

Naturally Obsessed: the making of a scientist

www.naturallyobsessed.com | telephone 212.639.5848 fax 212.717.3477

**Dr. Rifkind requests that these notes be read to the audience
before screening the film.**

**DIRECTORS' NOTES FOR
NATURALLY OBSESSED: the making of a scientist
by
Dr. Richard Rifkind
co-producer, co-director**

"Naturally Obsessed: the making of a scientist" is a one hour documentary film that opens a view on the training of young scientists and their role in the process of discovery. The film was produced by the not-for-profit ParnassusWorks, headed by Dr. Richard Rifkind, formerly director of research and Chairman of the Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York City, where he also was responsible for graduate student education. Long concerned with public understanding of science, upon his retirement from SKI, Rifkind turned to filmmaking in order to illuminate the doing of science for scientists and non-scientists alike.

Shot over three years' time in the molecular biology laboratory of Dr. Lawrence Shapiro of the Columbia University Medical Center, the film chronicles how the tool of X-ray crystallography enables the discovery of the workings of the AMPK protein molecule, revealing a new path towards the treatment of diabetes and obesity.

The focus of the film, however, is not so much on the science itself than on the human side of doing science. Following the emotional ups and downs of three graduate students who are being guided by their professor and laboratory head along the challenging and uncertain journey to the PhD degree, the film highlights the qualities that go into the making of a

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scientist—such as persistence, skill in asking the right questions, mastering the needed technology, mentoring and being mentored, collaborating, facing competition.

The film is being shown in public venues such as this to stimulate and enliven a dialogue on the *doing* of science—between scientists and the public, between youth and adults, between budding and accomplished scientists.

You are invited to help spread the word about the opportunity to view this film. To find out about how to book a screening for special events, meetings or classes at your institution or in your community, visit: www.naturallyobsessed.com.

When you exit, please take a flyer for more information. Enjoy the film!