

Happy Hooker – 37 years later Hollander is a documentary subject.

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Xaviera Hollander, author of *The Happy Hooker: My Own Story*, the infamous 1971 memoir about her days as a call girl, is the subject of Robert Dunlap's documentary, *Xaviera Hollander, the Happy Hooker: Portrait of a Sexual Revolutionary*.

The film will have its world premiere at the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival tomorrow at 9:25 p.m. at Media Bureau, 725 N. Fourth St., followed by a Q&A session with Hollander.

Hollander, 65, who was born in Indonesia to a Dutch Jewish father and a French-German mother during World War II, spent part of her childhood in a Japanese prison camp. Her latest book, *Child No More*, is a memoir about the death of her mother, with whom she had had a volatile relationship.

The indefatigable Hollander, who owns a bed-and-breakfast in Amsterdam, continues to write and offers lectures around Europe on topics as varied as "Emotional Management," "Teambuilding" and "Women in Power." She gave a glimpse into her life during a phone call.

Question: What is the most important thing you learned from your days as a madam?

Answer: That once a man stands in front of a prostitute all naked he is as vulnerable as a little child.

Q: How does it feel to be remembered for something you did during such a brief period of your life?



A: I have never regretted the moment I became famous. . . . [But] I sometimes wish people would appreciate me as more than just the sum of my private parts, since that is what they remember me best for – the Happy Hooker.

Q: Would you rather be remembered for some other accomplishment?

A: When I finally wrote a most emotional ode to my beloved mother [Child No More], which dealt with her approaching death, I discovered that a book . . . dealing with life and death and having my name on the cover does not sell as well as a book about sex. It is almost as if you suddenly would see Sylvester Stallone in a Shakespearean production.

Q: What contribution did The Happy Hooker make to the women's liberation movement?

A: First, I am a feminine feminist who does not want to castrate all men . . . The Happy Hooker was, I believe, an eye-opener for both men as well as women. But mostly women came out of the closet and learned to be open and honest in their relationships Women began finally to demand their own pleasure.

Q: You lived in New York for a few years, where you ran a brothel. What do you love most about America?

A: Friendly people. The helpfulness, interest and hospitality we Europeans get from most anyone we meet when we go over there.

Q: What do you dislike?

A: Lots of junk food . . . obesity. The fascination with plastic surgery [and] the fear of growing old gracefully. [It's] what makes older women so ridiculous in their efforts to try and look young.