

# film folio

NEW COMMUNITY CINEMA

DECEMBER 1986

Dec. 8, Monday 8 PM

## Little Jennie

*Note: If you wish to contribute to the Fundraiser for Operation: Little Jennie, Special \$10 tickets can be purchased on night of program which includes Champagne Reception at 7:15PM.*

**In Person: Filmmaker  
John Stevens and Boatbuilder  
William Perks**

**7:15 Champagne Reception  
8:00 Freedom's Glory: The  
Restoration of the Little  
Jennie**

(U.S. 1986, 60 min, color video)



Benefit for Historic U.S. Vessel

Merchant Sailing vessels afloat today. Originally designed and used as a commercial oystering vessel (it sometimes carried 800 bushels of oysters on deck), the *Little Jenny* was also used as a freighter, a rum-runner during prohibition, a charter ship and a luxury pleasure craft.

William Townsend Perks of Centerport dreamt of restoring what was a 102-year-old hulk and of sailing it in the tall ships parade in celebration of the Centennial of the Statue of Liberty. John Stevens, a filmmaker from East Northport, spent two years documenting this extraordinary restoration on videotape.

The two close friends achieved their parallel dreams—one in front of the camera and one behind it. The results are an exciting 60-minute documentary, with a marvelous musical score.

This videotape will be projected on NCC's big screen and, with the aid of new video technology, will produce a very large and sharp picture.

The *Little Jenny* was the oldest American ship to participate in Operation Sail in 1986, and is two years older than the Statue of Liberty.

This fascinating documentary beautifully captures the dedicated people who worked so hard to restore this historic ship, but the true star is the *Little Jenny* itself as it goes from hulk to "eye-catcher."

Because of the connection to the Statue of Liberty, the documentary strikes a chord on a deeper level. It is much more than "man builds boat." It documents a living manifestation of the *best* part of American freedom. One individual and, later, an entire community decided of their own free will to take on an apparently impossible task. No employer asked them to do it; there was no government coercion; and, certainly, there was no material gain. This project taxed many of the volunteers to the limit.

Today, the *Little Jenny* is the flagship of a budding maritime museum on the North Shore of Long Island.

—Steve deNaut

**T**he *Little Jennie* was built in 1884, stretches 86 feet, and weighs 30 tons. It is known as a Chesapeake bug-eye, has two masts, and is one of the oldest American