

Jennifer Abod screened the film she produced and directed, *Look Us in the Eye: The Old Women's Project*, at an NWSA session.

Three women, Cynthia Rich, Janet Keaffaber and Mannie Garza, launched the Old Women's Project in San Diego in 2000. Rich co-authored *Look Me in the Eye: Old Women, Aging and Ageism*, with Barbara Macdonald, her long-time partner. Macdonald, the feminist movement's conscience on the issue of ageism, died in 2000, and these three feminists realized that they needed to take up the challenge.

The 25-minute film interviews them and shows footage of their demonstrations. The women speak eloquently and wittily about ageism. The film shows that the Old Women's Project also joins protests on many other issues, such as immigrants' rights. In a clever demonstration, they donned makeshift bridal array to protest President Bush's initiative to pressure poor women to marry the biological fathers of their children. The protestors' signs said, "Bush brides."

"It takes guts, even in Women's Studies, to

take an interest in old women," Rich said at the film's screening. She told about a professor in her early eighties who, when she arrived at the first class of the semester, sat among the students. If she sat at the teacher's desk, students would stick their heads in the room, see that the professor was an old woman, and leave. That wouldn't happen to an old man, Rich observed. Only when men are extremely old are they treated like women.

"Ageism goes essentially unchallenged," Rich said.

The film is terrific! All

women should see it. Anyone who watches it will rethink what it means to grow old.

The video is on DVD.

For more information about prices, screenings, and ordering go to www.jenniferabod.com. Orders can be made online or by sending them to Jennifer Abod, PO Box 21387, Long Beach, CA 90801.

