



**ARRESTING ANA
PRESS KIT**

Director Statement

I had never heard of pro-Ana blogs until I read an article in a French paper about a bill that was being considered to ban them. I immediately went to my computer and did a Google search for pro-Ana blogs.

At first, I was horrified by what I saw. But as I started reading what was on the blogs and the stories of some of these young women, I knew there was a film there.

My goal in producing and directing "Arresting Ana" was to give the authors of these blogs a face, give them a chance to explain why they do what they do. Their answers were often surprising, moving and unexpected. I also wanted to pose a question: at what point does expressing yourself become dangerous for someone else?

"Arresting Ana" is not just a film about pro eating disorder blogs, I hope. It's also a film about liberty and freedom of speech. I wanted to provoke thought on whether or not it is plausible to legislate online and whether or not passing legislation criminalizes the ill.

~ Lucie Schwartz

Production Notes

"Epilogue"

A day after finishing the film and outputting to tape, I received an email from Sarah telling me she had shut down her blog because some of her friends found the address. She shut it down before any of them could go to on it. While she openly admits the film was a therapeutic process for her, she says she plans to open a new blog.

Long Synopsis

Arresting Ana is a 26-minute documentary about what some French women are choosing not to do – choosing not to feed their bodies – and how they could soon become criminals in the eyes of French law for it.

Valerie Boyer is a passionate legislator on a mission to restore the health, eating habits and body images of the French. According to Boyer, the uncanny power of French women to stay svelte in the country of foie gras, wine and cheese has fallen victim to globalization and has led to a skyrocketing rise in not only obesity, but in eating disorders too.

Boyer's remedy: a pioneering law that renders promoting eating disorders illegal by punishing or fining magazines, blogs and websites that present extreme thinness as a beauty trait. Boyer's law, which still faces a vote in the Senate, is the strongest of its kind anywhere and particularly resonates in France, the country of haute couture, of gastronomy, and of the birthplace of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Sarah, 18, is a college student in Pau who is terrified of what might happen to her if Boyer's law passes. For about two hours a day, Sarah writes on her own blog titled "I want to be perfect..." Sarah's blog is one of about 500 Pro-Ana blogs, online forums on which young women share tips and tricks on how to become anorexic, hide it from their parents, and share poems they write to the goddess "Ana". Ana is short for anorexia. To the alarm of Boyer, "Ana" is at the center of a global underground movement that promotes self-starvation. But for Sarah, Ana is a friend, a support system, and a motivation to stay alive. If Boyer's law passes in the Senate this spring, Sarah will not only be battling a disease, but she will also become a criminal who could face a \$30,000 fine and up to two years in jail.

While Boyer strives to save lives, Sarah, on the other hand, believes that if her right to chronicle her illness on her blog is taken away from her, she could find herself among the 22% of French anorexics who die each year.

Biographies

Lucie Schwartz is a journalist and documentary filmmaker with a strong background in television production and international reporting. Lucie grew up in Belgium, France, has lived in Italy, is fluent in French and proficient in Italian and Spanish. She has reported in France and in India.

Lucie holds a Bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from New York University and a Master's degree in journalism and documentary film from the University of California, Berkeley. Her Master's thesis film, "Arresting Ana", about the potential criminalization of the pro-anorexia movement in France, was awarded the 2009 Margaret and Will Hearst Prize for Documentary Excellence.

Before coming to Berkeley, Lucie worked as an Associate Producer for Court TV (now Tru TV) in New York City. In San Francisco, Lucie produced and assistant edited segments of two hour-long documentaries for MSNBC, "Sex Slaves in the Suburbs" on domestic sex trafficking, and "Boosting for Billions" on organized retail crime.

In March 2009, Lucie received an Honorable Mention from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation for "Latitudes", the television magazine show she produced while at the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley. She was also awarded the Best Student Documentary Award by the Missouri Review for "Nokota", a television magazine piece about the wild horses of North Dakota.

In addition to being a producer and reporter, Lucie is a Final Cut Pro editor and a videographer proficient in both SD and HD formats.

Kiran Goldman is a documentary filmmaker with a strong background in environmental science and engineering. She has helped produce international, environmental and health stories for Frontline/World and NBC-11, the Bay Area's local NBC News station. Kiran holds a master's degree in journalism and documentary filmmaking from the University of California at Berkeley.

Ryan Luckey, an Oakland-bred pianist and producer, composes music to enliven the senses and create harmony amidst the chaos of today. His mix of bumping beats and intricate harmonic layers creates a soundscape that has depth and texture, a blend that bridges the realities of today with our dreams for tomorrow.

Credits

Directed, Produced, Shot and Edited by Lucie Schwartz

Camera and Sound: Kiran Goldman

Additional Camera: Gabriel Leigh

Additional Sound: Vianna Davila

Production Assistant: Claire Schwartz

Advisors: Jon Else, Deborah Hoffmann, Karen Everett, Kean Sakata, Abigail Saguy

Music: Ryan Luckey

Graphics: Jacob Abrams

Archives: Assemblée Nationale, France Info, Institut National de l'Audiovisuel, La Nouvelle République.

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