Interview with *Captivated: The Tr* *Pamela Smart* Editor Keiko Deguc



Captivated: The Trials of Pamela Smart

by Danielle Lurie
in Editors, Interviews, Sundance,

Filmmaker: Why this movie? Why did you decide to do it?

Deguchi: I worked with Jeremiah Zagar, the director of this film before – on his first feature length documentary film called “In A

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Captivated: The Trials Of Pamela Smart, Keiko Deguchi, Sundance Film Festival 2014, Women of Sundance

Dream". Even before I worked with him, by looking at a few scenes he put together, I could tell he was an extremely talented filmmaker. Not only that he is a delight to work with! We became good friends since and when he asked me to edit this film, I was thrilled. I would've dropped everything to work with him.

Filmmaker: Do you think a male director might have handled the making of this film differently? How did being a female filmmaker effect how this film got made do you think?

Deguchi: I don't want to make any assumption as to female and male, but I do think that female and male react differently to certain subject matters. I am not sure if this applies to our film here though — we really didn't show it to many people. I am very curious to hear what people think. But Jeremiah and I didn't have very different reaction to different elements of this film, so my feeling is no, I don't think it made any difference on this film. On his last film, though, I felt it was good that he had a female editor because we got wildly different reaction from people depending on their gender and that was reflected on my and his opinions too. I don't think the film was as good as it is if he had a male editor.

Filmmaker: Of the big blockbuster movies out there, which do you wish you had directed?

Deguchi: I just saw *Her*, and LOVED it. I would've loved to work on film like that.

Filmmaker: In what ways do you think being a female filmmaker/actress has helped or impeded your trajectory in the film industry?

Deguchi: Well, I imagine compared to say being a director or cinematographer, I think editing is one department where being a female isn't a disadvantage, unless of course you're trying to edit big action movies. There are many great female editors out there. But there are other elements too. Again, I hate to generalize, but I do think there are female and male elements in how quickly people can make it up the ladder so to speak. I am a type of person when I am asked if I can do certain things, I will answer "yes I can" ONLY if I know I can do well. I talked with other women and many of them feel that way. While guys tend to

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have attitude to say “Sure” and figure it out later. But the director and producer want to hear that, so I lost out on jobs early on. Now I am much more confident, so it doesn’t matter.

Filmmaker: What’s next?

Deguchi: I think Jeremiah has a few films cooking, but right now I am working on a short documentary film with Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady. In January, I will start this documentary feature on Madonna Thunderhawk, this Native American activist. She is a kick-ass grandma!

Filmmaker: Considering this will be released at Sundance: A) What do you hope to gain from being at the festival? and B) Who would be your dream person to meet while there?

Deguchi: A) I had two films here before, but they were not in competition, so I am very excited. I am going there just for fun and watch some films! B) I dont’ know — I don’t know who will be there this year, I didn’t really looked at the lineup. I would love to meet Mr. Sundance himself – Robert Redford, and maybe catch some stars so I can impress my kids!

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