

# MAIDENTRIP

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English, Dutch w. English Subtitles / 16:9 / 1.77.1



## FIRST RUN FEATURES

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## SYNOPSIS

15-year-old Laura Dekker sets out—camera in hand—on a two-year voyage in pursuit of her dream to be the youngest person ever to sail around the world alone. In the wake of a year-long battle with Dutch authorities that sparked a global storm of media scrutiny, Laura now finds herself far from land, family and unwanted attention, exploring the world in search of freedom, adventure, and distant dreams of her early youth at sea. Jillian Schlesinger's debut feature amplifies Laura's brave, defiant voice through a mix of Laura's own video and voice recordings at sea and intimate vérité footage from locations including the Galapagos Islands, French Polynesia, Australia, and South Africa.

## LAURA DEKKER TIMELINE

**1995** Laura Dekker is born on a boat in the port of Whangarei, New Zealand during her parents' seven-year voyage around the world on their sailboat.

**2000** Laura's parents Dick Dekker and Babs Muller divorce. Laura chooses to live with her father in The Netherlands.

**2001** At just six years of age, Laura sails her Optimist dinghy alone across the lake where she lives.

**2005** At ten years of age, Laura takes multi-week trips to Friesland accompanied by only her dog Spot as crew.

**2009** Laura announces her plans to become the youngest person to circumnavigate the globe alone at just 13 years old.

**2009** Dutch authorities object to Laura's voyage and prevent her from departing.

**July 2010** A Dutch family court rules in favor of Laura and her father, allowing her to set sail.

**August 2010** Laura sets sail alone from Gibraltar on Guppy, her red 38-foot two-masted ketch.

**January 2012** Laura Dekker arrives in St. Marteen after her 17-month solo odyssey, officially making her the youngest person to ever sail around the world alone.

**February 2012** Instead of returning to Europe, Laura continues sailing around the world with the goal of returning to New Zealand where she was born.

**September 2012** Laura arrives and settles in Whangarei, NZ (the port where she was born) independent of her parents.

## ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

**Jillian Schlesinger (Director/Producer)** is an independent filmmaker and writer-producer-editor of promotional content for television. Her debut feature documentary, **MAIDENTRIP**, won an Audience Award at SXSW and the Festival Director's Award at Mountainfilm in Telluride.

Jillian has previously worked in various roles on documentaries, including writing, story development, and archival research. She has also written, produced, and edited numerous on-air promotions for television networks, including AMC, Sundance Channel, and BBC America. Her work on Sundance Channel's **Dysfunctional Family Thanksgiving** earned a 2010 PromaxBDA Award in the "Something for Nothing" category. Jillian graduated from Brown University, where she studied creative writing and linguistic anthropology. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

**Emily McAllister (Producer)** is an independent filmmaker based in Brooklyn. She began working on **MAIDENTRIP** shortly after graduating from Cornell University with a degree in Film and Economics. She started her career interning at the award-winning production company Part2 Pictures, where she worked on television documentaries for National Geographic, OWN, and PBS. Currently, she is working on the post-production team at Pilot, a full service creative agency in Manhattan. Emily is also a part of Pilot's new venture to support emerging filmmakers through its sister company CoPilot Pictures. In her spare time, she loves to make flipbooks and animated shorts.

**Penelope Falk (Editor)** started her career on Jennifer Fox's groundbreaking series "An American Love Story." Other credits include: **A LETTER WITHOUT WORDS** (Sundance Film Festival), **BOMBAY EUNUCH** (winner of the New York Gay and Lesbian Film Festival), **STAGEDOOR** (programmed at New York's prestigious Film Forum), **TOOTS** (premiered Tribeca Film Festival), **SMILE TIL IT HURTS** (premiered Slamdance Festival) and **JOAN RIVERS: A PIECE OF WORK** (Sundance Film Festival, winner Excellence in Editing award). TV film credits include: **AFGHAN STORIES** (the Sundance Channel), **UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU** (A&E), **ESCUELA** (PBS) and **UNFINISHED COUNTRY** (PBS).

**Hillary Fyfe Spera** is the award-winning director of photography of documentaries including **AFTER TILLER** (Sundance 2013), **MAIDENTRIP** (SXSW 2013, Audience Award) and **OXYANA** (Tribeca 2013, Special Jury Prize for Best New Director.) Among her narrative film credits are Katie Aselton's **BLACK ROCK** (Sundance 2012), Matt Walsh's **HIGH ROAD**, and Nicholas Greene's **SALAR**, shortlisted for a 2013 Academy Award. Hillary has also shot numerous commercials and music videos around the world. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

**Ben Sollee (Original Music)** was born and raised in Kentucky, where he learned to play cello and learned to sing. Sollee currently lives in Kentucky and will likely always live in Kentucky.

**Louis Venezia (Executive Producer)** is the owner and executive creative director of Pilot, a full service creative and branding agency. Before starting a precursor of Pilot in 2005, Venezia was the creative director of the on-air creative group for VH1, where he helped rebrand the channel in 2003. He got his start in television in 1997, writing and producing award-winning promos and spots for network and cable channels on both coasts, most notably for NBC, THE WB, Food Network, Showtime, and VH1. He has written for television, magazines and newspapers, since 1995. He has taught screenwriting for the English Department at his alma mater, Rutgers University. He is the executive producer of BECOMING SANTA which premiered at SXSW in 2011, and producer of FIVE DAYS GONE which premiered at The Brooklyn Film Festival in 2011. Louis is also an executive producer on the documentary OUR NIXON, which premiered at The International Film Festival Rotterdam 2013, and will have its North American premiere at SXSW 2013.

**Rebecca Ritchie Brower (Executive Producer)** began her film career at Partisan Pictures, in 1998. In 2002 she became the primary shoot producer of the VH1 Creative Department where she produced hundreds of live action promo, co-branded and print campaigns for VH1 and CMT. In April 2005, she added Executive Producing for LOGO to that roster, and in September of that year, she was named Director of Production for VH1 and LOGO Creative. In 2004, Rebecca formed Trivial Pictures, LLC, to produce TRIVIATOWN a feature length award winning documentary on the World's Largest Trivia Contest. Over five hundred film and video projects later— including BDA Gold Award Winning Promo Campaigns— Rebecca now runs all production for Pilot. Rebecca became a member of The Producers Guild of America in February 2009.

**Gill Holland (Executive Producer)** owns The Group Entertainment LLC, which includes a film production company, talent management division, a music company and an art gallery. Holland has produced more than 70 feature films including HURRICANE STREETS which was the first film ever to win three Sundance Film Festival awards in 1997 as well as the Cannes Film Festival selection INSIDE/OUT, the Independent Spirit Awards winner SWEET LAND and nominee DEAR JESSE (also nominated for an Emmy), the Gotham Awards nominee SPRING FORWARD and FLOW: for Love of Water which was short-listed for an Academy Award. Holland is also the founder of sonaBLAST! Records, an independent record label featuring Ben Sollee, Nerves Junior, The Pass, Cheyenne Marie Mize, The Old Ceremony and Irish singer-songwriter Mark Geary.

**Alex Halpern (Co-Producer)** founded Post FactoryNY in 1996, during the post-production of his award-winning feature documentary *Nine Good Teeth*. Post FactoryNY's credits include big budget studio films, small independent productions, documentaries, television shows and commercials. Post FactoryNY is also one of the founding members of the Post New York Alliance. Prior to founding Post FactoryNY, Alex directed music videos, commercials and television. His stop-motion video for Tripping Daisy's hit song, "Blown Away," was the first music video to feature a live performance by a puppet band. He also co-directed and starred in "Cherub", for *Butthole Surfers*, which featured him streaking naked through Grand Central Station.

## Awards and Recognition

WINNER Visions Audience Award - SXSW Film Festival

WINNER Festival Director's Award - Mountainfilm in Telluride WINNER Audience Award - Camden International Film Festival

WINNER Special Jury Prize for First Time Director - Port Townsend Film Festival

WINNER Best Feature - Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival

Official Selection - Hot Docs

Official Selection - Full Frame Documentary Film Festival Official Selection - Sarasota Film Festival Official Selection - SFIFF Schools at the Festival Official Selection - Nantucket Film Festival Official Selection - Bergen International Film Festival

## Credits

Director:	Jillian Schlesinger
Producers:	Jillian Schlesinger & Emily McAllister
Editor:	Penelope Falk
Executive Producers:	Louis Venezia/Rebecca RitchieBrower/Gill Holland/ Dominic Cicere
Co-Producer:	Alex Halpern
Director of Photography:	Hillary Fyfe Spera
Music:	Ben Sollee
Animation:	Moth Collective
Sound Editor:	Clemence Stoloff
Sound Mixer	Chad Birmingham
Sound Editor & Re-Recording Mixer	Joe Deihl C.A.S M.P.S.E
Associate Producers:	Mary Murphy/Scott M. Kush
Art Director:	Leah Koransky
Post-Production Facilities:	Broadway Video
Post-Production Equipment:	Pilot
Color & Online:	Post Factory NY
Lead Colorist:	Eyal Dimant
Colorist:	Michael Hernandez

# THE Hollywood REPORTER

## Maidentrip: SXSW Review

3/8/2013 by Sheri Linden

**The Bottom Line:** *A remarkable young sailor is both in focus and elusive in this solid, seaworthy vessel.*

The portrait of teenage sailor Laura Dekker during her record-setting solo trip around the world is an immersive first-person chronicle.

Dutch authorities tried to stop her, and editorials called Laura Dekker delusional, spoiled, insane. On the evidence of the documentary *Maidentrip*, receiving its world premiere at SXSW, the young sailor is as grounded, resourceful and clearheaded as anyone could hope to be. In 2012, she fulfilled her “delusional” goal and became, at 16, the youngest person to sail around the world solo.

Jillian Schlesinger’s first feature, made in collaboration with Dekker and composed largely of footage that the hardy adventurer shot herself, is both low-key and lyrical as it focuses on the mundane and the magnificent. The well-crafted film might not be destined to make theatrical waves, but it has enough cinematic oomph to draw niche interest in select markets. And given the international media attention Dekker’s journey received, *Maidentrip* is a sure fit for broad-based small-screen exposure.

Beginning with a Kickstarter campaign, New York-based Schlesinger provided her subject, who set out in 2010 without a follow boat or support team, with a Sony Handycam and mounted GoPro cameras. Novice camera operator Dekker captures the stillness of the open sea as well as the “super awesome” rainstorms and rough winds that toss her 38-foot ketch and sometimes create disasters in the compact kitchen.

The director also gave her lists of topics to address on camera or into a tape recorder during her downtime. What emerges, onscreen and in voice-over, is a preternaturally self-confident teen who doesn’t subscribe to her generation’s social-media egocentrism. When she says, “I don’t like when people tell me what to do,” it’s not an expression of mere adolescent impudence but the voice of someone who knows what she wants and is willing to do the hard work to get it. Fame and publicity are ordeals for her, not goals, as her bristly impatience with a reporter demonstrates. Repulsed by Western conformity and materialism, Dekker quite pointedly arranges for the finish line of her circumnavigation to be somewhere other than Europe.

Schlesinger doesn’t get into the nitty gritty, but Dekker’s trip was prefaced by a legal battle in which the Netherlands’ child-welfare bureaucracy sought custody of the then 13-year-old to prevent her from

embarking on her solo trip. After 10 months, she prevailed. "They tried to break Laura down," her father notes, "but she's too strong."

The inventive, moody score by Kentucky-based musician Ben Sollee is a fine enhancement to the material Schlesinger has selected to shape her tale of a brave soul eager to explore the wide world. With the help of lovely watercolor-style maps by animation house Moth Collective, the film charts the progression of the trip, interweaving material from family archives to provide the basic backstory.

Born during her parents' seven-year sailing trip, Dekker is at home on the water; when her folks divorced, she stayed with her shipbuilder father to pursue her passion. Their life is anything but privileged. The Guppy, the boat of Laura's landmark trip, was a wreck they bought cheap and refurbished themselves.

Director Schlesinger rendezvoused with Dekker at various ports along her route, and the film includes footage of her traipsing around St. Maarten, the Galapagos Islands and French Polynesia, among other picturesque locales. The beauty of the settings notwithstanding, her time on land at first has the so-what feel of home movies, but through the glimpse of her bond with an older couple, a portrait of the sailing community comes into poignant focus.

As the months go by, Dekker's interest in being ashore lessens and, as for countless sailors before her, the solitude of the sea is what matters. Along the way she braves the treacherous Torres Strait, weeps at the company of a pod of dolphins and casually mentions that she's chosen a certain route to avoid pirates. Through it all, she reveals only as much as she wants to reveal. The film's final surprise is an apt illustration of this young woman's singular combination of forthrightness and reserve.





## **SXSW 2013 Review: MAIDENTRIP is a Beautiful Celebration of Youth**

Ryland Aldrich, Festivals Editor

You may have already heard this story: A fifteen-year-old girl wins a legal battle versus the Dutch government to stay in the custody of her parents and is therefore able to set out on her 40-foot sailboat in an attempt to become the youngest person to ever sail around the Earth, solo. If it sounds fantastic, it is. Inspirational? Yep. Daunting? Check. A bit terrifying? That too. But could this really make an interesting documentary considering she is on the boat by herself? In her fascinating and beautifully moving film *Maidentrip*, young director Jillian Schlesinger answers that question with a resounding, "Yes!"

Part of the secret to Schlesinger's success is in Laura Dekker's decision to not simply sail around the world at a breakneck pace. Instead, Dekker takes her sweet time, stopping at ports of call for months at a time, and making the most of her trip. This allows Schlesinger to catch up with Dekker and speak with her about her journey.

But the majority of the film is all Laura. Alone for months on the open seas, Dekker forms a relationship with the camera and uses it as both a diary and a companion. Holding the camera at arm's length, Dekker speaks directly to the lens as if she's chatting with a friend. Setting it down around the boat, we see Dekker as she goes about her routine; cooking pancakes, checking her rigging, or just gazing out across an endless ocean. Already averse to media and used to being alone with the camera, Schlesinger eschews typical interview scenarios by just giving Dekker a list of topics to discuss with the camera on her own.

What emerges is a compelling portrait of an extraordinary human being. Laura Dekker may be doing something that no fifteen-year-old has ever done before, but that doesn't make her any older than those years. And while *Maidentrip* is a remarkable tale of accomplishment, it is more so a celebration of the incredible promise of youth. As the open seas become a metaphor, Laura Dekker sails on in any direction the winds blow her, blissfully unaware of just how elusive the freedom she enjoys may someday be. Just beautiful.

<http://www.outsideonline.com/outdoor-adventure/raising-rippers/Behind-the-Scenes-of-Maidentrip-17-Year-Old-Laura-Dekkers-Solo-Sail-Around-the-World.html>



## BEHIND THE SCENES OF 'MAIDENTRIP': 17-YEAR-OLD LAURA DEKKER'S SOLO SAIL AROUND THE WORLD

To raise adventurous children, as Laura's father learned when she and *Guppy* set sail, means that someday, you have to let them go

By: KATIE ARNOLD      THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013

"I was born on a boat in New Zealand. I lived my first five years at sea. And ever since, all I've wanted is to return to that life." So begins *Maidentrip*, a remarkable new documentary about Laura Dekker, the 17-year-old sailor who, in 2012, became the youngest person to sail around the world alone. The film debuted on Sunday at South by Southwest in Austin, before a crowd of about 300 people, and will make the rounds on the festival circuit this spring.

Laura's story sparked an international controversy in 2009, when she announced her plans to attempt a solo circumnavigation. She was 14 at the time and quickly became embroiled in a contentious, 10-month court battle with the Dutch government, which deemed the voyage unsafe for the teen and tried to remove her from her father's custody. Laura and her father prevailed, and in August 2010, she set sail from the Netherlands in her 38-foot ketch, *Guppy*.

*Maidentrip* documents her 17 months alone at sea. There was no chase boat, support staff, or film crew. Laura shot all of the footage aboard *Guppy* herself, using a Sony Handy Cam she rigged to the boat. The effect is an intimate, arresting portrait of the young sailor, who for much of the film stares wide-eyed into the camera, as though she can't quite believe she's doing it, either. Though you never see the camera, it takes on its own personality, a kind of default crew and confidante for the solo skipper.

Director Jillian Schlesinger, 29, who'd read about Laura in *The New York Times* in 2009 and approached her with the idea of making a documentary about the trip, wanted the project to feel organic and unscripted. "I wanted to let her tell her own story, and give her a voice, in a way that the sensational mainstream media hadn't," says Schlesinger. "Doing something so extreme with so much passion is an art, and that's how I approached it with Laura. I was really interested in finding out why, as a 14-year-old, she wanted to do this. She had no interest in being famous. She really just loves to sail."

Schlesinger, who makes her living writing and producing TV promos, spent three years working on *Maidentrip*. It's her first film. Like Laura's voyage, the project became her own epic quest. "I always had

a dream of making films," she says. "There are a million reasons not to follow your dream, but as Laura once said to me, 'You don't have to know that you can do something. You just have to try.'"

Schlesinger met Laura en route nine times during the course of the 17-month journey, collecting footage, giving her topics for recording unscripted voice diaries, and occasionally shooting dry-land video. In the Galapagos, Laura convinced her to hop a sailboat with a Canadian family for an unplanned "race" across the Pacific. "After wasting a lot of money changing plane tickets, I finally learned not to make firm plans when I met up with Laura, so I'd bought a one-way ticket," recalls Schlesinger, whose father dropped out of school to sail to Central America. "Sailing across the Pacific started out as a joke. It was daunting to think about being away from the world for three weeks, but I knew it would be compelling to film Laura at sea. In the end, though, we never saw her. We left later than she did and even though we were in a faster boat, she was busting ass to the Marquesas. She got there a day ahead of us."

No surprise. Laura was born to sail. When she was five, she and her parents returned to the Netherlands, but later divorced. Laura moved in with her dad, who worked in a boatyard, so she could keep sailing. She got her first dingy when she was six, sailed throughout Holland during the summers, and made her first solo crossing, to England, when she was 13. In the film's early, archival footage, we see a small smiling sailor dwarfed by her life jacket, sailing a tiny dingy with her dog, Spot.

But out on Guppy on the open sea, Laura grows up fast. She cuts her hair, dyes it red, learns to cook and eat ravioli without spilling it when huge swells hit, starts to swear, celebrates her 16th birthday in Darwin, Australia, with her dad, who flies in to help her repair her sails after a wind-battered crossing, and wrestles with her own identity as a sailor and a daughter. In one poignant scene in French Polynesia, she replaces her Dutch flag with the flag of New Zealand, country of her birth. "I don't have any real connection to Holland anymore," she says. "I don't want to go back. I don't really have a home. Home to me is Guppy."



## Thompson on Hollywood

### Review: In Documentary 'Maidentrip,' Laura Dekker Looks for Paradise in a Sea that Never Ends

BY BETH HANNA

APRIL 5, 2013

Jillian Schlesinger's "Maidentrip," which debuted at SXSW and screens this weekend at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, chronicles Dutch teen Laura Dekker's sail around the globe at age 14, a feat which would win her the title in 2012 of youngest person in history to make the voyage alone.

Observant and unassuming, the documentary looks at the significance of Laura's trip not in terms of records, but as a rite of passage, and as a way for the teen to negotiate her past.

The film gets the ugly stuff out of the way first. Following Dekker's announcement to sail in 2009, she and her father were embroiled in a ten-month legal battle. Dutch authorities claimed that Laura needed a custody transfer, while the internet tossed words at her including "arrogant," "spoiled" and the particularly nasty sentiment: "I hope she sinks." After a year of warring with the courts and shouldering waves of media opinion, Laura was permitted to make her voyage, and to remain under her father's custody. This period in time Schlesinger keeps to an economical five-minute montage.

Indeed, "Maidentrip" is pleasantly free from the hysteria that surrounded Laura Dekker for over a year, and instead presents her trip in a judgment-free manner. It neither suggests (as it understandably could) that 14 is an alarmingly young age to traverse the mightily unforgiving Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, nor takes a blindly positive "Ra! Ra! Go Laura!" stance (as would be tempting, given that Laura proves herself an admirable badass in many ways).

Instead, Laura is portrayed as an independent outsider, at once open-hearted, enviably confident and a bit prickly, sick of what she sees as daily life in Holland (which she rounds up succinctly: "Get money, get a house, get a husband, get a baby, then die"). She pines for a truly outsized adventure. While other young record-holding sailors completed the round-world trip without lengthy stops at ports, Laura gives herself two years for the excursion, so that she can soak in the land-bound culture of the different climes where she alights (among them French Polynesia, Australia, the Galapagos Islands and South Africa).

A large portion of the footage we see was filmed exclusively by Laura while onboard. To be eligible as a record-holder, she was allowed no crewmates while captaining her trusty boat *The Guppy*, so Dekker acts as her own camera operator and narrator, periodically filming herself throughout her trip, commenting on the winds, weather and whatever else might be on her mind.

Laura's camera proves therapeutic for the onset of loneliness that strikes her early in the expedition; the device is something to talk to. She comments on the silly and mundane, but also on the more profound experiences of being thousands of miles from land or another human. We hear her sniffing through tears as she films a pod of dolphins swimming alongside her boat, pleading with them to stay awhile and assuage her feelings of isolation.

Yet as time and the documentary go on we sense a change in Laura. She's relishing the days on end of alone time, and seemingly more attuned to the fluctuations of the ocean. A rather dicey passage around the southernmost tip of South Africa offers up 60-foot waves and weather conditions that a newspaper informs us "even the bravest skipper wouldn't attempt." Laura checks in with us for a moment during this leg of the journey, glowing green in her camera's night vision, unfazed by the torrents of rain and wind raging outside.

Of course many of the most daring parts of Laura's voyage -- those that would consume her undivided attention -- aren't caught on camera, and we're left to fill in the blanks. Director Schlesinger instead focuses on the meditative aspects of the young woman's sail, examining how a preternaturally assured teen handles the day-in, day-out routines of taking care of herself and her home, getting from point A to point B, drifting pleasantly in between, and greeting and parting from new places and friends.

I would argue that Laura's voyage is a coming-of-age, at once grander and more outlandish than most, while set in a strangely contained microcosm of time (two years) and space (her 40-foot boat). Yet Schlesinger also pointedly includes home video and photo montages of Laura's early life as an infant and toddler, when she and her parents, who soon thereafter divorced, were sailing the globe as a family. It's telling that Laura retraces her parents' route port for port, and that she repeatedly refers to the sunny, tropical locations as "paradise." As she describes in voiceover her difficult childhood, much of which she spent alone while her single father worked and her mother began a new, separate life, we realize that Laura's record-breaking sail not only represents her ascension into adulthood, but also her way to reclaim a paradise lost.

<http://variety.com/2013/film/reviews/sxsw-bites-1200327737/>

# VARIETY

## Review: 'SXSW Bites: Snap Judgments on 11 Fest Pics'

### "Maidentrip"

*(Docu) A Wild Shot Films production in association with Pilot, Post Factory Films, The Group Entertainment. (Sales: Cinetic Media, New York.) Directed by Jillian Schlesinger. Running time: 81 MIN.*

Compressing a history-making 519-day voyage into a tight 81-minute highlight reel, this inspirational true story vibrantly captures the personality of its determined Dutch protagonist, 16-year-old Laura Dekker, who holds the title as the youngest person to sail around the world solo. Teens should be especially receptive to Dekker's story, told mostly through video-diary footage she shot along the way. Though short on narrative suspense, the pic won the audience award in SXSW's Visions category (arguably the fest's most interesting section).

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/popcandy/2013/11/14/maidentrip/3533267/>



## 'Maidentrip': Doc tracks girl's voyage around the world

Whitney Matheson, USA TODAY

It's one thing for Robert Redford to do a movie where he's alone in the middle of the ocean.

But he has nothing on Laura Dekker, who, at 14, began sailing across the globe by herself. Her controversial story is shown in *Maidentrip*, a new documentary that blends footage shot and compiled by director Jillian Schlesinger with stuff Laura shot herself. While on a boat. Alone.

Before Laura was permitted to embark on her journey, she encountered opposition from the government. We see a little of that in the trailer, as well as dramatic footage from the boat.

While looking for more info about Laura, now 18, I came across a brief statement she posted about the doc on her website:

"I am not going to say much about the film *Maidentrip*, but I won't be representing it as I am not fully standing behind it."

So that's interesting. *Maidentrip* opens in January.

<http://blogs.indiewire.com/thompsononhollywood/maidentrip-trailer-exclusive>



## Thompson on Hollywood

**Watch: EXCLUSIVE Trailer for Doc 'Maidentrip,' Following Teen Laura Dekker's Record Breaking Sail Around the World**

BY BETH HANNA

OCTOBER 28, 2013 12:00 PM

Jillian Schlesinger's documentary "Maidentrip," which follows Dutch 14-year-old Laura Dekker's seabound excursion to become the youngest person to sail around the globe solo, has been snapped up for US distribution by First Run Features. Check out the film's first trailer below, exclusively on TOH!

Dekker's voyage announcement was met with a highly publicized custody battle in 2010. But in the film, Schlesinger instead chooses to focus on a portrait of Dekker as a sailor -- alone, unconventional and fiercely independent for her years. The young captain of the Guppy is an engaging subject, with a mix of ballsy determination and honest vulnerability. While Schlesinger checks in with Laura at her various port stops, all footage at sea is shot exclusively by Dekker.

The film had its world premiere at SXSW earlier this year, where it scored the Audience Award in the Visions program.

Our TOH! review of the film is [here](#). First Run will open "Maidentrip" January 17 at the IFC Center in New York.

[MEDIA AT SOURCE]



<http://twitchfilm.com/2013/10/trailer-and-release-news-for-wonderful-sxsw-docu-maidentrip.html>



### Trailer & Release Date for Wonderful SXSW Docu MAIDENTRIP

Ryland Aldrich, Festivals Editor

Sometimes it just warms your heart to see a film finally getting the attention it deserves. It has just been announced that the wonderful SXSW Audience Award-winning documentary **Maidentrip** will be setting sail from First Run Features in New York on January 17th. This has been a labor of love by director Jillian Schlesinger and producer Emily McAllister and the release news is a huge step towards helping this film find its surely adoring audience.

[Video at Source]

<http://nonfics.com/maidentrip-trailer/>



### 'Maidentrip' Trailer

by Christopher Campbell on October 28, 2013

Quick take: The SXSW and CIFF Audience Award winner about Laura Dekker, who sailed around the world at age 14. It's a first-person doc that ultimately isn't really a first-person doc, which is fine and at least more upfront than ghostwritten memoirs and autobiographies that aren't credited as such. Wonder why Dekker isn't co-director or something like that, though.

*Release date: TBD (Sneak Preview of the film at Lincoln Center in NYC on 11/15)*

[VIDEO AT SOURCE]

<http://screenrave.com/2013-10-30/indie-trailers-open-grave-maidentrip-is-man-tall-hall-ravens/>

# ScreenCrave

## Best New Indie Trailers: 'Open Grave,' 'Maidentrip,' 'Is The Man Who Is Tall Happy?' and 'Ravens'

**MAIDENTRIP:** Jillian Schlesinger's documentary *Maidentrip* tells the tale of a teen girl's sail trip around the world. At only 16-years-old, Laura Dekker set out to take the adventurous trip via boat. She first garnered attention at the age of 13, when planning the trip. Dutch authorities tried to gain custody of her during a lengthy ten-month legal battle, but eventually she was able to set out solo. The film is a first-person account of her trip; Dekker used a Sony Handicam to chronicle her voyage so this is strictly her point of view. This is more than a film about adventure though. It's a coming-of-age story that encapsulates the spirit of rebellion that lives inside a teenage girl. It's pretty great. Check it out:

[VIDEO AT SOURCE]