

At Work



Laurel Chiten

Somerville-based filmmaker Laurel Chiten is in postproduction on her third documentary, "Touched," about people whose lives have been transformed by what they believe are alien abductions.

Chiten interviewed people from all walks of life, even flying to Brazil "to show that this isn't just an American phenomenon," she says. Chiten, who heads her own production company, Blind Dog Films, is among 33 New England filmmakers recently awarded grants from the LEF Foundation's newly established Moving Image Fund. She received \$20,000 to complete her film, which she has been working on for three years.

She hopes to finish the final edit of "Touched" by the end of this summer, and she'll seek distribution, most likely for TV. "My fantasy is to do a lecture tour with the film and some of the people in it," she says. "It's a provocative film, in terms of discussion."

Chiten has relied on the philanthropy of the LEF Foundation throughout her 20 years as a Boston filmmaker. "There's so little support out there for independent filmmakers," says Chiten, who has directed and produced two other feature-length documentaries, "The Jew in the Lotus" and "Twitch and Shout."

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