

June 2007

From Rachel Maines: *Passion and Power*, a documentary based on her book, *Technology of Orgasm*, premieres July 28, 2007 at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The film's own website is: <http://www.technologyoforgasm.com/index.asp>. For those of you who have asked about classroom use, you can pre-order the DVD at a discount price at the website. The 9:15 screening at the Reade Theater at Lincoln Center was sold out by 5pm. One of the Reade's Board members told me this is "unheard of."

Several people asked me after the screening whether I live in the mansion full of antiques in which the film was shot, and if all those historical vibrators are mine. For the record, the answers are no to both--not even the clothes I'm wearing in the film are mine! And no, I have absolutely no idea how to make my hair and makeup look that good. Although I can give you the name of the Hollywood makeup artist and costumer that did the job.

I would also like to say that the filmmakers Emiko Omori and Wendy Slick worked their butts off for more than 7 years to make this film, and both mortgaged their houses to raise the money to do it, including paying Johns Hopkins and me up front for the film rights. Thanks to their courage and commitment, I've been well paid (also flattered to death!) and they are in debt for this beautiful film. So ask your institution to buy a copy if at all possible!

From Ruth Cowan re: Rachel's premier: I was pleased to be in the audience this past Saturday night when the video made from Rachel's book had its premier. You will all be pleased to know that the first half of the video captures the essence of the book and the essence of Rachel magnificently. The second half of the video leaves Rachel behind and focuses on the 1970s feminist politics of masturbation and on a recent effort to sell vibrators to women through home parties, a la Tupperware.

From Rachel Maines: Those of you who remember the IEEE upscut about my 1989 vibrator article will be amused by <http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/aug07/magazineindex>.

From Richard Hirsh: Thanks, Rachel. I'm adding this link to my course syllabus in HISTORY/STS 5206 at Virginia Tech. The students are already reading the IEEE article.

From Nina Lerman: And those of you who *don't* remember it, especially if you have come of intellectual age since Rachel's book came out, should definitely read this account and recognize how seriously a piece about vibrators troubled the waters of the IEEE!

While we're on the question of potentially troubled IEEE waters in the 1980s, does anyone know if there was a reaction to making Lynn Conway a Fellow, which the web site says happened in 1985? (See http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/history_center/biography/conway.html)