

# 26 FILMS & VIDEOS FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

## THE VANISHING LINE

A Film by Maren R. Monsen, MD

**NEW RELEASE** When does life become a fate worse than death? In this age of medical 'miracles,' an increasing number of doctors, patients and their families are being forced to deal with this troubling, complex and universal question. **THE VANISHING LINE**, a contemplative, personal film by physician/filmmaker Maren Monsen, explores the timeless implications of this modern medical dilemma.

For doctors, death means failure. Medical school had prepared Monsen to treat disease, but not how to cope with death. **THE VANISHING LINE** chronicles Monsen's personal and professional challenge regarding end-of-life issues.

The film also follows Jim Brigham, a hospice social worker, as he visits with some of his terminally ill clients. All are laying the groundwork for their imminent deaths, negotiating in advance whether or not they want to be resuscitated, what comfort measures will be taken, and whether to go to a hospital or die at home. Brigham shares the story of his wife Cay's prolonged death from multiple sclerosis in 1986, and explains how that experience profoundly affected the way he views the end of life.

"I hope that after seeing this film, people will look at death in a different way," says Monsen. "I think that by putting the emphasis on the length of life and postponing death at all costs, people really lose the idea of having a good death, which I think is something very important. We talk about quality of life, yet never quality of death. What I learned in the process of making this film is that there are a lot of things physicians can do, even if they can't cure the disease.

They can provide medication to ease the symptoms. They can provide compassion and support. And they can give the patients the information they need to understand how their disease or their death might unfold."

**THE VANISHING LINE** chronicles one physician's exploration of how to try and meet the needs of the dying and their families and looks at the choices involved in treating what has no cure with the right balance of technology, compassion and care.

*"This film has proven to be an innovative, thought provoking educational tool in efforts to educate physicians, other medical professionals and the public about the experience of providing and receiving end of life care and the decision-making processes inherent in that experience."*

- Tim Bowen, Director of Hospice Services, MidPeninsula Hospice Services

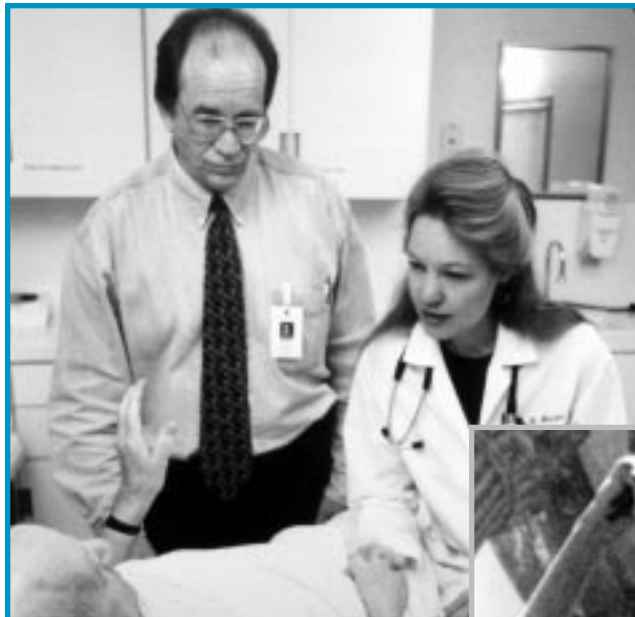
*"These on-camera discussions provide a model for sensitive and thoughtful human interaction at painful moments."* - **Agging Today**

*"Critic's Pick... [Monsen] marries the clear-eyed directness of science to the raw honesty and fluid visual vocabulary of the arts."*

- Jenn Carbin, Philadelphia Weekly

*"Highly recommended for academic health sciences collections, social work programs, and hospice programs."*

- Lori Widzinski (Health Sciences Library, State University of New York at Buffalo), **MC Journal: The Journal of Academic Media Librarianship**



 Award of Excellence, 1998  
Nashville Independent Film Festival

 1998 Big Muddy  
Film Festival

 1998 Hot Springs Documentary  
Film Festival

 1998 Windy City International  
Documentary Film Festival

52 minutes	Order # H99-401
color	Sale/video: \$225
1998	Rental/video: \$75

# THE HEART OF THE MATTER

A Film by Gini Reticker & Amber Hollibaugh



**THE HEART OF THE MATTER** is the first film to look at AIDS as a women's issue. It focuses on the story of Janice Jirau, an HIV-positive African-American woman, as she reveals why she was at high risk and what she did when she discovered she'd been infected. A chorus of other HIV-positive women underscores the universal nature of the problems Janice confronted and draws attention to the alarming growth of the epidemic among women.

The filmmakers' perception that exploring larger issues surrounding women's sexuality were at the heart of understanding women's risk for HIV gives the film its unusual point of view. **THE HEART OF THE MATTER** is relevant to the diverse constituencies affected by the epidemic - HIV positive women, their families, communities and churches; care providers needing educational tools; and educators, women's groups, community leaders and policy makers working to affect change. Long overdue, **THE HEART OF THE MATTER** may help save women's lives.

 **Freedom of Expression Award Winner,**  
1994 Sundance Film Festival

 **1994 Human Rights Watch**  
Film Festival



*"Unique and crucial... The film offers a rich collection of women's experiences and voices - African-American, Latina, white, lesbian, straight... a critical contribution to understanding the experiences and needs of women living with HIV infection and AIDS."* - B.J. Stiles, President, **National Leadership Coalition on AIDS**

54 minutes	Order # H99-402
color	Sale/video: \$299
1993	Rental/video: \$75

**SPECIAL OFFER:**  
Now available for only \$225  
if you refer to our Order #  
when purchasing.

# A PROMISE KEPT

A Film by R. Alan Gough and Lawrence Zack

Just months before their wedding, Karin Donnan and her fiancé Blair discovered that he had contracted AIDS. Against the odds, they married anyway. In 1989, Blair died.

In **A PROMISE KEPT**, Karin candidly and eloquently recounts the story of their extraordinary relationship - the shared anguish of coping with his illness; the joy they discovered as an unconditional love grew. Blair's last wish was for Karin to use their story to fight the ignorance that still surrounds AIDS. She has devoted much of her life since speaking to school and community groups, delivering the message that "Prevention really begins when you finally believe that AIDS could happen to you. However, it is preventable."

Personal, intense, and deeply moving, **A PROMISE KEPT** - much more than pamphlets, ads, or plain facts and figures ever could - will awaken viewers of all ages to the reality of AIDS.



*"A valuable asset to assist the efforts of AIDS organizations, schools, universities, community groups, health agencies, as well as caregivers, families, and friends of people with AIDS."*

**CANFAR (Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research)**

*"The AIDS presentation by Karin Donnan is likely to be remembered for a long time... Never has [a speaker] had such a profound effect on students."* - **Grimsby Independent Newspaper**

*"A nurse can come and tell you statistics, but she [Karin Donnan] told you what it was really all about."* - **Ontario (Canada) High School Student**

 **1995 Healthy Living Award Winner,**  
Life Skills Category

 **Blue Ribbon Winner, 1993**  
American Film & Video Festival

46 minutes	Order # H99-403
color	Sales/video: \$275
1992	Rental/video: \$75

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Now available for only \$225  
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when purchasing.

# The Magnum Eye: LETTING GO

In this very human look at the AIDS epidemic, Magnum photographer Paul Fusco spends time with people who have AIDS, and with Dr. Karen Bayle who works at the Wadell Clinic in San Francisco.

Fusco accompanies Dr. Bayle on her rounds as she visits patients, their families, friends, and lovers in their homes and at hospices. With unusual candor, patients share their pain, disbelief, shame, and hope. Dr. Bayle's

**A Video by Paul Fusco**  
Produced by Kiki Miyake for Little Magic Productions, in association with Magnum Photos and TV Tokyo Channel 12

inspirational dedication to her work prevails throughout this piece, as she explains that it is not hopeless, that despair is not the answer, that strength and courage are needed to "let go." A poignant view of AIDS patients, and their doctors.

10 minutes	Order # H99-427
color	Sale/video: \$125
1993	Rental/video: \$30

# TRAVIS

A Film by Richard Kotuk

Produced for the Independent Television Service

**NEW RELEASE** Travis Jefferies is a ten-year-old African-American boy with a warm personality, an infectious smile and full-blown AIDS. When we first meet him, Travis is six and has been unable to eat for months due to intractable sores on his mouth, esophagus and stomach. Filmed over the next three years, **TRAVIS** chronicles his daily life together with his grandmother, Mrs. Geneva Jefferies. They live in Highbridge, a predominantly African American and Latino neighborhood in the South Bronx, in which one of every twenty teenagers is HIV positive. Travis contracted the HIV virus from his mother Samantha, a crack-cocaine user who is largely absent from his life.

The tireless efforts of his grandmother, though, come through forcefully. Mrs. Jefferies, who has worked as a domestic since the ninth grade, has found ways to keep her large family of 11 children and 33 grandchildren together while caring for Travis, ministering to his constant medical needs, and answering his many questions about the very grown-up illness he faces.

The film follows the development of Travis' disease and treatments (during his short life, Travis has taken over 275 different drugs). The anti-retroviral drugs he had been taking, including AZT, begin to lose their effectiveness. His primary care physician Dr. Heidi Beutler at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center decides to treat him with protease inhibitors, powerful anti-viral drugs that have been shown to be successful in adults but have never been tried on children. After a downturn that lasts for weeks, Travis responds well.

**TRAVIS** captures not only the major medical events of Travis' life but also the small moments that make his disease both incredibly trying and somehow bearable. Travis meets up with friends at the playground, even if it means pulling an electric feeding pump along, and he goes to a special summer camp for children with AIDS. But we also watch Travis breakdown when he is not allowed to play in the newly fallen snow, because the health risks are too great.

**TRAVIS** documents the complex life of a vital child born with HIV/AIDS who, with the help of experimental drug therapy and his grandmother's unwavering love and support struggles to survive and pursue a dignified, happy life.



Travis Jefferies with the late Richard Kotuk



*"Better than any program I have ever viewed, **TRAVIS** sheds light into the daily existence of children with AIDS ... The film is powerful, inspiring and hopeful. I would encourage every educator, minister, rabbi, parent, and human to view this film and distribute it widely."*

- Neil Willenson, Founder and President, Camp Heartland

*"A powerful documentary."* - Kansas City Star

*"A superb documentary... sobering statistics of children with AIDS in our country serve to not only inform, but take on new meaning when seeing first-hand what those numbers really mean."*

- Lori Widzinski, (Health Sciences Library, State University of New York at Buffalo),  
MC: Journal: The Journal of Academic Media Librarianship

 Jury Award, 1998 Double Take  
Documentary Film Festival

 1998 Sheffield International  
Documentary Film Festival (UK)

 1998 National HIV/AIDS  
Update Conference (AmFAR)

57 minutes	Order # H99-404
color	Sale/video: \$225
1998	Rental/video: \$75

# DEATH BY DESIGN

A Film by Peter Friedman & Jean-François Brunet

In an unusual marriage of art and science, **DEATH BY DESIGN** takes viewers on a fantastic journey through a remarkable terrain - the land of cells.

In this invisible world, cells communicate with each other, work together, reproduce, and die, all to benefit the larger organism of which they are part. But **DEATH BY DESIGN** is neither a biology primer nor a report on recent scientific breakthroughs. The filmmakers' observation of cell interactions reveals a society astonishingly similar to our own human world, as images of cell life gleaned from state of the art microcinematographic equipment find their parallels in imploding skyscrapers and even unused film outtakes on an editing room floor.

Well grounded factually, the program contains interviews with noted biologists including Rita Levi-Montalcini, a programmed-cell-death

pioneer and winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize for Medicine; Polly Matzinger; Robert Horvitz; and Martin Raff. But **DEATH BY DESIGN** is anything but a dull science film. It is one which, in the words of director Friedman, should be seen by "everyone with cells!"

*"What lingers are the surprising, revealing visual metaphors for an astoundingly orchestrated process..."*

*[An] intelligent and imaginative work."*

- Walter Goodman, *The New York Times*

*"A perfect introduction to cell biology... there can be few happier marriages between the two cultures of scientific enquiry and the humanities than this enthralling documentary. It stimulates both curiosity and the imagination; illuminates the world of cells with great charm and unpretentious artistry; and explains its biological wonders with poetic clarity."*

- Peter Tallack, *Nature*

*"A masterful blend of art and science."*

- Bruce Stanley, Ph. D., Department of Cellular and Molecular Physiology, College of Medicine, Hershey Medical School, Pennsylvania State University



 Gold Apple Winner, 1996 National Educational Media Network Competition

 Bell-Northern Prize for Scientific Excellence, & Pratt & Whitney Prize for Excellence in Science Popularization, 1995 Quebec Science Film Festival

73 minutes	Order # H99-405
color	Sale/video: \$195
1995	Rental/video: \$100

# DEATH ON REQUEST

A Film by Maarten Nederhorst

This gentle but astonishing documentary records Cees de Joode, a Dutch man suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) - an incurable degenerative muscle disease better known as "Lou Gehrig's Disease" -, as he, his wife Antoinette, and his doctor choose euthanasia to end his torment.

In 1993, it became obvious that the illness would swiftly take Cees' life. Already in a wheelchair, his legs and feet paralyzed, unable to move his right shoulder or arm, and almost incapable of speaking, Cees started a journal using his personal computer. He wrote in it "The possibility of euthanasia has for months been a comforting thought to me. It gets me on my feet again - at least figuratively. Literally, that's totally out of the question. It helps enormously in setting my limits." He let his doctor know that as his death approached, and his body degenerated further, he wished to choose his time to die.

**DEATH ON REQUEST** then chronicles the period after which Cees made this decision, the many visits his doctor paid on him and Antoinette, and the actual administration of the lethal injection. When the time comes, the doctor makes a final trip to see his patient "with lead in his shoes." Cees toasts their health, sips his last port, and



slowly directs his wheelchair to his bed, where he will end his life peacefully, as he wished, with his wife and doctor present.


*"🌟 [3 Stars] This video is remarkably free of polemics and posturing. Viewers willing to confront a painful subject will find it an instructive, even moving experience. Strongly recommended."*

- S. Rees, *Video Librarian*

*"It is a remarkable achievement, holding the viewer in an almost unbearable intimacy... An essential document in the debate on euthanasia."* - Ian Mayes, *The Guardian (London)*

 Silver Apple Winner, 1997 National Educational Media Network Competition

 Freddie Award Winner, 1996 International Health & Medical Films Competition

 Grand Prize Winner, 1995 Banff Television Festival



57 minutes	Order # H99-406
color	Sale/video: \$285
1994	Rental/video: \$75

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# DEALING WITH THE DEMON

A three-part series by Chris Hilton and David Roberts

After 75 years of a concerted global fight to restrict the supply of addictive drugs, the world is currently facing unprecedented levels of illicit drug production, with ten times more heroin produced now than during the last "plague" of the 1970s. DEALING WITH THE DEMON examines how we find ourselves in this situation, despite the massive international war on drugs. And what can possibly be done about it?

Each film in the series interweaves contemporary human stories with crucial scenes from the history of the drug trade, providing a provocative and timely context from which to view the ongoing debate.

**Episode I-The Seeds of War** traces the growth of the international drug trade, and the failure of the U.S. led process of international prohibition to contain it.

**Episode II-An Unholy Alliance** examines the relationship between the drug trade and war, detailing the involvement of the CIA in Vietnam and Afghanistan during the Cold War.

**Episode III-Containing the Fallout** investigates the spread of heroin use, its role in fueling the AIDS epidemic, and explores the most effective means of dealing with illicit drugs.

DEALING WITH THE DEMON includes interviews with addicts and social workers, politicians and law enforcement officers, epidemiologists and medical practitioners from around the world. Included are interviews with noted medical historian Dr. David Musto of Yale University, Ethan Nadelmann, Director of the Lindesmith Centre, Dr. Wang Gung Wu, Vice Chancellor of Hong Kong University, and Georgio Giacomelli, Executive Director of the UN Drug Control Program.

*"The history of opiate production, changing medicinal and recreational uses of opium and heroin, and shifting societal attitudes toward these drugs score a sweeping examination in this three-part documentary. A clear-eyed look at a controversial topic."* - Booklist



*"The history of the drug trade is developed in detail as it pertains to our present dilemma of how to combat it. An important documentary."*

- Library Journal

*"☆☆☆ (Three Stars). A provocative look at the heroin epidemic ... Combining a good historical overview with challenging notions for contemporary solutions. Recommended."*

- Video Librarian



3/55 Mins	Order # H99-407
color	Sale/video: <del>\$395</del>
1996	Rental/video: \$150

**SPECIAL OFFER:**  
Now available for only \$225  
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# SOCIETIES UNDER THE INFLUENCE

**NEW RELEASE** This film provocatively charges that the war against drugs is one of the greatest frauds perpetrated upon modern societies. As the second largest trading commodity on earth, drugs are the basis of many economies in the world today. They enrich the banks, make a farce of judicial systems everywhere, and destroy democratic institutions.

## SOCIETIES UNDER THE INFLUENCE

sheds light on several unusual people who are fighting to expose the epidemic repression surrounding drugs and the drug trade. Exploited Colombian field workers explain how little money they make compared to the amount US dealers make. A hitman for influential drug lords details the pervasive corruption in our legal system. And a retired US federal government agent suggests that if America stopped buying drugs, there would be a national banking crisis.



A Film by German Gutierrez  
A National Film Board of Canada Production

This film posits the argument that the "morally and politically correct" drug war we read about in our newspaper everyday is a corrupt and pernicious front that protects our judicial system, big business, organized crime and American foreign agendas. With heady proposals and daring testimony, **SOCIETIES UNDER THE INFLUENCE** reveals a side of the story that the media dare not tell.



52 minutes	Order # H99-408
color	Sale/video: <del>\$395</del>
1998	Rental/video: \$75

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# The Magnum Eye: COCAINE TRUE, COCAINE BLUE

A Video by Eugene Richards

Produced by Kiki Miyake for Little Magic Productions, in association with Magnum Photos and TV Tokyo Channel 12

As addicts share stories of broken families and life on the edge, this is a shocking inside look at a crack infested neighborhood in Philadelphia. Danny J., an addict and dealer, candidly speaks of his dependency and the paranoia that surfaces whenever he takes a hit from the crack pipe; his girlfriend Kathy describes the violence that has marred their relationship. In noted Magnum photographer Eugene Richards' extraordinary short film, the tension escalates to violence when Danny tells how Kathy stabbed him for stealing food stamps for crack. His brother speaks of his lost family due to drugs, a friend of being shot and the murder of his girlfriend. An astonishing portrait of desperation, hopelessness, and the addicts' unraveled lives.

*"A painfully intimate portrait."*

- Health Issues Videoforum, A Videography for Libraries

10 minutes	Order # H99-409
color	Sale/video: \$125
1992	Rental/video: \$30

# DONKA: X-RAY OF AN AFRICAN HOSPITAL

A Film by Thierry Michel

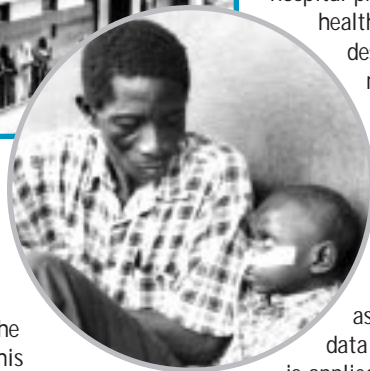
This film follows daily life in the largest public hospital in the Republic of Guinea, Donka hospital in Conakry. For six weeks the filmmaker follows the progress of patients, their families, and doctors and nurses, from floor to floor. Portraits alternate in a living chronicle where tragedy combines with hope, and each tries to come through at any cost.



Donka is similar to many African hospitals: the hand to hand encounter with suffering, the daily struggle against disease, the desperate fight for life where life hinges on so little: the unavailable drugs, the money a family doesn't have, the lives that ebb away through poverty. In this hospital of last resort, families strive to save a

child or parent. But without money, there are no drugs and little chance for survival.

Donka hospital was built in 1959 at the close of the Colonial period; it was drawn up on the European model without much consideration for the realities of Africa. The most important hospital in the country, Donka and its plight typify the financial crisis affecting the entire African health sector. Over the years it has accumulated a substantial deficit that neither the Guinean state nor international aid agencies are able or willing to pay.



Today, compelled to develop its financial autonomy, the hospital practices a paying health care policy designed to cover running costs. This financial strategy, now a hospital priority, is rigorously applied despite the total lack of modern infrastructure such as telephones and data processors. And it is applied at a high social

and human cost. Revenues rise, but access to treatment diminishes, compromising the very notion of a public health service.

**DONKA: X-RAY OF AN AFRICAN HOSPITAL** investigates the state of the continent's hospital system, and bears witness to the cry of hope voiced by a few doctors, determined to take up the public health challenge in today's Africa.

*"Shows in vivid terms the limits of Western medicine."* - **Variety**

*"In the course of revealing the state of basic services in West Africa...where health care is available only for those who can afford it...DONKA also illuminates the dedication of the few who struggle against the darkness, and the cruelty implicit in a society where health care is available only for those who can afford it."*

- **San Francisco International Film Festival**

 **1997 Distinguished Documentary Achievement Award, International Documentary Association**

 **Best of the Festival & Best International Documentary, 1997 Hot Docs Festival (Toronto)**

 **1998 Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival**

59 minutes	Order # H99-410
color	Sale/video: \$399
1996	Rental/video: \$75

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## GUINEA WORM: End of the Road

A Film by Sharon Baker

Guinea worm is a water-borne parasite that lodges in the lower extremities of the human body, matures, and then burrows out through the skin. Once prevalent throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas, the number of known cases has been reduced from 3.5 million in 1986 to 110,000 at the end of 1995.

Completed in 1992, when more than 100 million people were still at risk, **GUINEA WORM** introduces Dr. Donald Hopkins, who is leading the fight to eradicate this endemic, and visits Nigeria, Benin, and Ghana - three of the nations with the greatest incidences of guinea worm - and examines steps being taken to fight this affliction. From the strategic planning level involving the World Health Organization, Global 2000, and such well known individuals as former President Jimmy Carter; to governments' involvement in implementing workable plans for their countries; to the actual field doctors and villagers who are the "last battleground,"



**GUINEA WORM** is a case study of a major health initiative at work in the third world.

 [4 Stars - Highly Recommended]  
*Public, academic, and medical libraries will find this an ultimately uplifting documentary about a major public health issue that, unlike so many others, has a positive resolution within sight.* - **Video Rating Guide for Libraries**

28 minutes	Order # H99-411
color	Sale/video: \$190
1992	Rental/video: \$50

## The Magnum Eye: OPENING HEARTS

A Video by Susan Meiselas

Produced by Kiki Miyake for Little Magic Productions, in association with Magnum Photos and TV Tokyo Channel 12

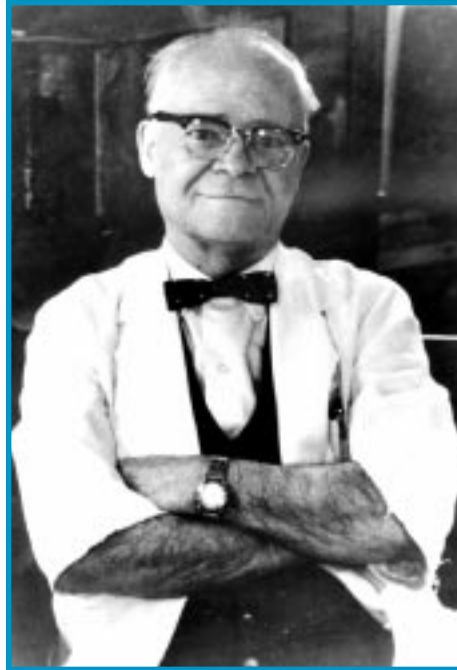
The Gulf War and subsequent UN sanctions against Iraq have caused the alarming deterioration of that country's medical facilities. With the population drinking contaminated water, the results are disastrous, and Iraq's children are among the first to suffer. In this piece, Magnum photographer Susan Meiselas travels to Iraq with a Medicine for Peace team, one of few relief organizations that will enter Iraq. On this mission, two doctors and a nurse choose five children with severe heart conditions - from among hundreds - to have surgery in the U.S. As UN sanctions continue to make it impossible for Iraq to rebuild its once adequate medical system, Meiselas reveals another tragedy overlooked by Western media.

10 minutes	Order # H99-412
color	Sale/video: \$125
1993	Rental/video: \$45

# DEAR DR. SPENCER: Abortion in a Small Town

**NEW RELEASE** From the early 1920s until his death in 1969, Dr. Robert Douglas Spencer practiced medicine in a small town in the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania. Dr. Spencer treated colds, set fractures, and provided basic medical care. But he was unique. His fees were set according to the patient's ability to pay, sometimes amounting to nothing. He was the only doctor in the region to take black lung disease seriously, at times even going inside the mines, risking his own life, to treat the miners. Finally, and most notably, he performed illegal abortions.

Dr. Spencer performed his first abortion, his patient a poor coal miner's wife, in 1923. Soon after, the doctor's reputation spread. He began receiving letters from women across the country, asking, and sometimes pleading, for his help. Ashland, Pennsylvania, a town of churchgoers, grateful to him for his dedication to the mining community, quietly allowed the doctor to practice. The citizens seemed to ignore the steady stream of young women going to and from his office, the out of state license plates, the ever-increasing number of one-night guests at the town's hotel. They even protected him each time the state police tried to shut his practice down. Dr. Spencer was arrested three times but never convicted. Historians estimated that he performed more



than 40,000 safe abortions during the course of his career.

**DEAR DR. SPENCER** features interviews with the doctor's wife, local townspeople, and women who traveled from all over the United States seeking his help, including Beat poet Hettie

A Film by Danielle Renfrew and Beth Seltzer  
Narrated by Lili Taylor

Jones. Their memories of Dr. Spencer elicit a wide range of emotions - relief, support, profound gratitude, and always, admiration - for a man who saved thousands of women from the tyranny of back alley abortions.

"*🌟🌟🌟 ½ (Three and ½ Stars) A poignant picture of a deeply caring man of science who wanted to ease suffering and help humanity. Exceedingly well-done ... highly recommended.*"

-Video Librarian

"*Powerfully evokes what life without legal abortion would be like.*" - Liz Mermin, IndieWIRE

"*A beacon of hope.*" - San Francisco Bay Guardian

"*A model of an illuminating documentary.*"

- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

 1998 Margaret Mead Film Festival

 1998 Human Rights Watch International Traveling Film Festival

 1998 Nashville International Film Festival

25 minutes	Order # H99-419
color	Sale/video: \$190
1998	Rental/video: \$50

# REPETITION COMPULSION

**NEW RELEASE** **REPETITION COMPULSION** is an animated documentary, which explore show prolonged childhood abuse in the lives of homeless women has set the stage for further victimization on the streets. Many homeless women develop intimate yet ultimately destructive relationships with homeless men for companionship and protection. Weaving dark and violent charcoal

imagery with actual interviews of homeless women, the film describes the crippling feelings of worthlessness, depression, powerlessness, paranoia and terror as the women become increasingly more dependent on the homeless men who support yet continue to hurt them.



Born directly out of the filmmaker's experience of working for four years with homeless women who had suffered long, unaddressed histories of physical and sexual abuse, **REPETITION COMPULSION** gives voice and vision to these women's stories of abuse and survival.

However, Lee did not want to expose her subjects or exacerbate their pain. Rather

An Animated Film by Ellie Lee

than depict their struggles explicitly, Lee chose to weave their words over animated charcoal images she created. Lee explains, "Through animation, violent scenarios can be transformed into an angry flurry of charcoal lines; it allows me to depict their hardships with a universality that does not exploit the lives of the particular women upon whom this film is based."

"*Making full use of animation's power to convey a nightmare, REPETITION COMPULSION burrows intimately into the world of battered women.*

*Thoroughly deserving of the grand prize, Lee's film is more enlightening in its seven minutes than a stack of documentaries or dramas.*"

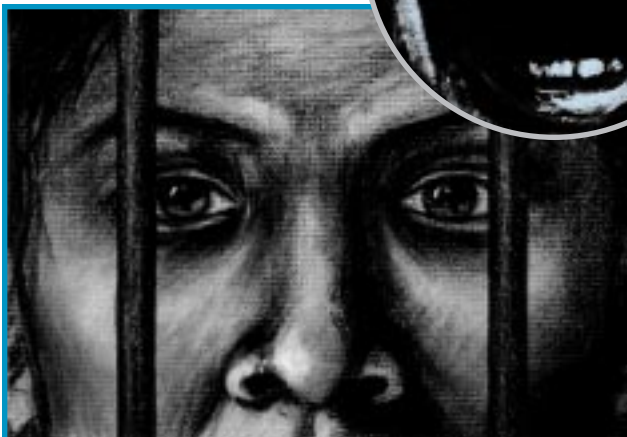
- The Boston Globe

 Best of Festival, 1998 New England Film and Video Festival

 Jurors' Citation, 1998 Black Maria Film and Video Festival

 1998 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival

7 minutes	Order # H99-413
color	Sale/video: \$125
1997	Rental/video: \$45



# AN ORDINARY RAPE

A Film by Isabelle Coulet

**AN ORDINARY RAPE** is a startling examination of the misconceptions that surround date rape.

Through interviews with high school and college students, physicians, journalists, criminologists, psychologists, lawyers and police, the film collects divergent attitudes, which alone would generate debate among viewers. However the program is punctuated with the observations of Stephanie S., a date rape victim, which take AN ORDINARY RAPE far beyond the abstract discussions and simple figures of most presentations on this topic. Through her, viewers receive a clear understanding of the effects of date rape on its victims.

At the end of **AN ORDINARY RAPE**, Stephanie appears on camera, without shame or embarrassment, to speak about the need to educate others about the violent crime committed against her that she, like most, never thought could happen to her.

*"Well-edited... under discussion are such issues as society's expectations of males and females, inequality of the sexes, underreporting of rape, and attitudes toward rape by police, medical personnel, and juries."* - Nancy McCray, Booklist

*"Extremely well done and captures student attention."* - What's New in Home Economics

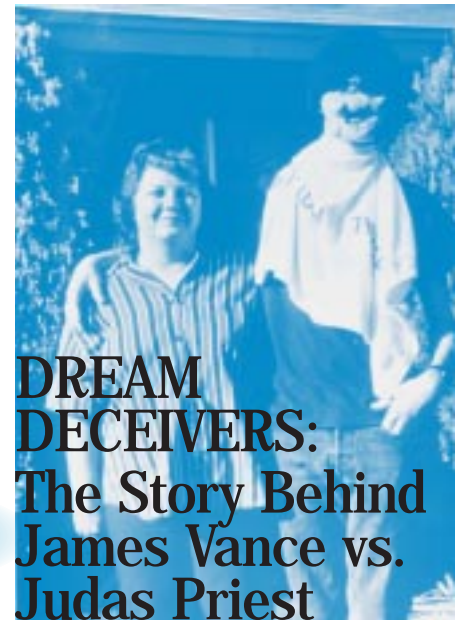
 1995 Healthy Living Award Winner, Life Skills Category

 Bronze Apple Winner, 1994 National Educational Film & Video Festival

54 minutes	Order # H99-414
color	Sale/video: \$390
1993	Rental/video: \$75

**SPECIAL OFFER:**  
Now available for only \$225 if you refer to our Order # when purchasing.

29 minutes	Order # H99-415
color	Sale/video: \$190
1993	Rental/video: \$50



# DREAM DECEIVERS: The Story Behind James Vance vs. Judas Priest

A Film by David Van Taylor

On December 23, 1985, two young men in Reno, Nevada put shotguns to their own heads after drinking and smoking marijuana as they listened to a record by the English rock group Judas Priest. Raymond Belknap shot himself fatally, while the other, James Vance, was grossly disfigured.


Their parents, claiming that subliminal messages in the heavy metal band's songs mesmerized the boys into their bizarre suicide pact, filed suit against CBS Records. Centered around this non-juried trial, **DREAM DECEIVERS** looks at this tragedy through interviews with Vance - who later died in 1988 from a medication overdose -, his and Belknap's parents, other Reno "metalheads", and members of Judas Priest.

*"Did heavy metal music influence the teenagers to try to kill themselves? Or was it their dysfunctional families, childhood, and generally aimless, hopeless lives? To its credit, the film offers no pat answers. Recommended."*

- Library Journal

*"Overpowering... DREAM DECEIVERS will rivet the attention, as it presents a terrible story of mixed signals and wasted lives."*

- Janet Maslin, The New York Times

 [5 Stars - Must Have]... a sobering learning experience for all viewers."

- Video Rating Guide for Libraries

 Blue Ribbon Winner, 1993 American Film & Video Festival

60 minutes	Order # H99-418
color	Sale/video: \$390
1991	Rental/16mm: \$125

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# A BRUSH WITH LIFE

A Film by Glen Salzman & Martin Duckworth

Filmed over two years, **A BRUSH WITH LIFE** is the compelling portrait of Diane, a gifted artist struggling to free herself from mental illness through an innovative art therapy program at the Louis-H. Lafontaine Hospital, Montreal's largest psychiatric hospital.

The program led Diane out of a private hell. In her year spent working with therapeutic art specialist Suzanne Hamel, Diane discovered a way to cope with a multiple personality disorder brought on by a childhood of abuse. Diane's struggle invites the viewer to question the delicate balance of the human condition.

With haunting images and empathy, **A BRUSH WITH LIFE** chronicles an exceptional individual's search for well being.

*"It has an important message about values at a time when the whole country is debating the costs and direction of health care... It focuses on an area that is always overlooked, the healing power of human relationships."*

- Glenys Vaughan, Institute of Community and Family Psychiatry, Jewish General Hospital

*"An evocative and powerful film."*  
- Canadian Art Therapy Association

*"If I create I constantly overcome the difficulties of everyday life. It's something essential to the being - to be creative."* - Diane

52 minutes	Order # H99-416
color	Sale/video: \$390
1994	Rental/video: \$75

**SPECIAL OFFER:**  
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# MS. CONCEPTIONS

What makes a vibrant, college educated, and single thirty-something woman decide to pack in the search for Mr. Right and pick up a \$250 vial of sperm instead? Over the past decade, the birth rate among this group of women has nearly tripled. They may have given up on relationships but are unwilling to sacrifice Motherhood. In their models of family, men are superfluous.

Lea is 32 and has chosen artificial insemination, even though it makes her feel "dirty" and leaves her wondering "who will really be the father of this child." Rebecca, 38, is tired of her "party girl" life, and scours personal ads for a suitable "live donor." And Anne, 39, who was "accidentally" impregnated by her ex-boyfriend, must cope with a wanted - but solitary - pregnancy.

**MS. CONCEPTION** also looks at the burgeoning sperm industry; from artificial insemination trade shows, to custom ordered sperm ("the specimen is available in standard or pre-washed"), to the suppliers of raw materials - the anonymous donors who are helping to produce children they will never know.



A Film by Ric Esther Bienstock  
Co-produced by Linda Frum

*"In a probing yet lighthearted look at three women's quests to have babies, several options are explored: artificial insemination, 'accidental' impregnation by an ex-boyfriend, and a personal advertisement for a 'live donor.' Both the practical and humorous aspects of each approach are considered, with sperm banks (offering 'standard or prewashed,' chargeable to Visa) providing especially fertile material. Cleverly selected pop tunes ('It Had To Be You') add a welcome irony. Underlying this, though, is a fruitful discussion of the evolving concept of family."*

- Jeff Dick, Booklist

*"A profound, delightful and compassionate encapsulation of a many-sided issue that has long-term ramifications for all of us."* - Network Magazine

-  1996 Gemini Award Winner for Best Documentary, Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television
-  Silver Apple Winner, 1996 National Educational Media Network Competition

56 minutes	Order # H99-420
color	Sale/video: \$290
1995	Rental/video: \$75

**SPECIAL OFFER:**

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# THE CHRISTMAS CAKE

**NEW RELEASE** This insightful, funny, and charming film document life as seen through the eyes of two sisters-in-law Mollie and Jessie Brereton. These two remarkable octogenarians who live together, actually spent most of their lives battling each other. Through the examination of their lives, the film captures an entire generation's feelings about love, family, and politics, revealing how the ties that bind can be both fragile and indelible.

over fifty years, together raising Tom and Jessie's large family to believe in a fair and just society. Members of the Australian Labour Party, such as former Prime Minister Paul Keating, were regular visitors to the house over the years, and Jessie's eldest son Laurie Brereton became a Member of Parliament. When Tom died eleven years ago, their personal lives began to show contradictions and inconsistencies. As Mollie and Jessie talk

candidly about the Depression, past loves, and the beloved Tom, it becomes clear that their lives involved spectacular disagreements and insurmountable differences.

The personalities of the two women are a study in contrasts - Jessie is gregarious and ebullient, Mollie is hard-bitten, closed-mouthed, and full of common sense. For

Mollie there was always politics, for Jessie there was always family. But both shared a love for Tom and a sense of responsibility to the

children they were raising. And the one thing they could agree upon year after year was the family Christmas cake. This fruitcake of epic proportion, prepared with equal doses of love from both women, symbolizes their connection and partnership over the years despite their many differences.

*"Touching... The making of the Christmas cakes is woven throughout the documentary, symbolic of the tradition and family that bound the women together. A wonderful look at history, family, and the lives of women."*

- Rebecca S. Graves (J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library, University of Missouri-Columbia), MC Journal: The Journal of Academic Media Librarianship

*"Drawing viewers in like a magnet ... could prompt discussion on aging, independence, and shared living."* - Booklist

-  Best Australian Film, 1997  
Flickerfest Short Film Festival
-  Best Documentary, 1997  
Tampere International Short Film Festival

27 minutes	Order # H99-421
color	Sale/video: \$190
1996	Rental/video: \$50



At the center of Mollie and Jessie's lives were Tom Brereton, Mollie's brother and Jessie's husband. They all lived in the same house for

# THE WORK I'VE DONE

A Film by Kenneth Fink



By examining the ambivalence and personal crises that often follow retirement, this documentary shows the tragedy of our culture's emphasis on youth and, particularly for men, in linking our self-identities to the work we do.

The film includes illuminating interviews with blue-collar workers who try to rationalize their sense of exile after retirement. There is a happy ending for two people in their 70s who meet, fall in love, get married and find a new life together.

With sensitivity, **THE WORK I'VE DONE** reveals the complex issues of retirement while providing an insightful look at the significance of work in our lives.

*"The traumatic changes wrought by retirement are clearly delineated in this poignant, yet powerful, look at blue-collar workers and the effect that retirement has upon them... This film lets you hear it in their words and see it in their faces."*

- George A. Sands, Library Journal

*"Sensitive and powerful."*

- Education for Aging News

*"A touching, powerful look at the personal trials of blue collar workers facing retirement. The psychological and even sexual impact of retirement are vividly illustrated."* - Peter Perl, Washington Post

 Red Ribbon Winner, 1984  
American Film Festival

58 minutes	Order # H99-423
color	Sale/video: <del>\$290</del>
1984	Rental/16mm: \$100

**SPECIAL OFFER:**  
Now available for only \$225  
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# PORTRAITS OF AGE

Each month over one million people reach the age of 60; those over the age of 80 are the fastest-growing segment of the global population. Some of these people will require care and support, but many more will be able to retain their independence, pride and productivity.

Shot on location around the world, this video comprises individual short stories of elderly people and the role



they play in their respective societies: a fisherman in India; a grandmother in Uganda; an activist in Argentina; a dance teacher in Cambodia; a grandfather in Egypt and a volunteer in New York. **PORTRAITS OF AGE** shows how active and productive the senior citizen is today.

29 minutes	Order # H99-422
color	Sale/video: \$190
1994	Rental/video: \$50

# YOUR OWN TRUE SELF

A Film by Paul Athanas & Jay Rooney

**YOUR OWN TRUE SELF** visits residents at the all male Duplex nursing home in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts and discovers a vibrant community which will dispel many preconceptions held about the aging.

David Greenberger, editor of *THE DUPLEX PLANET*, asks a series of mundane, humorous, or surprising questions, each purposefully avoiding oral history or politics. Through their answers, the interviewees reveal their individual personalities, and each his unique wit, charm, patience, and - sometimes - outrage. Ultimately, **YOUR OWN TRUE SELF** provides a gentle and warm challenge to our cultural fear of aging.

*"Illustrates effectively and unobtrusively how the elderly often inhabit rich interior worlds of their own; that they are as happy or sad, angry or accepting, coherent or inarticulate as any other sector of society - and that 'the elderly,' in fact, cannot be treated as a statistical or psychological whole. Charming and revealing."*

- Video Rating Guide for Libraries



*"Sometimes the best irony is when the joke is on oneself... The filmmakers seem to be making fun of residents but, as it spends more time with its subjects, the film reveals them as characters rather than caricatures. It ends with a resident who, after a medley of Nat King Cole and Mills Brothers tunes, asks, 'Can we play it back? It'd be like a movie about your own true self? That would be nice!' And it is."* - Peter Keough, Boston Phoenix

43 minutes	Order # H99-424
color	Sale/video: <del>\$275</del>
1992	Rental/video: \$65

**SPECIAL OFFER:**  
Now available for only \$225  
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# MARTHA

A Film by Peter Entell



Martha Suter was born blind and deaf due to an illness her mother suffered during pregnancy. Now, at 37, she has yet to hear a sound or to see an image.

This film accompanies Martha as she performs her daily routines. She helps prepare meals, eats, goes to counseling sessions, and sleeps. She also visits Dorothee Goldschmid, her first therapist and the woman largely responsible for

teaching Martha how to communicate with a world she will never speak to or see.

Says filmmaker Peter Entell: "It seemed such a paradox to me as a filmmaker, using the images and sound upon which my craft is based, to make a portrait of someone who has grown up in complete darkness and silence. Yet slowly, as Martha and the film began to discover each other, I realized how much I recognized myself in her, and how the life of this deaf and blind woman gave unexpected insight into the nature of human beings."

A fascinating portrait of a remarkable person.

53 minutes	Order # H99-426
color	Sale/video: <del>\$390</del>
1994	Rental/video: \$75

**SPECIAL OFFER:**  
Now available for only \$225  
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when purchasing.

# A HEART FOR JO

**A HEART FOR JO** follows 13-year-old Joanne and her mother Marion as they battle against prevailing medical opinion in a bid to save Jo's life. Jo needs a heart and lung transplant, but finds that no transplant center will accept her because she has Down's Syndrome.



Almost half of those with Down's Syndrome are born with a heart defect of some kind. A corrective operation has recently been offered at birth, but for people like Jo, it comes too late. They are not eligible for a place on the transplant list. Doctors cite shortage of organs, a weakened immune system inherent to people with Down's Syndrome, and a lack of understanding of post-operative care resulting from learning difficulties.

Marion is not convinced: "I feel that the reason they won't operate is because there are so few organs and they're so precious that they

A Film by Jill Fullerton-Smith

won't waste one on my child just because she has Down's Syndrome."

Marion's convictions are given new strength after she and Jo travel to America from Britain to meet Sandra Jenson, the first and only person with Down's Syndrome to have had the operation. Sandra has survived the operation and meets all the aftercare requirements. Her mother Kay battled long and hard with doctors to recognize her daughter as a "valuable" life and describes their refusals as a death sentence: "When the doctor asked Sandra why she wanted the transplant she said, 'Because I want to live'. The doctor said that wasn't good enough."

This moving documentary follows the heart-break and hope of Marion as she continues to struggle to find a heart for her brave daughter.

*"A touching glimpse into a sensitive arena that is apparently not quite as advanced and balanced as one may think. Recommended audience includes college level ethics, biomedical ethics, and social science classrooms. Great conversation or debate piece."*

- MC Journal: the Journal of Academic Media Librarianship

26 minutes	Order # H99-425
color	Sale/video: \$190
1996	Rental/video: \$50

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# GORGEOUS

An Animated Film by Kaz Cooke

**GORGEOUS** follows the perils of cartoon character Hermoine, the Modern Girl, as she tackles plastic surgery, beauty therapy, and bulimia in a feral fit of inadequacy. Undermined by her evil inner voice, otherwise known as Deirdre the weird fairy, Hermoine journeys from heavy chocolate biscuit abuse to tortuous treatment at the beauty salon, the boutique, and the gym.

After narrowly escaping the clutches of an out-of-control plastic surgeon, Hermoine finally rebels against Deirdre's obsession with eating behavior and "beauty."

**GORGEOUS** asks why girls and young women feel insecure, and what thoughts tempt them towards eating disorders and other strange rituals. Hermoine proves that modern girls can stop feeling inadequate and regain their self-esteem.

Kaz Cooke is a well-known Australian author and cartoonist, whose character Hermoine first appeared in The Sydney Morning Herald in 1984. Her book **REAL GORGEOUS**, guided by Hermoine, is published in the United States by W.W. Norton.

10 minutes	Order # H99-417
color	Sale/video: \$125
1994	Rental/video: \$45



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