

#BigFertility

It's All About The Money

Kelly was lied to, lied about, bullied, used, exploited, and nearly ruined financially. In the end, she barely escaped with her life.



"#BigFertility: It's All About The Money"

JENNIFER LAHL: Writer/Director/Producer MATTHEW EPPINETTE: Co-Producer

CHRIS MILOSLAVICH: Co-Producer/Editor

A Film by The Center for Bioethics and Culture Network

<http://bigfertility.cbc-network.org>

#BigFertility: It's All About The Money
PRESS KIT

Press Inquiries, contact:
media@cbc-network.org

#BigFertility *It's All About The Money*

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FILM TITLE:

#BigFertility: It's All About The Money

LOG LINE:

Kelly was lied to, lied about, bullied, used, exploited, and nearly ruined financially. In the end, she barely escaped with her life.

SYNOPSIS:

Kelly Martinez served as a surrogate mother for three different couples and was threatened with financial ruin after nearly dying during her third surrogacy. But each of her surrogacy journeys had a price to pay. Kelly's story exemplifies everything that is wrong with the distorted version of fertility medicine that is Big Fertility. It truly is all about the money.

CONTACT INFO:

The Center for Bioethics and Culture
3380 Vincent Road STE HUB
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
925-407-2660

info@cbc-network.org

media@cbc-network.org

bigfertility.cbc-network.org

facebook.com/cbcnetwork

twitter.com/cbcnetwork

Jennifer Lahl, Writer/Director/Producer

jennifer.lahl@cbc-network.org

TECHNICAL INFO:

Running Time: approx. 45 minutes

Exhibition Format: Digital/Online

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Shooting Format: HD

Color

English

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SALES:

Available worldwide beginning Monday, September 17, 2018, through Vimeo On Demand:
<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/bigfertility>

BROADCAST INQUIRIES:

Broadcast rights are available through the Center for Bioethics and Culture.

EDUCATIONAL INQUIRIES:

Educational Licensing for *#BigFertility* is available through the Center for Bioethics and Culture.

COMMUNITY & FESTIVAL SCREENING INQUIRIES:

We encourage university, civic, church, and local community groups to use this film for outreach and engagement on the important issues addressed in the film. Please contact the Center for Bioethics and Culture for public performance rights: info@cbc-network.org

TOP LINE CREDITS:

Featuring (in order of appearance)

Kelly Martinez

Jay Martinez

Jennifer Lahl, R.N., M.A.

Anthony S. Diehl, M.D.

Written by

Jennifer Lahl

Directed by

Jennifer Lahl

Produced by

Jennifer Lahl

Matthew Eppinette

Chris Miloslavich

The Center for Bioethics and Culture

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PRESS RELEASE:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Documentary Explores the Business of Big Fertility, Finds It's All About The Money

San Francisco, CA/Sept. 13, 2018 — Jennifer Lahl and [The Center for Bioethics and Culture](#), producers of the award-winning [Eggsploitation](#) (2013), [Anonymous Father's Day](#) (2011), and [Breeders: A Subclass of Women?](#) (2014), announce the theatrical premiere of their new documentary film [#BigFertility](#).

Like Big Tobacco and Big Pharma, Big Fertility is what happens when an industry intentionally disregards—and indeed attempts to distract from—the harm it inflicts on its customers in the pursuit of profit. In all the slick marketing around surrogacy there is never any mention of the real and serious potential health risks to the young women who serve as ‘gestational carriers.’

In [#BigFertility](#) you will meet Kelly Martinez, a young mother who served as a surrogate mother for three different couples. She was threatened with financial ruin after nearly dying during her third surrogacy. But each of her three surrogacy journeys had a price to pay. Together, the stories of Kelly's three surrogacies exemplify everything that is wrong with the distorted version of fertility medicine that is Big Fertility. It truly is all about the money.

Julie Bindel, journalist, feminist campaigner, and author, says “[#BigFertility](#) is one of the most important films you will ever see. Think surrogacy is a ‘right’ for the women doing it? Believe that everyone has the ‘right’ to their own biological child? Convinced that surrogacy can be regulated? Watch this dystopian tale and be horrified and educated to the realities of this human rights violation.”

Long-term women's health advocate Dr. Renate Klein, writes, “[#BigFertility](#) is mandatory viewing for anyone who thinks surrogacy is just about beautiful babies and selfless women. It is about a ruthless industry whose coffers swell from human misery, deceit, ill health, and children as commodities who never consented to become take-away babies.”

Jennifer Lahl, writer, director, and producer of [#BigFertility](#) points out, “When people hear about Kelly, they are shocked, and rightly so. But the sad truth is, I know 50 other women just like Kelly.” She asks, “How many? How many Kellys will we have before we see a real change?”

[#BigFertility](#) will premiere on Sunday, September 16, 2018, at 7:30 pm at the Princeton Garden Theater in Princeton, New Jersey. Q&A with Writer, Director, Producer Jennifer Lahl, R.N., M.A. will follow: <http://princetongardentheatre.org/films/big-fertility>

[#BigFertility](#) will be available on demand, worldwide, beginning Monday, September 17, 2018, at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/bigfertility>

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ENDORSEMENTS AND EARLY REVIEWS:

#BigFertility is one of the most important films you will ever see. Think surrogacy is a 'right' for the women doing it? Believe that everyone has the 'right' to their own biological child? Convinced that surrogacy can be regulated? Watch this dystopian tale and be horrified and educated to the realities of this human rights violation.

— Julie Bindel, journalist, feminist campaigner, and author of [The Pimping of Prostitution: Abolishing the Sex Work Myth](#) (2017)

Exploiting a couple's financial troubles by having a woman sell her body as an incubator so rich people can buy children, is a human rights violation. Kelly's heartbreaking and infuriating story exposes the lies, bullying, and blackmail by the Fertility Industry, but also the life-threatening dangers for both egg providers and birthmothers.

#BigFertility is mandatory viewing for anyone who thinks surrogacy is just about beautiful babies and selfless women. It is about a ruthless industry whose coffers swell from human misery, deceit, ill health, and children as commodities who never consented to become take-away babies. Surrogacy needs to be stopped NOW.

— Dr. Renate Klein, author of [Surrogacy: A Human Rights Violation](#) (2017) and a long-term women's health advocate

#BigFertility is a moving and shocking documentary at the same time. It sheds light on the new slave-market in the reproductive industry where embryos, babies, mothers, and women are treated like commodities.

— Regula Staempfli, Doctor of Philosophy, Consultant, and Political Scientist, author of the bestseller (in Switzerland/Germany), *The Algorithmic Perception of Women* / [Die Vermessung der Frau](#)

#BigFertility exposes what many won't admit about surrogacy—it's all about the money. When you look beyond the glossy photos and celebrity headlines, the commodification of women and children through surrogacy is undeniable. #BigFertility tells the story of one surrogate who details three of the thousands of ways that surrogacy can go terribly wrong. Of course, for the babies who lose a relationship with the only parent they know upon birth, surrogacy can never go right.

— Katy Faust, Founder & Director, [Them Before Us](#)

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#BigFertility exposes the deception and greed behind the business of surrogacy, and the harm knowingly and unknowingly inflicted on women who function as surrogates for people who want babies and can pay for them. This brave and shocking film must be seen if you want to learn about a cruel practice that is increasing wherever women are in economic stress and where there are no laws preventing surrogacy.

— Melissa Farley, Ph.D., clinical psychologist, researcher, founder of Prostitution Research and Education, San Francisco, CA

Kelly's powerful and heartbreaking story demonstrates how the trade in human babies is just as unethical as the trade in human organs. It demonstrates Big Fertility's success in hiding the legal, medical, ethical, and emotional minefields that endanger the women who become involved in this frighteningly uncertain and dangerous process. Kelly's journeys expose surrogacy as a human rights violation, fraught with potential tragedy and fueled by dishonesty, threats, and exploitation of the financially vulnerable. This compelling documentary gives a voice to one of Big Fertility's many traumatized and re-traumatized victims, and exposes the human misery caused when vulnerable people are treated as mere commodities.

— Gary Powell, gay and lesbian equality campaigner and public administration activist, UK.

There is no way, out of the blue, that "surrogate mothers" can conceive of themselves as wombs for hire without other social conditions reducing women to objects to be used in exchange. For a woman to be able to think of her body as a carrier of someone else's baby, women must dissociate from their bodies, thus allowing their bodies to be used separate from their own humanity. This fact is fundamental to all aspects of male domination of women, including rape, prostitution, sexual harassment and assault, pornography.

In #BigFertility we see Kelly Martinez victimized by sleazy corporations who appropriate her body for their profit, and customers for whom baby-buying is nothing more than another acquisition of merchandise at the expense of the birth mother. No doubt that Kelly and her husband would have rejected the entire premise of surrogacy had they known the exploitation on which it is built.

— Kathleen Barry, Ph.D., author of [Female Sexual Slavery and The Prostitution of Sexuality](http://www.kathleenbarry.net)
<http://www.kathleenbarry.net>

Truly riveting . . . after watching Lahl's thought-provoking and emotionally jarring #BigFertility, it's abundantly clear that the romanticized imagery often associated with surrogacy is often far from the actual truth and the actual experiences of countless women and families from around the globe.

— Richard Propes, Film Critic at [The Independent Critic](http://www.the-independent-critic.com)