

vonnie VON HELMOLT film & MERIT MOTION PICTURES present

9 GIRLS 4 WEEKS 1 DREAM

# TuTuMUCH





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### 9 Girls, 4 Weeks, 1 Dream

**A unique Canadian feature documentary about the private world of young dancers gets international exposure**

*“A real and often shocking look into the life of young dancers trying to make it into the professional world of classical dance. It’s full of excitement and disappointment, tears and laughter and hard decisions regarding years of sacrifice and pain and the limitations of one’s anatomy. And it’s all from the mouths of children” -See Magazine*

**“TuTu Much is refreshing and revealing! If you’re a parent who has always wondered what goes on when you leave your daughter behind, here is your answer.” -Ballet News**

**“It’s astonishing to see the determination that a 10-year-old girl has when it comes to a possible profession in ballet. Inspiring!” -Edmonton Vue**

**“A raw look at an exclusive world that’s fascinating but mostly invisible” - National Post**

**“A rare and tantalising glimpse into the audition highs and lows” - Ballet News**

**“An undiscovered masterpiece” – Seoul International Family Film Festival**

**“Astonishing and inspiring!” – Edmonton Vue**

**TuTuMUCH** takes an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at how it feels to be a twelve year old girl and embark on a career as a professional ballet dancer, all before you’ve even had your first date. This fascinating feature documentary follows nine young ballet dancers as they plié, pirouette and compete for highly-coveted spots in an intensive four-week professional ballet summer program at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Leaving behind their families and friends, often for the first time, each girl confronts the painstaking and sometimes rewarding realities of actually living her dream.

As the girls learn during the course of the auditions, talent and passion alone are not enough. The classes are grueling as their physical and emotional limits are stretched and tested daily. “You’ve even got to love the pain,” says twelve year-old Sidnie, one of the prospective ballerinas. The success of a dancer often comes down to the shape of a foot or the length of the neck. In the last few days of the program the girls find out which of them will take the next step toward the dream of becoming a professional ballerina, and which ones won’t.

Produced by Ballet Girls Inc., a co-venture between local production companies Merit Motion Pictures and vonnie VON HELMOLT film, and directed by Elise Swerhone, **TuTuMUCH** made its Canadian premiere screening at over 55 Cineplex Entertainment theatres across Canada. **This is the first time in Canadian film history that a 100% Canadian-produced documentary feature has screened at this number of theatres on the same day.**

It screened at 30 Hoyts theatres across Australia and New Zealand, following a European premiere at the Telefilm Perspectives Canada Showcase at the Cannes Film Festival.

**TuTuMUCH** built on the momentum from the positive reception at Cannes, winning Best Documentary at the Seoul International Family Film Festival in Korea (Asian premiere), and at the Chicago International Children’s Film Festival, as well as screening at festivals from India and Egypt to Ireland and England.

“I am delighted with the great media and public response we have received over the past couple of months for **TuTuMUCH**” says International Emmy Award winning co-producer, Vonnie Von Helmolt (*Dracula -Pages from a Virgin’s Diary, The Tale of the Magic Flute*). “we are so pleased to be sharing this film with family audiences throughout North America and world-wide”.

**To view a trailer for TuTuMUCH please visit: [www.tutumuchmovie.com](http://www.tutumuchmovie.com) or [www.facebook.com/tutumuch](http://www.facebook.com/tutumuch)**

For further information please contact:

E. [info@meritmotionpictures.com](mailto:info@meritmotionpictures.com)

T. 204.775.4092