

Golden Gloves

The Opening Night World Premiere!

Time and Date: 5pm, Friday, May 18th, 2007

Olympia Freeschool, 610 Columbia Street SW, Olympia, WA 98501

www.WeSurge.org

Day One of World Premiers: SURGE Film Festival May 18-21, 2007



Statement from Leyla Leidecker, the Director of Golden Gloves, to the SURGE Film Festival Attendants:

"It's an honor to be the first film in your program. It is a world premier. As a fellow woman boxer I want to invite you into the locker rooms of amateur women boxers. I feel responsible to clear up a few misconceptions and clichés about these girls who box.

Women's boxing is not a curiosity anymore. It is a legitimate sport, looking for recognition and an equality of sportsmanship, offering women the same opportunities as men. But as of today, unfortunately, women still do not have the same rights in this sport as men.

In amateur boxing nobody gets paid to fight. All you can hope for is a title and the honor to be champ in the city, state or country, or even in the Olympics.

However, boxing is the only sport on the Summer Olympics exclusively for men. In 2005 the International Olympic Committee voted "No" to the inclusion of women's boxing in the next Olympic Games in Beijing.

This decision alone should be protested. But its effects in the USA are devastating, coming down to many broken dreams and lots of wasted talent. Because of this decision, amateur women's boxing gets no funding, so that while male competitors receive monthly stipends, competition costs, and travel expenses, women have no rights to any of these funds.

This part is the film's political message, calling for equal rights for women.

I also wanted to introduce the public to these incredible women, who besides being very successful in their out-of-the-ring careers, show great sportsmanship and camaraderie to each other."

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CONFERENCE AND FILM FESTIVAL NETWORK.

There is no fee for the SURGE conference registration.