

# TOXIC BEAUTY

A Film by **PHYLLIS ELLIS**  
Executive Producers **PETER RAYMONT, STEVE ORD, CHERYL STAURULAKIS**  
Producer **BARRI COHEN, STEPHEN PANICCIA**  
Supervising Producers **ANDREW MUNGER**  
Cinematographer **IRIS NG** Editor **JAMES YATES** Music **ROB CARLI**  
Conceived by: **SARAH JAY**

Produced by **WHITE PINE PICTURES** In Association With **DOCUMENTARY CHANNEL, SRC**  
International Distribution **KEW MEDIA**  
With The Participation of the **CANADA MEDIA FUND, ROGERS CABLE NETWORK FUND**  
Developed With The Participation of **ONTARIO CREATES**  
Toxic Beauty is a sponsored project of **WOMEN MAKE MOVIES**

**90 minutes**

Year of Production  
**2018-2019**

Country of production  
**CANADA**

**PUBLICIST**

Amy Saunders, Alpha PR  
amy@weareALPHApr.com  
647-282-0269

**INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION**

Jonathan Ford, Kew Media  
jonathan.ford@kewmedia.com

**MARKETING CONTACT:**

Alicia Giammaria, White Pine Pictures  
alicia@whitepinepictures.com  
416-703-5580 ext. 229

**LOGLINE**

A whistle blower, her lawyer, world class scientists, cancer survivors and those who have lost their lives, strip a dominant pharmaceutical company of all credibility in this powerful documentary film, while exposing the hard truths about dangerous, unregulated chemicals and toxins in cosmetics and care products.

**100-WORD SYNOPSIS**

Each morning we slather with 1000's of chemicals hidden inside cosmetics and personal care products, many of which are toxic. In the United States, the Cosmetic and Personal Care Industry regulates itself. Links to hormonal disruption in baby boys, developmental delays, low sperm count in men. Infertility, cancer, diabetes, obesity and skin disease - the cosmetic industry isn't pretty. Top researchers worldwide have the hard science to answer the question 'Are cosmetics and personal care products making us sick?'

### **300-WORD SYNOPSIS**

In 1982, world renowned epidemiologist, Dr. Daniel Cramer, linked Johnson & Johnson's baby powder to ovarian cancer. Since the 1960's, J&J allegedly knew the risks and did nothing. In 2004, Dr. Philippa Darbre, a UK scientist, found parabens, a chemical preservative in many cosmetics, in breast tissue. In 2018, the National Institute of Health's sister study linked breast cancer to personal care product use.

Links to hormonal disruption in baby boys, developmental delays, low sperm count in men, infertility, cancer, diabetes, obesity and skin disease - the cosmetic industry isn't pretty.

Each morning we slather with 1000's of chemicals, many of which are proven to be toxic. In the United States, the Cosmetic and Personal Care Industry regulates itself. In Canada, implementing regulations is under scrutiny. There is doubt propagated by big industries making claims that we have nothing to worry about, positioning themselves as champions of personal empowerment through their multibillion dollar advertising campaigns.

Top researchers worldwide have the hard science to answer the question '*Are cosmetics and personal care products making us sick?*'

***Toxic Beauty*** is a documentary feature film with exclusive access to scientists, lawyers, advocates, regulators, politicians, a dynamic whistle blower, survivors and women who have lost their lives. It follows the class action lawsuit against J&J and the plaintiffs, personal stories of women fighting for justice in a race against time with this deadly disease.

Woven throughout the film is a human experiment. We document, as Boston University medical student, Mymy Nguyen, measures her chemical body burden from over 27 products. Scientists monitor her shocking results.

In the end, the film meets the companies and people who offer solutions and optimism for safer, toxicant free cosmetics.

### **SUBJECTS & EXPERTS FROM THE FILM (SELECTED)**



**MYMY NGUYEN**

Boston University Medical Student



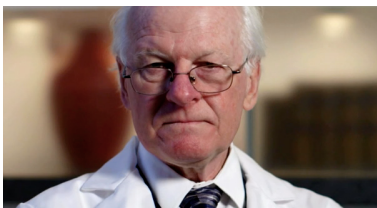
**DEANE BERG**

Whistle-blower,  
Johnson & Johnson Ovarian Cancer Suit



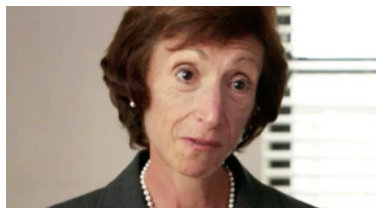
**MEL LIKA**

Counterintelligence Screener  
Peacekeeper



**DR. DANIEL CRAMER**

World Renowned Epidemiologist  
Harvard Professor,  
Brigham Woman's Hospital



**DR. ROBERTA NESS**

Dean of The University  
of Texas School of Public Health,  
Author  
World Renowned Epidemiologist



**RICK SMITH**

Canadian author  
Environmentalist  
Co-Author *Slow Death by Rubber Duck*



**STACY MALKAN**

Co-Founder  
Campaign for Safe Cosmetics  
& Breast Cancer Prevention Partners  
Author *Not Just a Pretty Face*



**SCOTT FABER**

Vice President of Government Affairs,  
Environmental Working Group



**JANET NUDELMAN**

Director, Campaign for Safe Cosmetics &  
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners



**DR. SHRUTHI MAHALINGAIAH**

Reproductive Endocrinologist  
and Infertility Specialist  
Physician-Scientist Reproductive Health



**DR. AMI ZOTA**

Environmental Health Scientist  
GW Milken School of Public Health



**DR. BRUCE LANPHEAR**

North American expert in fetal and early  
childhood exposure to neurotoxins



**DR. DAVID MICHAELS**

Appointed by President Clinton  
and President Obama as  
Assistant Secretary of the Environment and  
Occupational Safety  
Author, *Doubt Is Their Product*



**DR. PHILIPPA DARBRE**

PhD Professor Emerita,  
The University of Reading  
Primary focus: parabens and breast tissue



**DR. ROBIN DODSON**

Research Scientist,  
Silent Spring Institute



**ALLEN SMITH**

Lead Attorney,  
The Smith Law Firm, P.L.L.C.  
The Talc Litigation Group



**JOEL ROCHON**

Managing Partner Rochon Genova LLC  
Co-Lead Counsel Canadian,  
J&J Talc Litigation



**ROSE-MARIE SWIFT**

Founder, rms beauty

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT - PHYLLIS ELLIS**

Headlines hit the news about a lawsuit in the U.S. against Johnson and Johnson linking talc in baby powder to ovarian cancer. The verdict: Guilty. I was an Olympic athlete and over 15 years of training and competing used J&J baby powder several times a day. After months of research and speaking with world-renowned epidemiologist/oncologist Dr. Daniel Cramer, I discovered I was at risk.

I thought, *"If the most trusted brand in the world could cause cancer, what other products are we using daily that could cause harm?"*

The film is a visually compelling, fact based narrative supported by personal stories and solid science to refute skeptics (and some of my friends) who say that toxins and chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products are harmless. To dispel doubt propagated by "Big Cosmetics", who position themselves as champions of personal empowerment through their multibillion dollar advertising campaigns. As a woman and filmmaker, the narrative advocates to empower consumers and as scientist Dr. Ami Zota so eloquently states *"to change these beauty norms so women don't have to choose between their health and trying to look beautiful according to these arbitrary standards."*

My intention is to tell this story so we protect our bodies, our children's bodies, and to identify the danger that toxic chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products pose to all of us through, cause, effects and the profound doubt and power big industry wields. Government is letting us down.

I had the great privilege of spending time with women near the end of their lives, met an amazing whistle blower and followed a young medical student who gives us full access to her experiment and chemical body burden tests from cosmetic use. All brave women and men who tell us their stories.

The film features brilliant scientists, epidemiologists, doctors, advocates past and present who guide the science and reveal the truth behind the thousands of toxicants and chemicals in these products that we use on ourselves and our children. These are products that have not been adequately tested and are not properly regulated in North America.

- Phyllis Ellis

## **THE FILMMAKERS**

### **PHYLLIS ELLIS – WRITER, DIRECTOR**

Ellis has over 30 years' experience as a creator, writer, director, producer and performer in factual and scripted television and film. She was honored at the 2013 Canadian Screen Awards with the prestigious Donald Brittain Award for Best Social/Political Documentary for *About Her*, narrated by Kim Cattrall. Ellis has been nominated for 7 Gemini Awards/CSA's with 3 wins. Most recently she was nominated for CSA Best Direction for *Girls' Night Out* and feature documentary *Painted Land* was nominated for the DGC's Allan King Award in 2016. Ellis premiered two dramatic feature films at the 2000 Sundance Film Festival. Ellis has produced, written and developed over 30 documentary, scripted and factual TV series, for CTV, Corus, The Scripps Network, Sundance Channel, Independent Film Channel, Vision, APTN and the CBC.

### **BARRI COHEN - PRODUCER**

Cohen has a 20-year history making award-winning independent documentaries through the CBC, Discovery Channel, W Network and many others. Most of her films involve health, mental health and wellness. Her many awards and nominations include the feature film *Toxic Trespass: Children's Health & The Environment*. Cohen also produced *Girls' Night Out*, directed by Phyllis Ellis.

### **IRIS NG – CINEMATOGRAPHER**

Iris Ng is a cinematographer with over a decade of experience collaborating with award-winning filmmakers, including Sarah Polley's *Stories We Tell* (Best Documentary - Los Angeles Film Critics Association, and Best Non-Fiction Film - New York Film Critics Circle), *Herman's House* directed by Angad Bhalla (Emmy Award for Outstanding Arts & Culture Program), *The Ghosts In Our Machine* directed by Liz Marshall (Best Canadian Feature - Planet In Focus International Film and Video Festival), and most recently, a portion of the Emmy Award Winning Netflix documentary series *Making A Murderer*.



## **PETER RAYMONT - EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

Filmmaker, journalist, writer, activist, Peter Raymont has produced and directed over 100 films and TV series during his 47 year career. Raymont's films have received 76 international awards including 13 Gemini Awards (49 nominations), Gold and Silver Hugos, The Sesterce d'Argent among others. His documentary feature, *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire* received the 2007 Emmy for Best Documentary. Raymont is the Executive Producer and co-creator of the award-winning TV drama series *The Border* (38 x 1hr) and Executive Producer of the drama series, *Cracked* (21 x 1hr). Other films directed by Raymont include *A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman* (2007) and *Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould* (2009), which were shortlisted for an Academy Award. More recently, *Guantanamo's Child: Omar Khadr* (2015) and *All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception and the Spirit of I.F. Stone* (2016) were nominated for an Emmy. Raymont recently produced and *The Corporate Coup D'État* (2018)

## **CREDITS**

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International Distribution **Kew Media Group**

## **ABOUT WHITE PINE PICTURES**

White Pine Pictures is an independent, Canadian film and television production company based in Toronto. For 40 years White Pine Pictures has engaged audiences worldwide with compelling, revealing stories in documentary and dramatic form. Under the leadership of Peter Raymont, our film, television, and interactive productions have earned over 42 international awards, including Genies, Geminis, several Gold and Silver Hugos and The Sesterce d'Argent. We have become trusted and regular suppliers of documentary programs to all Canadian broadcasters, and to the BBC, Channel 4 (UK), PBS, Nat Geo, France 2, ZDF-ARTE, SVT, ABC and SBS (Australia) among many others. White Pine's breakout documentary *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Roméo Dallaire* was honoured with the Audience Award for World Cinema Documentaries at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival and the 2007 Emmy for Best Documentary. This influential feature film had a profound impact on audiences around the world. Other White Pine documentary features include the Oscar-shortlisted *A Promise to the Dead: The Exile Journey of Ariel Dorfman* (2008) and *Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould* (2010). As with many of our films, *Guantanamo's Child: Omar Khadr* (2015), premiered at The Toronto International Film Festival, and was honoured with three Canadian Screen Awards and an Emmy nomination. The Emmy nominated *All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception and the Spirit of I.F. Stone* (2016) also premiered at TIFF, has been screened at many film festivals and broadcast worldwide. In 2007, White Pine Pictures extended its documentary pedigree into the world of drama, producing three seasons of *The Border*, an award-winner for CBC Television, now seen in over 30 countries and versioned into 20 languages. *Cracked* is an award-winning one hour crime/medical drama, about a seasoned police officer at the helm of the Psych Crimes and Crisis Unit, who is himself effected by post-traumatic stress disorder. *Cracked* aired for two seasons across Canada and has been sold to France, Germany, and USA among others. White Pine's experienced management team of Peter Raymont, Steve Ord, Andrew Munger and Stephen Paniccia are committed to engaging audiences across genres and platforms with stories that matter. We take pride in working with the best creative talent and respected international partners who embrace the depth of content and high production values that defines us.

For more about White Pine Pictures: **[www.whitepinepictures.com](http://www.whitepinepictures.com)**