

"Refrigerator Mothers" Released on DVD

Thursday, September 11, 2008

By: Carin Yavorcik

Documentary looks at the story of autism moms in the 1950s and 1960s

Kartemquin Films is now offering *Refrigerator Mothers* on DVD. *Refrigerator Mothers* paints an intimate portrait of an entire generation of mothers who lived for years under the dehumanizing shadow of professionally promoted "mother blame."

In the America of the 1950s and 1960s, a woman's most important contribution to society was generally considered to be her ability to raise happy, well-adjusted children. But the mother whose child is diagnosed with autism encounters a medical establishment that pins the blame for her child's behaviors on her supposedly frigid and detached mothering. She is a "refrigerator mother."

Once isolated and unheard, these mothers have emerged with strong, resilient voices to share the details of their personal journeys. Through their poignant stories, *Refrigerator Mothers* puts a human face on what can happen when authority goes unquestioned and humanity is removed from the search for scientific answers.

Kartemquin has been making award-winning, social-issue documentaries for over 40 years. To order, visit <http://www.kartemquin.com/>.