


***FREE REINS* WORLD PREMIERE FEBRUARY 23, 2017** **TV DOC EXPLORES WORLD OF UNCONVENTIONAL HORSE THERAPIST**

Halifax, Nova Scotia – February 7, 2017 - *Free Reins* is the emotional story of a 63 year-old maverick, Patty McGill, and her “tribe” – a diverse group of kids, families and volunteers who participate in an unconventional brand of horse therapy at Hinchinbrook Farm on the South Shore on Nova Scotia.

At Hinchinbrook, different is normal. Everybody’s got ‘something,’ but no one is wearing a label. Kids don’t come here to be ‘fixed’ – Patty doesn’t believe they need to be - they come for love, acceptance and a place to call their own. A life-long outsider herself, Patty’s mission to help comes from a passionate belief in the healing power of horses - and the fact that she herself was left disabled from a riding accident.

Free Reins follows Patty and three of the kids from the “tribe.” Kirkland, an autistic young man who is non-verbal but who Patty is determined to “unlock;” 14 year-old Roze, an autistic girl who acts like a horse as a way to handle her emotions; and Jaime, a teenager with a disorder that robs her of her memory and leaves her feeling left out from society at large. The documentary will have its world broadcast premiere on **CBC’s**

FIRSTHAND on Thursday, February 23 at 9 P.M. / 9:30 P.M. NT. 

“If there's one thing I learned from my time with Patty McGill, it's that you haven't lived ‘til you've given a horse a sponge bath at a kitchen sink - and that there's much to learn from the neuro-diverse community,” says director Jackie Torrens. “Many innovations and inventions have sprung from the imaginative minds of unconventional communicators: Einstein, Emily Dickinson, Temple Grandin – to name just a few. If we choose to ignore what we don’t consider ‘typical,’ what gifts might society at large be losing?”

Free Reins was written and directed by award winning documentarian and filmmaker Jackie Torrens and produced by award-winning producer Edward Peill and Erin Oakes from Halifax-based Tell Tale Productions Inc.

Following the broadcast, the documentary can be watched on the CBC website at: <http://www.cbc.ca/firsthand/episodes/free-reins> and can be followed on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/FreeReinsDoc/> and Twitter at: [@FreeReins](https://twitter.com/FreeReins)

Free Reins was produced in association with CBC with support from the Canada Media Fund, The Nova Scotia Film & TV Incentive Fund, and Federal Tax Credits.

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