

# **Believe in Birth**

## **A Film Series with Panel Discussions**

**Chatham Community Center** October 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>

**UMASS Dartmouth** October 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Has the United States lost its way when it comes to birthing babies? Have we forgotten how to trust the human body, and centuries of genetic and cellular experience? Is there a better way? Believe in Birth; A Film Series with Panel Discussions addresses these questions and more, with surprising and life affirming answers. The series is presented by the Massachusetts Friends of Midwives and the Birth Year Network of Southeastern Massachusetts & Cape Cod.

All three films are rich in remarkable and moving footage of babies entering the world gently and safely, without the glare of operating room lights. Birth Year Network member and midwife Paige Dickinson says, “The images in these films will radically redefine your idea of what a normal birth can look like.” Eastman says she and the other presenters hope the films will bring safe, healthy birthing options for women to center stage. These options support the belief that women’s bodies were made to birth well and, with appropriate support, the prenatal, birth and postpartum experience can be empowering for the mother and family.

Cesarean section rates in the United States are at an all time high, with one in three women having a surgical birth, and this number continues to rise. The U.S. spends more money on obstetrical care than any other country, yet ranks 28th out of 29 western industrialized countries for infant mortality according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Believe in Birth encourages us to ask the question: What can we do differently?

The films in the series present the two prominent models of care, mainstream obstetrics and midwifery, as well as the manner in which birth is presented in the U.S. media. Eastman hopes the Believe in Birth series will empower families and communities by increasing their awareness and understanding of natural birthing options.

There will be panel discussions following each film at both locations. The UMASS Dartmouth panel will include Carol Mailloux, RN, MS, Professor of Nursing, UMASS Dartmouth; Camille Quarles-Wilson, SN, UMASS Dartmouth; Louise Bastarache, Certified Nurse Midwife, of Wareham Nurse Midwives; and Paige Eastman Dickinson, Certified Professional Midwife of Birth Care Midwifery. The Believe in Birth Film Series is scheduled to be presented across SE MA & Cape Cod, for more information please contact [www.birthyearenetwork.org](http://www.birthyearenetwork.org). We hope you join us for this series of enlightening evenings.

### **THE BELIEVE IN BIRTH FILM SERIES *Chatham* SCHEDULE:**

**Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm – Chatham Community Center, Large Conference Room**  
**The Business of Being Born An, award winning documentary by Ricky Lake**

**Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm - Chatham Community Center, Large Conference Room**  
**Orgasmic Birth *Massachusetts Premier***

**Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30pm - Chatham Community Center, Large Conference Room**  
**Birthing Under an Illusion *Massachusetts Premier***

**THE BELIEVE IN BIRTH FILM SERIES *UMASS DARTMOUTH* SCHEDULE:**

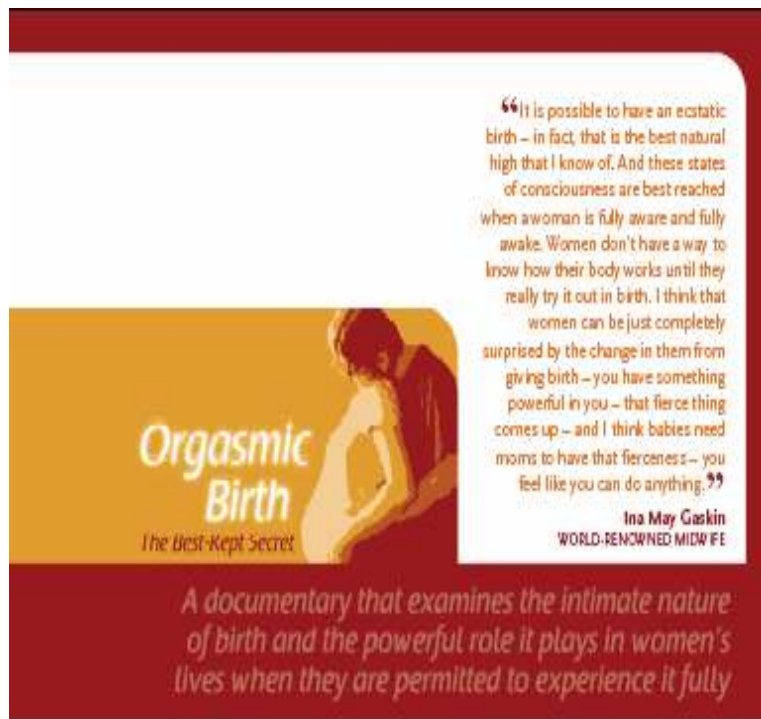
**Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm - UMASS Dartmouth Claire T. Carney Library Browsing Area**  
**The Business of Being Born An, award winning documentary by Ricky Lake**

**Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm - UMASS Dartmouth Claire T. Carney Library Browsing Area.**  
**Orgasmic Birth *Massachusetts Premier***

**Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm - UMASS Dartmouth Claire T. Carney Library Browsing Area.**  
**Birthing Under an Illusion *Massachusetts Premier***



Compelled to explore the subject after the delivery of her first child, actress Ricki Lake recruits filmmaker Abby Epstein to question the way American women have babies. Birth is a miracle, a rite of passage, a natural part of life. But birth is also big business. The film interlaces intimate birth stories with surprising historical, political and scientific insights and shocking statistics about the current maternity care system. When director Epstein discovers she is pregnant during the making of the film, the journey becomes even more personal. Should most births be viewed as a natural life process, or should every delivery be treated as a potentially catastrophic medical emergency?



The filmmaker, Debra Pascali-Bonaro, spent five years researching, interviewing and collaborating for this groundbreaking film which visually and verbally presents birth as an ecstatic experience. Oxytocin, birth and digital videography make a great team in this highly informative film. Those interviewed include Ina May Gaskin, Maureen Corry, Elizabeth Davis, Sarah Buckley and Marsden Wagner.

**AND THE NEWLY RELEASED FILM:**

**Laboring Under an Illusion: *Portrayal of Childbirth in the Mass Media***

The brand new film shows how human childbirth is portrayed in American movies, television, and tabloids. Humorist and media specialist Vicki Elson created this hilarious, alarming and inspiring film contrasting Hollywood birth scenes with films made by natural childbirth advocates.

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Relevant Links:

- Birth Year Network of Southeastern Massachusetts & Cape Cod [www.birthyearenetwork.org](http://www.birthyearenetwork.org)
- Massachusetts Friends of Midwives [www.mfom.org](http://www.mfom.org)
- Citizens for Midwifery <http://cfmidwifery.org/>
- The Business of Being Born <http://www.thebusinessofbeingborn.com/>
- Orgasmic Birth <http://www.orgasmicbirth.com/>
- “Why does the National US Cesarean Section Rate Keep Going Up?” <http://www.childbirthconnection.org/article.asp?ck=10456>
- The Mother Baby International Film Festival <http://www.tcmiff.org/>