brechtian distance, which is a whole other thing. I mean the kind of distancing that can minimize the impact of the material. I believe audiences are intelligent enough to get the point, even subtle points."

"... the form that I chose to use also limited the content, even though I would never have chosen any other way for this particular film. I feel very strongly that interview documentaries can be extremely powerful if people are revealed in such a way that you can care and feel for them and can receive their stories as drama. If I was using people *just* for information, I could have used some of these stories which, for whatever reason, didn't carry the emotional weight that matched up to the events they were describing."

"I chose women whose stories and job histories were typical of the times and who could reveal important historical events such as the black struggle for employment and union organizing drives. We did extensive preinterviews—seven hundred women were interviewed over the phone, two hundred in person on audio tape; thirty-five were videotaped; and we filmed five. We interviewed so many for two reasons. First, the response to our press releases was overwhelming. Second, the oral histories were a crucial part of the original research necessary for the film."

"Rosie The Riveter"

All the day long,  
Whether rain or shine,  
She's a part of the assembly line.  
She's making history,

Rosie the Riveter.  
Keeps a sharp lookout for sabotage,  
Sitting up there on the fuselage.  
That little girl will do more than a male will do.

Rosie's got a boyfriend, Charlie.  
Charlie, he's a Marine.  
Rosie is protecting Charlie,  
Working overtime on the riveting machine

When they gave her a production "E",  
She was as proud as she could be,  
There's something true about,  
Red, white, and blue about,

Rosie the Riveter.

Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb, 1942

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... and she wears the WOW bandanna. Water Repellent. Washable. Dust Proof. The "WOW" Bandanna, designed in accordance with U.S. Army specification, is an attractive, safe, and unifying head covering to identify Women Ordnance Workers. About 27" square, it is available either in Ordnance red with white Ordnance insignia, or in white with red Ordnance insignia. Every woman in your plant will want one--it's a "WOW" for morale! \$3.75 per dozen, net F.O.B., New York. Manufactured under authorization from the Army Ordnance Department. We invite your inquiry. BRIAN FABRICS CORPORATION, 1441 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

**For more information....**

Penny Colman. *Rosie the Riveter: Women Working on Home Front in World War II*. NY: Crown Publishers, 1995.

Sherna Gluck, *Rosie the Riveter Revisited: Women, the War and Social Change*, 1987.

Honey, Maureen. *Creating Rosie the Riveter: Class, Gender, and Propaganda during WWII*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.

Nancy Baker Wise and Christy Wise. *A Mouthful of Rivets: Women at Work in World War II*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1994.

Website for the Rosie the Riveter Memorial: <http://www.rosietheriveter.org/>

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**Join us next Wednesday 15 November for Helen Mirren in Peter Greenaway's dazzling look at haute cuisine, literate love, and bad manners— THE COOK, THE THIEF, HIS WIFE & HER LOVER (1989) ...for cast and crew info on almost any film: [imdb.com/search.html](http://imdb.com/search.html) or [allmovie.com](http://allmovie.com)...for information on major American films, including detailed plot summaries: [www.filmsite.org](http://www.filmsite.org).... email Bruce Jackson: [bjackson@buffalo.edu](mailto:bjackson@buffalo.edu)...email Diane Christian: [engdc@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:engdc@acsu.buffalo.edu)...for the series schedule, links and updates: [www.buffalofilmseminars.com](http://www.buffalofilmseminars.com)... for the weekly email informational notes, send an email to either of us.**

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