



## *Two Gals. Two Horses. 4000 Miles...One Sassy Adventure!*

On a bright April morning in 1941, two twenty-one year old girls from Galion, Ohio saddled up their horses and set out on what would become the adventure of a lifetime. So begins the story of Virginia Shumaker, a spunky young woman who – on a bet – teamed up with a friend and hit the road with one goal in mind: riding all the way to California! **DON'T FENCE ME IN** is a daredevil documentary recounting the delightful adventures of the lady the papers hailed as the first modern woman to ride coast-to-coast across America on a horse.

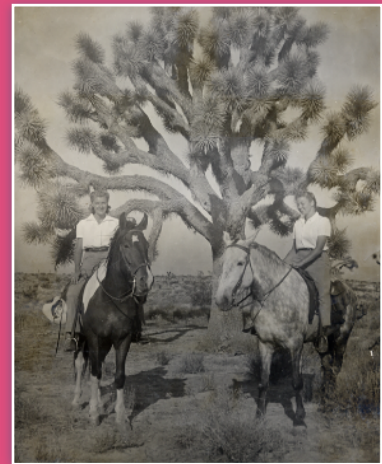
## *A Film About Two Gals...Made By Two Gals!*

What mother straps her high school-aged daughter to the top of her Jeep & puts a film camera in her hand while driving 5 miles an hour through empty backroads in the American West to collect research footage? The same one who years earlier installed her adorable three-year old in the adjoining editing room to watch *Lady & the Tramp* while mom teaches film students at Columbus College of Art & Design. And the same one who knew the moment she read about the incredible adventures of Virginia Shumaker and her friend, Myldred Bickem, that she and her daughter — all grown up now — would make this fun and feisty documentary together.

I became friends with then eighty-four year old Virginia in the mid-2000s and have been working to tell her story on film ever since. Through it all my daughter, Sabrina, has been my loyal editor, collaborator and all-around Her Girl Friday. This project is a true labor of love that has taken many years and has had to weather all kinds of challenges and setbacks. From family losses and payday loan cycles, to horse barn cleanings, crowdfunding campaigns and Sabrina's university days (first as a student, then a professor), we have remained the dearest pals and have grown into seasoned artistic collaborators.

Together, we proudly present for your enjoyment...  
DON'T FENCE ME IN.

— Mary Elaine



Photos Courtesy of *The Columbus Dispatch* and Virginia Shumaker Payne.



## *A Crew to Beat the Band!*



Producer & Director.....Mary Elaine Evans

A longtime, award-winning documentary producer, Mary Elaine Evans has directed and produced numerous independent films, magazine-style television programs, and radio documentaries. Her feature-length documentary, *ANDY*, aired on PBS, won two Emmy Awards, and took home a bronze medal at the Columbus Film Festival; it was also a Cine Golden Eagle Award finalist and an official selection at both the New York Film Festival and the Texas Film Festival, where it won best in category. She co-directed the documentary *WE ARE THE AVERAGE* with celebrated filmmaker Christian Blackwood for West German television and wrote, produced, and hosted forty-two episodes of the *REAL-TO-REEL* television program. She has been honored by the Mayor of Columbus for her efforts to elevate the prominence of local filmmaking as part of the city's first "Independent Filmmaker's Day." Most recently, she received a Best Producer nod for this film from the Prague International Indie Film Festival and was awarded Best Historical Film by the Toronto International Women Film Festival.



Editor & Archivist.....Sabrina Evans-Renkar

Following in her mother's footsteps, Sabrina Evans-Renkar is an independent writer, producer, & editor. She holds an MFA in Film from Ohio University and is an Assistant Professor of Media at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. She was recently awarded Best Editing for her work on this film by the Prague International Indie Film Festival.



Interview Cinematography.....Tor Ravengael

Tor Ravengael is an award-winning commercial videographer. He holds a B.F.A in Video/Film from Columbus College of Art & Design and was a founding member of AVM productions in Columbus, Ohio. He is currently based out of Portland, Oregon.



## Location Cinematography.....Jon Coy

Jon is an award-winning cinematographer and colorist based in Columbus, Ohio.



## Illustrator.....Brenna Jenny

Brenna Jenny is a freelance artist and illustrator. She lives and works in Germany.



## Animation.....Meshach Malley

Meshach Malley is a graduate of Denison University's Cinema program and the founder and creative director of M to the 4th Productions based in Columbus, Ohio.



## Instrumental Music

Performed by.....Martin Jonas

Martin Jonas is a wonderfully modest and gifted mandolin hobbyist based in Wales.



## Additional Music by.....Chris Bingman

Chris Bingman is a bluegrass virtuoso who plays under the stage name Dr. Chris "Pass the Biscuits" Bingman. He is the frontman and founder of The Buttermilk Biscuit Boys based out of Springfield, Ohio.





# *Production Stills*



## *Technical Details / Website / Contact Info*

Title: *Don't Fence Me In*  
Genre: Documentary, Short  
TRT: 35 Minutes  
Country: United States  
Language: English  
Completion Date: January 2022

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