

THE BEACON

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A Unique Film Created And Produced In Babylon



Ellen Cooperperson (right) with Bill Boggs on his TV program, *Mid-day Live*, where she recently appeared.

A film about sexism in language, "Yes Baby, She's My Sir," that is not only rated General Audience but is endorsed by representatives of The New York State Department of Education and the Suffolk County Council of The Girl Scouts of America, is the production of two remarkable young women who live and work in Babylon, as Multi-media Productions, Inc.

President of the firm, Ellen Cooperperson, writer and producer, holds a B.A. in Psychology from Brooklyn College and is a Long Island delegate to the New York State NOW council. Her colleague, photographer and graphic artist Priscilla Nord, has her degree in Education from SUNY at Cortland as well as having done graduate work in Women's Studies, History, Sociology and Psychology, so both are amply qualified to produce educational films from a feminist viewpoint.

Ellen Cooperperson has received national publicity through her recent legal victory in changing her surname from Cooperman to Cooperperson but her personal victory, meaningful as it is to her as a symbol, only begins to indicate the depth of her commitment to change the very way we think of women, through our basic medium of expression, language.

The film on this subject, "Yes Baby, She's My Sir," (a line from poet Eve Merriam) is a delight. Clearly stated through the medium of film-strip, it explores how the words we use shape images and self-concepts for

males and females. The actors, children in the Babylon School System, appear to be embryonic artists, particularly one small girl who functions as the intelligent woman's guide to Social Studies and the viewer has a sense of life and motion, so artfully handled is the still color photography and accompanying music and sound track.

It points out graphically and specifically how the English language contributes to the devaluation of women and further, that some speech habits developed among women tend to perpetuate a lack of confidence. Stimulating arguments are presented with soberness as well as humor and documented with the results of new research. Even if feminism is not one's major interest, "Yes Baby, She's My Sir," purely as an exercise in linguistics, is a fascinating production.

Distribution (initial response shows interest as far afield as Canada) is through Multi-media Productions, 31 Greenway South, Babylon 11702. The Babylon-born film is available in a film-strip package with sound and a discussion guide for \$35. The presentation takes 25 minutes. For many kinds of group meetings, be they scholastic, business, garden or literary clubs, it is highly recommended by this reviewer.

Ms. Cooperperson and Ms. Nord also travel with this film and are available as leaders of discussion programs. They can be reached at 587-5743.

By Maud de Luna