

DEMPSEY RICE

Dempsey Rice is a documentary filmmaker and artist based in Brooklyn, New York. Her films are the avenues through which she explores the core issues that compel her to create: family, personal history, story, connection, loss, legacy, memory and ideas of home. In addition to her own creative work, Dempsey's company Start Up Media creates videos for artists, authors and technology start-ups.

Dempsey is currently a Brooklyn Arts Council Artist in Residence at the Council Center for Senior Citizens in Midwood, Brooklyn where she is working with seniors to create short documentaries. In addition, she is working with Kate Edgar on a new independent documentary project about the neurologist and author Oliver Sacks, MD.

Dempsey completed a new short documentary in February 2010. **Forget Me Nots** is a film about remembering. The act of remembering is so intrinsic to our experience that we usually don't even notice it, but remembering is the key to our identity – it opens doors through which we access the stories and experiences that make up our lives. **Forget Me Nots** is the recipient of a Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund Grant, a KKL Foundation Grant, a Mary Duke Biddle Foundation Grant and several in-kind and cash donations from individuals.

Dempsey's debut documentary, **Daughter of Suicide**, premiered on HBO Signature in May of 2000 -- it is the story of the filmmaker's mother's death by suicide and the process of family and friends' healing after that suicide. **Daughter of Suicide** is the recipient of a National Council on Family Relations Media Awards (First Place: Mental Health, Stress, Transition, & Crisis Management Category, 2001), a National Mental Health Association Media Award, (National Television: Educational or Public Service Programming Category, 2001) and a Cine Golden Eagle (2000) and received funding from Home Box Office, The Jerome Foundation, The Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund, The Women in Film Foundation, From the Heart Productions and R.E.M.

In 2003, Dempsey received a **New York Emmy Award** for being the Series Producer of **IMNY**, a youth documentary series produced by Downtown Community Television Center (DCTV) for WNYE/Channel 25 in New York City. **IMNY** featured short documentaries made by New York City youth that explore the unique stories, neighborhoods and challenges of their lives.

Dempsey has taught Video Diary and Modern Film classes in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Rutgers University-Newark in addition to teaching workshops and classes about documentary film proposal writing, budgeting and financing, at Film Video Arts, Women Make Movies, Downtown Community Television, CineWomen New York and the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers. She has taught video production to New York City youth through the DCTV and Police Athletic League alliance at the PAL Schwartz Center in Brooklyn, New York. In addition, Dempsey has worked full-time and freelanced as a public radio producer for radio programs including: **The Infinite Mind** and **Studio 360**. She has also written and produced audio tours.

In 1994 Dempsey graduated with her MA (Econ.) in Visual Anthropology from The University of Manchester in England where she completed her short film **As Long As They're Muslim**. She received her BA from Syracuse University (Magna Cum Laude) in Photojournalism and Anthropology in 1991.

As a survivor of suicide, Dempsey is committed to advocating for a proven, effective suicide prevention plan in the United States. To that end, she is part of the public private partnership that makes up the New York State Suicide Prevention Council.

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