

MEASURING UP

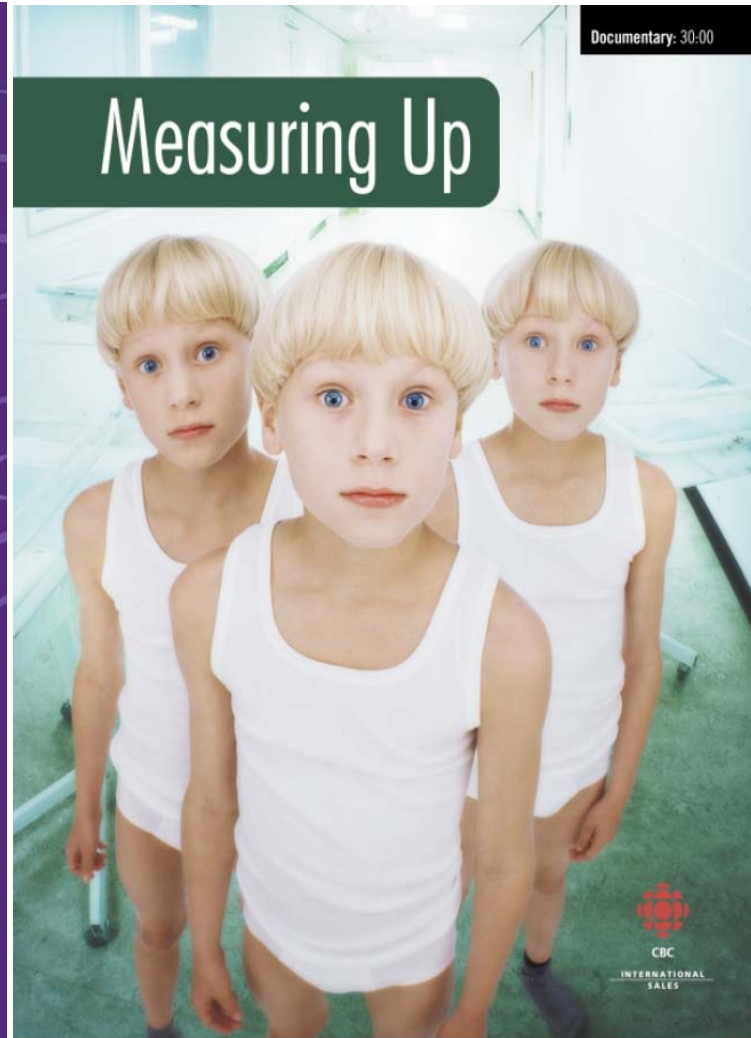
FACTUAL

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Should genetic testing decide who is born?

SYNOPSIS

When Linda and Gary Warner were expecting a baby, like most parents, they anticipated the perfect child. But their daughter Adele was not perfect. Instead of two copies of each chromosome, one from each parent, Adele was born with three copies of Chromosome 21, the genetic marker of Down's syndrome.

"It was a grieving process for the first year," says Linda, "Your first Christmas, your first Easter, your first birthday. The first time I

took her to church, I stood with her in my arms and cried through the whole thing. But that was only the first time and then it got a little easier and a little easier."

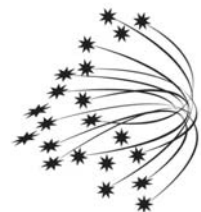
"It's not a perfect world. You just can't throw away what you don't want, or what doesn't please you, or what you don't like. You have to play the hand you're dealt."

Genetic testing isn't new. A test for Down's syndrome has been around for almost 40 years, presenting parents with a choice – to

knowingly have a child with Down's syndrome, or to terminate the pregnancy.

The more we learn about our genetic makeup – the human genome – the more choices will confront us. Some scientists say that within 10 years, some ten thousand genetic diseases and conditions will be identified.

How are we going to use that knowledge in a world where some notion of perfection is within our grasp and under our control?



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