

NONTRADITIONAL

PRESS KIT

Contact:
Brian Hauser
Salonista Media
salonistamedia@gmail.com

Logline:

A decorated female combat veteran discovers that her freshman year of college is a much bigger challenge than she expected it to be.

Synopsis:

Erika Byrd served on the front lines of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as a military police officer before she came home with the colorful medals and the hidden scars. Now Erika is a freshman in college. She thought that college would be easy, but it turns out that her transition to civilian life is littered with unexpected challenges. Erika contends with freshman classes, noisy neighbors, well-meaning classmates, and demanding professors. She struggles with this transition, and the temptation to return to the structure of the military is strong. Will she have the courage to confront this transformation and plunge headlong into a new life? Will real change, however incremental, just seem too hard for her?

Writer-Director: Brian Hauser

Producer: Christina Xydias

Director of Photography-Editor: Zach Durocher

Music: Kurt Hauser

Main Cast: Kat Evans, Haley Feickert, Jennifer Freego, Morgan Hastings, Nnamdi Ubozoh

Biography/Filmography – Director/Writer: Brian Hauser is an award-winning screenwriter and professor of film at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York. Prior to becoming a professor, Hauser also served on active duty as a military intelligence sergeant in the U.S. Army. *Nontraditional* is Hauser's feature directorial debut.

Biography/Filmography – Producer: Christina Xydias is a professor of political science at Clarkson University. She is a comparative political scientist with research interests in women's representation, including issues surrounding women in combat roles. Xydias is also an avid runner and cellist. *Nontraditional* is her first feature film.

Statement by the Director:

With *Nontraditional*, I wanted to tell story at the intersection of two related issues: student veterans and female combat veterans. As a veteran and an educator, I felt like the stories we tell about veterans are usually about male veterans, and we rarely talk about veterans as college students, despite the fact that one million veterans have used their post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits. I hope that *Nontraditional* prompts

audiences to think about their preconceptions about gender, but I also hope that they reconsider even more profound issues like what we owe to one another in a civil society. We often talk about the courage and sacrifice of service members, but we should also remember that it can take some courage to bridge the widening cultural and psychological gaps between civilians and veterans. We need to remember and practice how to talk to one another, and we believe telling stories like this one can help with that.

Press Clippings:

<http://www.hothousemagazine.org/nontraditional-the-landscape-of-homecoming/>

<http://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/23217/20131111/struggles-of-female-warrior-in-potsdam-made-feature-film>

<http://www.stripes.com/news/us/clarkson-professors-make-movie-about-student-veteran-1.231929>