

Teenage Animal Rights Activist Subject of New Documentary

By Ariel Evans Guest Columnist

She's got a million-dollar smile, a sparkling personality, and she looks like the blond, blue-eyed all-American girl next door. But under that bright exterior is a young woman named Kitty Jones with a steely resolve to improve and save the lives of millions of animals that are utilized by the food and clothing industries to feed and attire America.

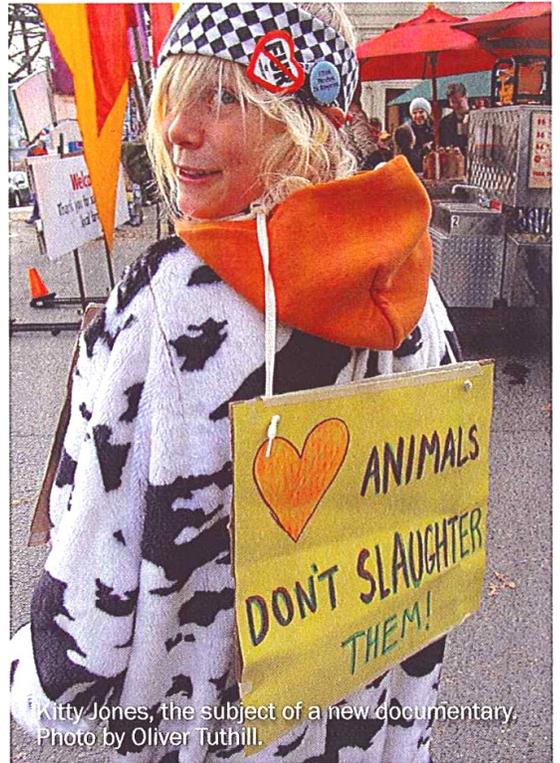
You can find her most any weekend handing out leaflets at the Ballard Farmer's Market or at a Peace demonstration with flyers supplied to her by Action for Animals, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Farm Sanctuary, and other organizations that promote a cruelty-free life for animals.

"I just want people to be aware," explained Jones. "Animals feel pain just like we do, and there are choices we can make which will spare the suffering of so many of these animals by choosing a vegetarian diet. It's not like you have to give up the flavor or taste of meat that you are used to eating. You just replace it with a vegetarian alternative that will taste just as great, and by eating that way you are saving lives."

A senior at Shorecrest High School in Seattle, she has been profiled on the blogs of Vegan Score, the ASPCA, Washingtonians for Humane Farms, and the Humane Society. She won the President's Volunteer Service Award for volunteering over 1,000 community service hours, and is the founder and president of her school's Animal Rights Club. Jones' goal is to make people aware of how the commodification of animals is hurting the environment and how a cruelty-free diet of vegetarianism can be just as tasteful as, and healthier than, animal protein.

Award-winning filmmaker Oliver Tuthill of Blue Wood Films was so impressed by her passion, knowledge and commitment that he decided to make his next feature documentary on her life and her cause to help animals.

"She's an amazing young woman who has all her facts down and knows her topic," explained Tuthill, while filming Jones on a recent weekend. The film crew was at Seattle's Green Lake, where Jones participated in the Farm Sanctuary walk for farm animals. "She is one of the most knowledgeable and articulate activists I have ever met, and I believe in her cause. After looking at the films of animal slaughter and abuse that



Kitty Jones, the subject of a new documentary.
Photo by Oliver Tuthill.

she has shown me, I believe we have to find vegetarian alternatives to our diet. I'm not there yet myself, but she has given me a new awareness, and I want the world to learn about Kitty Jones."

The film will profile the life of Jones and her experience of being discovered by a Buddhist priest when she was four to be a Kumari—a child Goddess who will never be with one man but a teacher to all women and men. Jones does not date, go to parties, watch TV, play video games or spend any time reading gossip magazines. When not in school or doing homework she is volunteering or bringing food to the homeless.

Distributors have already expressed interest in the feature documentary, and Tuthill plans to hire a well known animal rights activist to narrate the film, such as James Cromwell or Kim Basinger, once it moves into post-production.