Almost Mother

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Almost Mother

First Place Winner

I have always found myself inspired by the work of other female filmmakers, specifically those who portray common themes of motherhood. In the creation of my short documentary film “Almost Mother,” I chose to represent the concept of motherhood through the lens of miscarriage.

Several months before the creation of this film, I experienced my own miscarriage. I had not been expecting nor preparing for a child, but the loss
had a significant physical and emotional toll on my body. I looked outward for community and representation, hoping to connect with women who may have understood my confusing emotions, but I was mostly met with some very disheartening remarks, all from other women. I was invalidated in my own experience and frequently told that I should “get over it soon enough, it happens to a lot of women,” or “it didn’t have a soul anyways.” While these statements may have been well-intended, they only further isolated me in my mourning. In addition to this, I faced severe insecurities over my own nurturing capabilities, a concept I was always taught was the epitome of motherhood. Although I may not be a mother to a living child right now, I am learning that there is no single way to describe motherhood.

Despite the disparaging remarks, being vulnerable about my own situation has opened up conversation with many women who have, in turn, shared their own experiences with miscarriage. These tender conversations have connected me to women in my life in such deeply personal ways, and have brought me confidence and validation within my own emotions. Drawing from these conversations, I desired to create a film that allowed me to process the sorrows of losing a child I never got to know, and I hoped to validate other women
in their grief. I wanted to lend other women the representation that I never received and to contribute to the standardization of stories about women’s challenges.

Motherhood in general is an underrepresented topic in modern media, yet mothers represent a good portion of content consumers. It would be a dis-service to exclude topics that cater to their own personal experiences, especially within content created by women. “Almost Mother” is, perhaps, the most vulnerable piece of media I have ever created, but it has opened conversation with women who are struggling, and I hope it can continue to do so.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYGYSQ76Ebs