



WAM!BOSTON FILM FESTIVAL 2012

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"You have to be a little crazy to make documentaries," says Melissa Johnson.

And she's speaking from experience—three hundred hours of experience, to be exact. Johnson cut down 288 hours of film for *No Look Pass*, her documentary about a former Harvard basketball star who faces issues of sexuality and identity while trying to get on a pro team.

As court star Emily Tay virtually moonwalks all over the Harvard courts, she tries to reconcile her wishes with her traditional Burmese parents' marriage-and-baby-time expectations. "I really wanted to make a film that was fundamentally an American Dream film and what it meant for this kid to live her version of the American Dream which didn't fall at all in line with what her immigrant parents had in mind when they came over from Burma in 1980," Johnson says.

Johnson follows Tay's transition from collegiate baller to pro player for a European team and her growing relationship with a U.S. servicewoman.

No Look Pass is Johnson's first feature-length documentary, and will be headlining at the WAM! (Women, Action, and the Media) Boston Film Festival on March 24 at the Brattle Theatre. The festival will feature documentaries along with animated, experimental and live-action shorts produced by and starring women. The films range in topic from sexuality to activism to family and relationships. Each film will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker.