

EMILY ABT

Recently selected as one of Variety Magazine's 'Top 10 Directors to Watch', Emily Abt is an award-winning filmmaker dedicated to creating both fiction and documentary projects that grapple with current socio-political themes. She is also the founder and President of Pureland Pictures Inc., a Brooklyn based production company that produces commercials, promotional films and independent features. Abt's first film, TAKE IT FROM ME, a documentary about the human impact of welfare reform, aired nationwide on PBS as part of the 2001 season of P.O.V, and has since screened at more than 2000 educational institutions nationwide. In 2004 Abt received her MFA in Film Directing from Columbia University's graduate film school. Abt's thesis film was created when she was awarded a year-long Fulbright fellowship to live in London and collaborate with local Muslim girls.

During her 12-year career as an independent filmmaker in New York City, Abt has worked as a freelance producer, camera operator and director for diverse clients such as MTV News & Docs, Johnson & Johnson, True Entertainment and Grey Advertising. ALL OF US, her second documentary feature about a young doctor's fight against HIV/AIDS among black women, recently premiered on World AIDS Day 2008 on the Showtime Network. Abt's first narrative feature TOE TO TOE, which she wrote, directed and co-produced, is about the complicated relationship between two girls of disparate backgrounds in Washington D.C. TOE TO TOE recently premiered in the Dramatic Competition at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival.

Abt's films have screened at numerous festivals both domestically as well as abroad and she has received production grants from diverse sources including the Independent Feature Project (IFP), New York State Council on the Arts, The Adrienne Shelley Foundation, Women in Film Finishing Fund, The UK Fulbright Commission, Jerome Foundation, North Star Fund, The Playboy Foundation, the Lucius & Eva Eastman Fund, Open Meadows Foundation, The Valentine Foundation, International Women's Health Coalition, The Swanee Hunt Family Foundation and the Third Wave Foundation.

Abt's current projects include a script entitled BETTER ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH about a woman who runs for local office. She is represented by the William Morris Agency in Los Angeles.