

# women's history women's lives

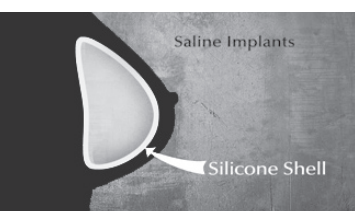
february 24–march 24, 2009  
204 Kirkbride • 7 pm

## BODY/POLITICS

### February 24 Iron Ladies of Liberia

In 2006, after nearly two decades of brutal civil war, the African nation of Liberia inaugurated the country's first elected female president and Africa's first freely elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. A Harvard-educated economist and grandmother of eight who had been exiled to Nigeria and nicknamed the "Iron Lady", Johnson-Sirleaf faced enormous obstacles in rebuilding a war-torn country. Upon taking office, Johnson-Sirleaf quickly appointed a team of strong women around her, including the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Commerce, and the Chief of Police. *Iron Ladies of Liberia* follows these women over the course of their turbulent first year in office, a year which will determine the future of their country.

Speaker: Wunyabari Maloba, Assistant Vice President, Affirmative Action/Multi-Cultural Programs, University of Delaware



### March 3 Absolutely Safe

This film takes an open-minded, personal approach to the controversy over breast implant safety. At a time when more women than ever are getting breast implants, fewer voices than ever seem to be asking "Why?" And fewer still are asking "Are they safe?" The story of *Absolutely Safe* is of the women and girls who stand front and center—both willingly and unwillingly—in the traffic jam of beauty, media, risk, and "choice." The quest for physical perfection leads the people interviewed in the documentary to operating rooms, support groups, hospital beds, and public

hearings." Ultimately, *Absolutely Safe* is the story of everyday women who find themselves and their breasts in the tangled and confusing intersection of health, money, science, and beauty.

Speaker: Carol Canciutti-Leyva, Director and Producer of *Absolutely Safe*



### March 10 The Education of Shelby Knox

Texas public schools have had abstinence-only sex education since 1995, when then-governor George W. Bush signed a law making Texas the third state to follow the curriculum. A self-described "good Southern Baptist girl," Shelby Knox of Lubbock, Texas, has pledged abstinence until marriage. She becomes an unlikely advocate for comprehensive sex education when she finds that Lubbock has some of the highest rates of teen pregnancy and STDs in the nation. Her growing commitment to sex education profoundly changes her political and spiritual views and tests her relationship to her family and community.

Speaker: Shelby Knox, Sex Education Activist, Subject of Documentary

### March 17 The Business of Being Born

Birth is a miracle, a rite of passage, a natural part of life: But birth is also big business. Should most births be viewed as a natural life process, or should every delivery be treated as a potentially catastrophic medical emergency? 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. The film interlaces intimate birth stories

with surprising historical, political and scientific insights and shocking statistics about the current maternity care system.

Speaker: Marcia Welsh, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, University of Delaware



### March 24 Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria

On a hot summer's night in 1966, in the San Francisco's Tenderloin district, a group of transgender women and gay street-hustlers fought back for the first time in history against everyday police harassment. This act of resistance was a dramatic turning point for the transgender community, and the beginning of a new human rights struggle that continues to this very day. Mixing recent interviews with archival footage, printed documents, impressionistic reenactments and period music, *Screaming Queens* depicts a marginalized community few people know, one that exists in the midst of a city famous for its cosmopolitan glamour. With extraordinary candor and from differing points of view, the subjects recount the difficulties they encountered in the Tenderloin, as well as the sense of community they created there in the mid-1960s. Ultimately, the film sets out to foster a better understanding of the experiences of transgender people and to inform a broad audience of their often-difficult lives and unheralded accomplishments.

Speaker: : William Scott, Assistant Professor, History, University of Delaware



Each film will be followed by a discussion led by a speaker with expertise in the film's subject matter. The film series is free and open to the public. For more information, call 831-8063 or 831-8474. Sponsored by: Black American Studies Program; Center for Black Culture; Departments of Anthropology, History, Sociology; Faculty Senate Committee on Cultural Activities and Public Events; LGBT Community Office; Student Health Service; Office of Women's Affairs; Wellspring; Women's Studies Program.