

Cindy Davies



For 27 years, Penn State women's basketball coach Rene Portland's policy of "no drinking, no drugs and no lesbians," forced athletes to choose between the sport they lived for and the people they loved. *Training Rules*, a feature-

length documentary by Dee Mosbacher (trainingrules.com), examines the devastating impact this policy had on the student athletes who played for her—during their playing days and beyond. This well-crafted, emotionally charged film is moving audiences—straight and gay—across the country. Cindy Davies (above), an early target of coach Portland's discrimination, is one of the women featured in the film.

What was your first impression of Rene Portland?

I was very impressed with her. My opinion of her as a coach, in her coaching strategies and so forth, has never changed. I think she's a great coach. She has some major flaws, obviously.

How did being kicked off the team affect you?

Once I relinquished that scholarship and was forced off the team, I thought it was all over. My whole life was ruined in my eyes.

What did she say?

She said, "It's either Donna or basketball—you make the choice. I don't know if it's true or untrue, but if I find out that [it] is true, there's nothing to stop me from going to the university, the media and to your parents." I was like a deer in the headlights.

Why do you think this film is important?

I've had 27 years to think about this

and, you know, I had always said that all it's going to take is one student athlete that has a supportive family and they're going to have a lawsuit that they're not going to lose. And it took 27 years for somebody to do it. But every year you would see someone leaving for "academic reasons." It just killed me not to do something about it. But 20 years ago, what the hell were you going to do?

There weren't the support systems that there are now. It's important to get this out there, because Penn State is not the only place. There are plenty of other people who don't want [lesbians] on their team either. But they don't come out and say it in the newspapers.

[Heather Robinson]



spout some of the same exact lines as trans men we have heard from previously. Then, the cast of FTM interviewees are shown watching and commenting on the scene reenactments from the sidelines. Reminiscent of Marlon Riggs' *Tongues Untied* or Cheryl Dunye's *The Watermelon Woman, Against A Trans Narrative* adapts the conventions of the documentary in order to better critique stabilized notions of identity. This super smart film presents the quandary of gathering a group of individuals to represent trans identity (when trans is about destroying categories) and exposes how other members of the queer community often project onto the transgender experience. (wolfereleasing.com) ■



Against A Trans Narrative

Other Picks



Off And Running (ITVS)

Named best documentary feature at Outfest, *Off And Running* follows Avery, an African American teenage track star raised by white Jewish lesbians struggling to find her identity. She connects with her roots while juggling schoolwork and college applications. Her touching coming-of-age story is treated with sensitivity and thoughtfulness. (offandrunningthefilm.com) [Rachel Beebe]



Champion (Blowfish)

From lesbian porn director Shine Louise Houston (*Superfreak*) comes a narrative film about rising MMA champ, Jessie (Syd Blakovich), and the many women she leaves in her wake. This DVD has plenty of steamy lesbian sex but ultimately, Jessie's story comes down to her struggle between her career and being herself. (blowfish.com) [Katie Peoples]



Ask Not (Persistant Visions)

Does it matter whether crucial intelligence is translated by a gay linguist? According to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" it does. This PBS documentary explores the policy and its effects on lesbian and gay soldiers and military and national security, while weaving in the story of the political and cultural battles that have defined this facet of the struggle for civil rights. (asknotfilm.com) [KP]



Laughing Matters... Next Generation (Ariztical Entertainment)

Andrea Myerson has made her *Laughing Matters* DVD series an institution, but what's most likable about this installment is that it's co-generated which gives viewers a chance to meet up-and-coming queer comics who may not hit your hometown. Lots of great material, but it's the Amy Tee segments you'll be replaying. (ariztical.com) [DAM]