



THE BORAT TRAP'S BIG CATCH



SUCKER PUNCH: Feminist artist Linda Stein, who stormed off during an interview with "Borat" (above), now says she was deceived.



Steven Hirsch

How fake Kazakh fooled a feminist

ANDREA PEYSER



WHAT'S a hard-core feminist gal to do?

Linda Stein is a serious artist and a tough, smart lady — possessing a master's degree, a striking set of pectorals and a seat on the board of Veteran Feminists of America.

Which makes her a juicy target for a wicked filmmaker.

"Who knew?" said Linda.

The TriBeCa artist is about to make her movie debut — just not in the film she thought. Last year, Linda signed on to help make a deadly sober documentary about the plight of women.

Or so she was told.

That's how this fighter for female rights was tricked into a featured role in the movie "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan."

That's Linda storming off the

movie set in a fury — a scene played in the film's advertising trailer.

"I really thought I was going to help women in Third World countries!" Linda protested to me, without a hint of irony.

Must have something to do with the miniature size of the female brain. Hey — that's what movie star Borat Sagdiyev would say.

The scam began in 2005, when Linda was contacted by a self-described "field department coordinator" who gave the name Chelsea Barnard and said she'd also been in touch with Ed Koch.

Suspicious that "right wingers" were setting her up, Linda called Koch's office — and was told that the former mayor, indeed, was scheduled to be interviewed. Linda agreed to go on.

Arriving at Linda's loft in June, the filmmakers had her quickly sign a release, and handed her \$450 cash. Only later, she saw that the contract included a waiver against claims for "offensive behavior."

Then Borat — a bumbling jour-

nalist from Kazakhstan — showed up. Linda had no clue that this racist, sexist moron in her midst was really British comedian Sacha Baron Cohen a.k.a. Ali G.

Sitting with Linda and two other feminists, Borat called Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice "chocolate lady" and suggested she slept with dignitaries.

Linda struggled to remain "earnest." "I was trying to help this man who obviously wasn't educated at all to understand that women don't have to walk behind men," Linda said, as serious as a heart attack. "We can be equal in America."

Finally, Borat told her, "Is it not a problem that a woman have a smaller brain than a man?"

"That's it! I've had it!" Stein is heard yelling as she marches off the set.

Friends have asked Linda — with a smirk — if she intends to sue.

Well, Borat traveled to the White House gate to "invite" Premier George Walter Bush to a movie screening and discussion at Hooters. But it appears Linda's going to have to buy her own ticket to the multiplex.

So she'd like to invite Borat to the opening of her exhibit on Women Warriors at the Flomenhaft Gallery, 547 W. 27th St., on Nov. 2 — the day before his film opens.

"Then I won't sue," she promised. How about it?

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