

For immediate release
September 21, 2015

**Do You Remember Your First Kiss?
New Documentary Series, *The First Kiss and other Rites of Passage*
selected for screening at the Jasper Short Film Festival**

Edmonton, AB – Two episodes, *First Kiss* and *First Car*, from Reel Girls Media's new short documentary series, ***The First Kiss And Other Rites Of Passage***, have been selected to screen at the upcoming Jasper Short Film Festival on Saturday September 26, 2015. Festival film screenings take place from 12:00 to 6:00pm at the Chaba Theatre on 604 Connaught Drive. Tickets are \$10 dollars at the door.

Do you remember buying your first car, moving out of home for the first time, losing your virginity, your first heartbreak, maybe even that first drink? These rites of passage help shape who we are and mark important transitions in our journey through life. These memories are universally experienced and at the same time deeply personal. Firsts are crucial moments that mark milestones in life. Firsts cover a huge range of human experiences, comic to tragic, from the shameful to the sublime. ***The First Kiss and other Rites of Passage*** is a ten-part short documentary series that explores these shared human narratives through intimate interviews.

The production interviewed more than fifty people between the ages of sixteen and eighty, including Metis singer/songwriter, Laura Vinson, who grew up in the Jasper area and series creator/producer, Ava Karvonen. Come to the screening, meet Laura and Ava in person and hear about some of their *Firsts*. If you can't make the festival screenings in Jasper, you can catch the series when it launches for free on TELUS Optik™ TV On Demand later this fall.

As part of the festival, Ava Karvonen, will also be on a panel at the Pine Bungalows at 7:30 pm on the same day with filmmakers Susan Feddema-Leonard and Frank Hadfield. For more information contact Festival Director, Marianne Garrah.

The First Kiss and other Rites of Passage was produced by Ava Karvonen for Reel Girls Media, and made possible by a community programming grant from TELUS Optik Local and with the assistance of the Government of Alberta, Alberta Media Fund.

REEL GIRLS MEDIA is a content driven company dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of the world and the human spirit through the production of

award winning factual and non factual television. Known for creating smart, original and innovative entertainment designed for flexible multi-platform delivery to the global market. Reel Girls Media have had more than 80 worldwide screenings and been recognized with 40 international awards including Best Original Cross-Platform Content at the Alliance for Children and TV Awards, Best Convergent New Media at the CFTPA Indie Awards, and the Japan Prize.

About TELUS Optik Local

Telus Optik Local Community Programming seeks to support programming and projects that reflect the local community, a diversity of voices, innovative ideas and alternative views on existing or emerging issues of importance in the communities it serves, featuring local places and events in arts, culture, education and sports.

For more information contact:

Ava Karvonen

E-mail: ava@reelgirlsmedia.com

Web Site: <http://www.yourfirstkiss.ca/>

Phone: (780) 964-1899

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/yourfirstkissca/794788057285934>