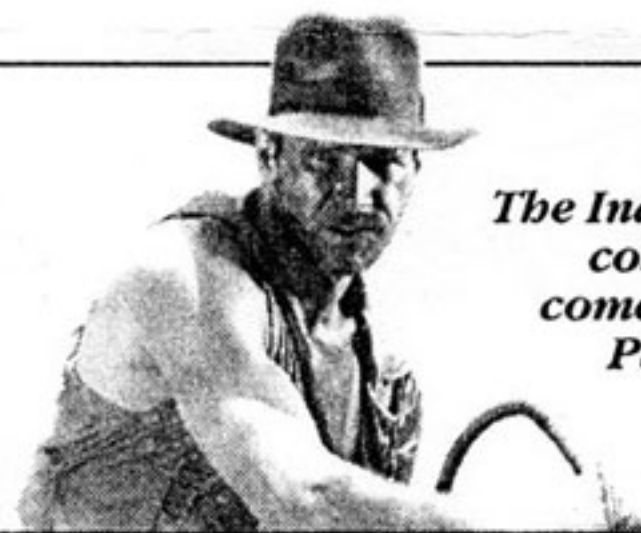


THE WEEK



The Indiana Jones collection comes to DVD. Page 12

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GAYLE KIRSCHENBAUM has quite a honker, but nothing the Guinness Book of World Records would be interested in.

To her mother, however, the Emmy Award-winning filmmaker's nose has been a source of lifelong complaint.

Kirschenbaum took up the subject of her schnoz, and her mother's determination to see it modified, as the subject of a short documentary that explores deeper waters before it's over. "My Nose" will be screened at the Dipson Amherst Theatre at 1 p.m. Sunday and 3:30 p.m. Thursday as part of the Buffalo International Jewish Film Festival. For more info, visit www.bijff.com.

So the movie starts out focused on your nose, it ends up being used for educational purposes?

It touches on the following subjects: body image, self-esteem, mother-daughter relationships and, of course, gender. It's being used for everything from teenagers to adults.

I've been asked to speak to teenage groups because they're at that age, the awkwardness with their body and the pressures from mother from society.

I've become kind of the accidental therapist, I call it. At a lot of Jewish film festivals, the audiences tend to be older. So suddenly I have a [question-



The film by Gayle Kirschenbaum, left, deals with her mother Mildred's criticism of her daughter's nose.

TELL ME

A little Q&A

and-answer session] at the end, and I tend to be the one that gets very crowded with people afterward.

Everything from telling me their story to adult women, I'm talking 50s and up, telling me

about their mother who criticized them about many things, including their weight issues, and they'll open up their coat to show me they still have issues with their weight. Or they have a horrible relationship with

their mother, or their mother died, an unresolved relationship with mom.

Your mom seems like a real pip.

As you can see, you only get a little touch of my mother's criticism [in "My Nose"], but it was pretty brutal, when I was young, and it hurt, when I was young. I wasn't as evolved, or developed.

I left home when I was 16. It wasn't because I was a genius – it was because the social worker said, "Get out of your house," and I just got early admission to the university.

Head to toe, nothing was right. The hair, the nose, whatever.

Not that long ago, I was on the "Today" show, for my last film. My mom's comment was: "Gail, you sound too Jewish. You need to take elocution courses."

Now her new thing is, I'm fading.

I say: "I'm fading? How am I fading?"

Your eyes are fading. You have to be tattooed, your make-up. Which she's done.

And you're still talking to her.

To me, I see the humor in it. It's in how you handle it, which is what I tell other people who have unresolved issues with family members.

– Andrew Z. Galarneau