



Flick Chicks

WHITEWATER WOMEN TRANSFORM THE VIDEO GENRE

Kayaking videos tended to be rough, male-dominated affairs with a common format: big drops, big waves and minimal substance. Then a group of talented female paddlers entered the genre. These cinematic divas bring lifetimes of whitewater experience to the editing room, and they've turned kayaking films on their gender sign. "It's tough for women when all they see [in the media] is big, burly men throwing their kayaks around," says filmmaker Chris Emmerick. "These videos show ladies pushing the limits as hard as the guys." —jc

Polly Green

Polly Green has lived a nomadic lifestyle for 16 years, working the endless summer as a kayak instructor from one country to the next. Hence the idea for her film, *Nomads*, a movie about women traveling the world in passionate pursuit of whitewater. The film is her first foray into filmmaking, a career she never envisioned. "In 2001 I went on a sea kayaking expedition with Jon Bowermaster and *National Geographic*," says Green, 36. "I helped get the cameraman from place to place. I told him about my traveling lifestyle and he thought it'd make a great movie."

In the wake of 9-11, *National Geographic* scaled back its overseas projects. But rather than abandon her film, she decided to make the movie herself. "I knew nothing about filmmaking," says Green, who solicited the help of Emmerick and began working on *Nomads*.

Rather than the random collection of travelers she first envisioned, Green features three women and the projects they spearheaded along Uganda's White Nile: Jessie Stone set up a medical clinic; Whitney Lonsdale and her World Class Kayak Academy students helped construct an art center; and Emily Jackson used winnings from paddling contests to pay school fees for Ugandan children. "I want to inspire people," says Green. "And it's so much easier when there's a good storyline." Info: www.pollygreen.com.