

Association for Women in Psychology
2007 Annual Conference, San Francisco, California
Film Discussion, Friday, March 9, 2007, 4:45 – 6:00 pm, Portola

little man

An award winning documentary by Nicole Conn

<http://www.littlemanthemovie.com/>

“At what price do we hold on to life?” is the question posed in introducing this profoundly moving documentary, directed by acclaimed lesbian writer and filmmaker Nicole Conn. It chronicles, passionately and vividly, the wrenching and inspiring journey of Conn and her partner (political activist Gwendolyn Baba), who have a 1-lb. micro-premature son through a surrogate in California. Conn films the journey from the couple’s decision to have a second child, through the surrogacy and birth process, the suspenseful and heart-rending months in the hospital “NICU,” and later, the near-crippling stress of life at home, which continues to erode the couple’s strained relationship.

It is a very fitting film for the theme of the 2007 AWP conference, *Beyond Dualities*, because the social, psychological and ethical questions it raises are complex and difficult. Possible topics for discussion include:

- ✚ surrogacy
- ✚ defining families
- ✚ right to life
- ✚ right to death
- ✚ right to life-style within a marriage
- ✚ super-medicalization of childbirth
- ✚ balancing work and family
- ✚ how relationships endure
- ✚ the ferocity of motherhood
- ✚ commercialization or exploitation of private events

Film discussion facilitated by

- ✚ Barbara Silver, University of Rhode Island, Assistant Research Professor of Psychology, NSF ADVANCE Program Director, silver@uri.edu
- ✚ Ingrid Johnston-Robledo, Fredonia State University, Associate Professor of Psychology, Director of Women’s Studies, Ingrid.Johnston-Robledo@fredonia.edu