



BREAKTHROUGH:

The Making of America's First Woman President

Why has the United States not elected a woman president when many democracies far younger than ours have? Conventional wisdom often points to obvious and well-tread answers. What if those assumptions are wrong? What if a deeper, more provocative truth tells a clearer story of women, gender and politics in America?

On the cusp of a historic breakthrough -- the potential election of the nation's first woman president -- *Breakthrough*, the 8 episode docu-series, takes us deep inside the world of America's women political leaders and key players. This series will challenge entrenched ideas through the inspiring stories of the women leaders that propelled us to this threshold and the networks they created to support a generation to rise up.

Based on Nancy Cohen's riveting and deeply researched book, *Breakthrough* paints an intimate portrait of the savvy women who challenge the status quo, build an alternative to the old boy's club and rewrite the playbook for how women can rise and thrive in politics. With a visually engaging mix of rare archival footage, recordings, animations and uniquely shot interviews, this compelling series features dramatic stories of dynamic women from across the political spectrum; governors like Ann Richards or Susana Martinez, senators like Barbara Mikulski, Elizabeth Warren and Olympia Snowe, up and comers like candidate, Kamala Harris.

Episode by episode, we'll experience this dynamic history as it unfolds, from Victoria Woodhull's first presidential bid in 1872, and her election night jail-house stint on federal obscenity charges, to Shirley Chisholm's 1972 run, where she famously said, "My greatest political asset, which professional politicians fear, is my mouth out of which come all kinds of things one shouldn't always discuss," to Hillary Clinton and her historic proclamation at the Beijing Women's Summit, "Women's rights are human rights." We'll meet the inspiring women behind the women who brought us to this threshold, like Emily's List founder, Ellen Malcolm, as well as the charismatic group of young leaders who are redefining how we think and talk about women's leadership, feminism, and men's essential role in the quest for gender equality, such as current Emily's List CEO, Stephanie Schriock, president of the Center for American Progress, Neera Tanden,

NARAL's president, Ilyse Hogue, and Emerge America's founder and president, Andrea Dew Steele.

In this surprising story, *Breakthrough* debunks cultural assumptions about women candidates, revealing the ways in which old barriers that once blocked a woman's ascent to the presidency, like biased representation in the press, have fallen--even more than we realize. Mining the less known corners of our history, surprising incidents reveal how mistakes made by women in the fight to win voting rights stalled progress toward women's equal participation in political power for decades. Surveying the most up-to-date research, *Breakthrough* reveals conclusions that are unequivocal. Electing women into political leadership will be a breakthrough for all of us, women, men and families alike, leading to the most dramatic conclusion of all, the shattering of the highest glass ceiling in the land.

PRODUCER/DIRECTORS

LAURA GABBERT

Documentary director Laura Gabbert's critically acclaimed films deploy full measures of humor and drama to unflinchingly put a human face on such difficult social issues as aging, the environment, and AIDS. *NO IMPACT MAN*, which the Los Angeles Times called "terrifically entertaining, compelling and extremely funny," premiered at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival, and played theatrically in over 30 cities. Her previous film *SUNSET STORY* (PBS) won prizes at Tribeca and LAFF. About it, the New York Times wrote, "Sunset Story may break your heart, but it will also make your day." Other credits include *THE HEALERS OF 400 PARNUSSUS* (PBS) and *GETTING TO KNOW YOU* (Sundance, Venice).

Most recently, Laura directed and produced the feature documentary *CITY OF GOLD* about Pulitzer Prize winning food writer Jonathan Gold. The film premiered in competition at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival where IFC/Sundance Selects picked it up. *City of Gold* is now playing theatrically in over 40 markets. Laura received her MFA from UCLA's School of Theater Television and Film.

JULIE HERMELIN

Julie Hermelin is an award-winning producer/director whose work has appeared on major networks, across the web and screened at film festivals worldwide, including The Toronto Film Festival and SXSW. She's directed music videos for a diverse list of artists, including: Moby, Sarah McLaughlin, Joan Jett, Ben Folds, and Luscious Jackson and produced/directed interviews featuring a wide range of thinkers, including feminist icon Gloria Steinem for the Ms. Foundation's 40th Anniversary special, "Why Your Kids Should Know the F-Word." Her recent creative collaborations span both the film and tech worlds, as a creative producer and writer on Tiffany Shlain's Emmy nominated series, "The Future Starts Here" and co-founding the innovative, social recommendation site, Momstamp. Her passion for activism led her to executive producing the pro-choice benefit compilation album for Sony Music, "Spirit of '73: Rock for Choice," featuring Sarah McLaughlin, Rosanne Cash, Babe's in Toyland, Sophie B. Hawkins, and Indigo Girls.

CONSULTING PRODUCER

NANCY L. COHEN

Nancy L. Cohen is a historian and leading national expert on women and American politics. She is the author of four books, including *Breakthrough: The Making of America's First Woman President*, *Delirium: The Politics of Sex in America*, and *The Reconstruction of American Liberalism, 1865-1914*. Her writing has appeared in the *Guardian*, the *New Republic*, *Harvard's Business History Review*, the *Journal of Southern History*, and many other publications. Previously Nancy held research and teaching positions in history and political science at UCLA, Claremont McKenna College, Binghamton University, and elsewhere. She is currently a commissioner on the Los Angeles County Commission for Women and a member of the executive board of the Association of California Commissions for Women. Nancy received her bachelor of arts from Brown University and her PhD with distinction from Columbia University.