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**ANA
&
ARTHUR**

A FILM BY LARRY YOUNG
COLOR VIDEO | 77 MIN

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OFFICIAL SELECTION
HOT DOCS INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2009



OFFICIAL SELECTION
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2009



SYNOPSIS

[Long]

On a therapeutic retreat where patients struggle with life and death, a young man and an older woman face a crisis in their marriage when he falls in love with another woman.

It was a marriage few would have predicted, Ana 63, a headstrong cardiologist with dreams of building a therapeutic retreat on her 100-acre farm, and Arthur 28, a shy fourth-year medical student newly arrived from Holland.

After a short courtship and despite concerns from friends and family the couple marry in 1999 and spend the next seven years devoted to the development and expansion of Pleroma Farm. Jointly, they weave together biodynamic farming practices, anthroposophical medicine and art therapy, transforming Pleroma Farm into an innovative healing retreat.

Rebuilt from the ground up, the sprawling 100-acre farm thrives. The land, long damaged from the overuse of harmful pesticides, blossoms with renewed growth and vigor. As word of Dr. Ana Lups and the farm spreads, patients arrive from around the world, facing issues of both life and death - a Tibetan monk diagnosed with cancer, an emotionally distraught teenage girl; the breadth of their reasons and backgrounds is as diverse as the farm itself, each person bringing with them a unique history that interweaves itself with the day-to-day happenings of the farm. Alternative art therapies mature and deepen and the staff grows infusing the farm with fresh faces.

Within five years the two have built a community that encapsulates the dreams they had once only imagined. Plans develop for new buildings to house the growing staff and patients, and in 2005 Ana hires a spirited gardener named Melanie. Though only a few months pass, personal dynamics are quick to shift and Melanie confesses her love for Arthur. Her affections are met equally. The toxic plot of land Ana and Arthur had transformed into an earthly paradise becomes the backdrop of their anguish - Arthur, torn between his desires and unrelenting feelings of responsibility, while Ana grapples with the loss of her husband and partner and the upheaval of the community they worked so hard to create.

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Ana & Arthur captures with a vivid and painful honesty, the deep love that pervades their marriage and life work and the tensions that escalate as it dissolves. Directed, photographed and edited by their long time friend Larry Young, *Ana & Arthur* is a beautiful, cinematic requiem for their unique relationship and a tribute to an extraordinary community built on two people's love for one another and their deeply held beliefs in anthroposophy.

Shot over the course of two years, the film explores Ana and Arthur's roles as wife and husband, teacher and pupil, even those of mother and child, and their relationship to each other as those roles shift towards individuals and colleagues.

SYNOPSIS

[Medium]

On a therapeutic retreat where patients struggle with life and death, a young man and an older woman face a crisis in their marriage when he falls in love with another woman.

It was a marriage few would have predicted, Ana age sixty-three and Arthur twenty-eight.

Brought together by the vision of creating a new kind of therapeutic retreat, they worked tirelessly for seven years to rebuild Ana's existing farm from the ground up, weaving together biodynamic farming practices, anthroposophical medicine and art therapy. The farm thrives. Patients arrive from around the world, who face physical and mental challenges ranging from anxiety to cancer. Therapies mature and deepen and the staff grows, infusing the farm with fresh faces and drastically changing personal dynamics. When Arthur falls in love with a young gardener, the future of Ana and Arthur's marriage and the community they worked so hard to form is threatened.

Ana & Arthur captures the deep love that permeates their marriage and life work, and the tensions that escalate as it dissolves. Their intense dialogue mirrors the seemingly insurmountable difficulties encountered as relationships inevitably change, and reflects the upheavals so necessary on the psychological journey of the self.

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SYNOPSIS

[Short]



On a therapeutic retreat where patients struggle with life and death, a young man and an older woman face a crisis in their marriage when he falls in love with another woman.

A painfully honest and intimate portrait, *Ana & Arthur* captures their deep love for one another and the tension that escalates as their marriage and life work begin to dissolve.

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ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Ana & Arthur is a heart-wrenchingly honest portrait of the work and marriage of the director's long time friend, physician and colleague, Ana Lups.

First time filmmaker Larry Young, met Ana in 1986 in Harlemville, New York, while painting side by side during a watercolor workshop. They would meet again several years later at the Green Meadow Waldorf School in Spring Valley, New York as colleagues, she the school doctor and Larry the high school art teacher. Their third meeting would take place in the early stages of Pleroma Farm.

In the beginning of the project, Larry focused his attention on the innovative therapies and practices of Pleroma Farm and how the farm created a healing environment in which patients could re-awaken their relationship to nature and discover themselves in this process.

Patients arrived from around the world; a Tibetan monk diagnosed with cancer, an emotionally distraught teenage girl, a high-powered female executive with a digestive disorder. Interviews, treatments and interactions were shot and catalogued, but what began as a story about the farm and its patients began to include the human drama of a marriage in crisis.

Filming began in 2004 and ended in 2006, capturing approximately 50 hours of raw digital video. Larry Young began editing in 2004 and a rough cut was completed in 2007.

The film he created owes its unflinching intimacy and acute depth to the brave honesty and openness of its subjects.

"In some ways I feel I have gone through the pain as intensely as them, reliving their struggle over and over again for the past four years. I remain with the same intention from the beginning and that is to tell the story of their relationship and the therapeutic model they have laid down on the earth as honestly and beautifully as possible. It is my hope that I have done that."
Larry Young

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FILM FESTIVALS

[Hot Docs]

Hot Docs (www.hotdocs.ca), North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, will present its 17th annual edition from April 29 – May 9, 2010. An outstanding selection of 150+ documentaries from Canada and around the world will be presented to Toronto audiences and international delegates.

"The end of the seven-year marriage of Ana, a dynamic 70-year-old cardiologist, and Arthur, her 35-year-old farmer husband, unfolds with devastating honesty on their stunningly beautiful spiritual retreat. The toxic farm they had transformed into an earthly paradise for healing chronic illnesses is now the scene of their anguish. Anyone who has tried to hold on to a dying relationship will empathize with what both Ana and Arthur experience, their attempts at civility, and their descent into guilt and anger. And while the age difference between them gives this break-up film a particular twist-Arthur's love for a younger woman is the immediate trigger-the emotions of loss and grief are ageless."

LYNNE FERNIE, Programmer

Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival

"Aside from being a beautiful film, what was so remarkable is the fact that the film ended with a single credit 'Larry Young' with his phone number. We thought to ourselves who is this man and where did he come from?"

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GISELE GORDON, Assistant Programmer

Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival

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FILM FESTIVALS

[Vancouver International Film Festival]

Vancouver International Film Festival [www.viff.org] is among the largest film festivals in North America and is one of the largest cultural events in Canada. The 2009 festival takes place October 1 to 16 and 150,000 people are expected to attend approximately 640 screenings of 360 films from 80 countries.

Filmed in conversation with one another, Ana and Arthur speak openly, mapping the terrain of their relationship's undoing and their personal evolution since coming together. Director Larry Young's non-judgmental camera presence puts the audience in the place of therapist to witness disarmingly honest exchanges from a couple in the midst of a break-up. The remarkable nature of Ana and Arthur's atypical partnership is evident in how they run the farm, how they interact with their patients (as seen in interviews with long-term farm residents), and even how they handle the demise of their relationship. Young's documentary candidly explores the painfully ephemeral nature of even the deepest relationships, and the effects that remain after spiritual and life paths diverge.

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<p>PG. 8/12</p>	<p>LARRY YOUNG</p>
<p>FILMMAKER [Biography]</p>	<p>While no stranger to the arts and education, Larry Young has a far from “typical” filmmaker’s bio. Classically trained in painting, sculptor and photography, Larry began his career in advertising as a graphic designer and illustrator.</p>
	<p>In 1988 Larry joined the faculty of the Green Meadow Waldorf School in Chestnut Ridge, New York, where, for nine years, he taught a high school art curriculum he designed based on Rudolf Steiner’s perception of the changing adolescent. After leaving Green Meadow, he taught adult courses in Art History, Drawing, Painting and Sculpture.</p>
	<p>In 1994, he established a non-profit corporation dedicated to raising public awareness of the arts and their role in human development and social renewal. For the next ten years, Phoenix Arts Group, Inc hosted educators, artists and activists, and offered classes and workshops to students from pre-school through retirement.</p>
	<p>Larry joined the visual arts committee of the largest Gothic cathedral in the world, Saint John the Divine Cathedral in NYC, where he designed, organized, and installed an exhibit titled “Truth and Beauty: The Role of the Arts in Waldorf Education.” The exhibit opened at the cathedral in April 1994 and was viewed by an estimated 200,000 people during its two-month stay. It has since been shown in 25 locations in 14 states. The exhibit’s success in raising public awareness about arts-based education prompted Governor Mario M. Cuomo to proclaim May as Waldorf Education month in New York State.</p>
	<p>In 1999 Larry was commissioned to design another traveling exhibit titled, “Art as an Antidote to Violence,” which included a short film. While working on that project with a NY film production company, he was inspired to explore art and social issues through the medium of film.</p>
<p>FILMMAKER:</p> <p>LARRY YOUNG larry@anaandarthurmovie.com 33 Harbour Square, 1823 Toronto, ON M5J2G2 416.304.0647</p>	<p>Each prior step, however tangential, has led Larry to make the film he has made today. From classical lessons in composition and form to the anthroposophical-based teaching of adolescent youth, each choice has made its impression for which the close observer will find its correlation in the final product, Ana & Arthur.</p>
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PRESS RELEASE

[09/22/2009]

VIFF selects *Ana & Arthur* by first-time filmmaker Larry Young, sixty-five and just emerging.

TORONTO, September 22, 2009 - When Larry Young received a call from Hot Docs Senior Programmer, Lynne Fernie congratulating him on the acceptance of not one but two films into the Toronto festival, all were a little taken aback.

For first-time filmmaker Larry Young, it had initially seemed like a bit of a long shot, but for Fernie and the staff at Hot Docs, they were struck not only by the sensitivity and artistry of the films and their story lines, but how someone with so much talent was just emerging.

"Aside from being a beautiful film, what was so remarkable was that these films ended with a single credit 'Larry Young' and his phone number. We thought to ourselves who is this man and where did he come from?" said Gisèle Gordon, Assistant Programmer of the Canadian Spectrum program for Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival.

And it's no wonder, when Filmmaker's Magazine released 25 new faces of independent film, all of whom are at least 20 years younger than, coincidentally named Young.

At 65, Young has had a far from "typical" filmmaker's history. While no stranger to the arts and education, having passed through the professions of graphic designer, illustrator, portrait artist and teacher, Young purchased his first video camera in 2004 at which point he began shooting on Pleroma Farm.

But to marginalize his history is to do him a disservice; classically trained in the arts, Young's mastery over canvas and clay is marked and has in large part contributed to his filmmaking abilities.

"I can't say that I feel like a beginner filmmaker, every medium I've worked with involves telling a story, doesn't matter whether it's painting, sculpture or video. At my age, I'm more interested in the process, not so much the medium or finished product, just want a classroom to keep learning and a sandbox to keep playing," said Larry Young.

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In fact, despite the film going rush during its North American premiere, Young continued to edit *Ana & Arthur* post Hot Docs, submitting a revised, longer cut to the Vancouver International Film Festival, which has officially announced its selections, including in it *Ana & Arthur* (www.anaandarthurmovie.com).

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Hot Docs (www.hotdocs.ca) is North America's largest documentary festival, conference and market, showcasing an outstanding selection of over 150 documentaries from Canada and around the world.

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VIDEO STILLS

[Ana and Arthur]



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VIDEO STILLS
[Pleroma Farm]



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A FILM BY LARRY YOUNG

PG. 12/12

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Piano score by:

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Guitar music by:

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