A Cumulative Filmography

Robert E. Yahnke
the issues of dementia, could contradict this assumption. However, he doesn’t clearly define dementia, and he does not explain the differences between a cementing illness and normal age-associated memory loss. In addition, several brief images on the screen of demented residents wandering in a nursing home are distracting and confusing. Instead, both therapists focus this part of their discussions on the common losses in late life, which is not the major problem of this vignette. Also, although nursing homes are discussed by the therapists in a positive light, the choices of scenes from nursing homes are not positive. No suggestions are made about utilizing community-based long-term care services to support the daughter and her parents. Thus, one is left with the mistaken belief that institution-based care is the only option available.

In the second part of the film, the psychiatrist also discusses depression in elderly adults. True, this is the most common emotional problem for older adults, but the 90-year-old man in the video is still able to live independently, and he is not evidencing signs of clinical depression. Yes, there are times, as the daughter mentions, that he is feeling down, but he is functioning adequately. This portion of the video wrongly emphasizes chronological age over functional age. Because of these types of inconsistencies and oversights, the video loses much of its impact.

Hence, the film adds little to the caregiving discourse. The cinematography does not evoke the usual emotional tug at the heartstrings, that most caregiving films achieve. It provides very basic material about families caring for elderly parents, and the changes that can occur in the aging process. The video, though, could be used to stimulate a discussion in an undergraduate course on aging, or be the basis of a discussion for a church or civic group.

Phyllis Braudy Harris, PhD, ACSW
Associate Professor of Sociology &
Director of the Aging Studies Program
John Carroll University
Cleveland, Ohio 44118

A Cumulative Filmography


Alzheimer’s Disease, 1997/28 min. Aquarius, Fanlight.


Early Onset Memory Loss: A Conversation with Lefty Tennis, 1992/22 min. Terra Nova. Letty Tennis and her husband describe the ways in which she has coped with her gradual loss of functioning and growing sense of isolation because of the experience of dementia. Reviewed in Vol. 38, No. 3, 1998.

Forget Me Never, 1996/15 min. Filmmakers. Originally broadcast on ABC News’ Prime Time Live, the video
portrays Diane Magowin’s struggle with the early stages of dementia and her part in forming a support group devoted to those suffering the early onset of dementias. Reviewed in Vol. 38, No. 3, 1998.

I Know a Song, 1987/27 min. No national distribution. A daughter documents her mother’s decline from the disease. The filmmaker uses innovative visual techniques, narration, and direct address—in a studio set. After placing her mother in a nursing home, Brenda King continues to express her feelings toward her mother openly and honestly. Reviewed in Vol. 37, No. 6, 1997.

In and Out of Time, 1991/24 min. Fanlight. See review in this issue.

Living With Alzheimer’s: Understanding Alzheimer’s, Choices in Caregiving, Challenges in Caregiving, 1993/35 min. each. Long Island ADA. The three videos provide an introduction to the disease, the experiences of caregivers, and strategies for caregiving in the advanced stages of the disease. Reviewed in Vol. 34, No. 3, 1994.


My Challenge With Alzheimer’s, 16 min. Terra Nova. Beverly Wheeler, 53, discusses the onset of her Alzheimer’s with a social worker. She describes the stresses associated with the diagnosis, support from her family, and the varied reactions of neighbors and friends. Reviewed in Vol. 38, No. 3, 1998.

My Mother, My Father, 1984/33 min. Fanlight, Terra Nova, Video Press. Four families share problems they have faced and decisions they have made regarding the care of an aging parent. One of the four cases focuses on the problems faced by family caregivers of a person with Alzheimer’s disease. Reviewed in Vol. 25, No. 4, 1985.


Something Should Be Done About Grandma Ruthie, 1993/54 min. Fanlight, Terra Nova. A family struggles to decide the best care for a grandmother, who is exhibiting signs of serious dementia and yet refuses to leave her home. Finally, the family seeks help from a physician to remove her against her will. Reviewed in Vol. 35, No. 3, 1995.


DISTRIBUTORS

ADEAR
Alzheimer's Disease Education and Referral Center,
P.O. Box 8250, Silver Spring, MD 20907-8250, tel: 800-438-4380

Aquarius
Aquarius Productions, 5 Powderhouse Lane, P.O. Box 1159, Sherborn, MA 01770, tel: 508-651-2962, fax: 508-650-4216. E-mail: aqvideos@tiac.net, web: www.aquariusproductions.com

Ambrose

Fanlight
Fanlight Productions, 47 Halifax St., Boston, MA 02130, tel: 800-937-4113, fax: 617-524-8838. E-mail: fanlight@tiac.net, web: www.fanlight.com

Edward Fell
Edward Fell Productions, 4614 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103, tel: 216-881-0040.

Filmakers
Filmakers Library, 124 East 40th St., New York, NY 10016, tel: 212-808-4980. E-mail: info@filmakers.com, web: www.filmakers.com

Long Island ADA
Alzheimer's Disease Association, Long Island Chapter, 66 South Street, Patchogue, NY 11772, tel: 516-289-6335.

Medcom
Medcom, Inc., 6060 Phyllis Dr., Cypress, CA 90630, tel: 800-877-1443.

Oregon GEC
Geriatric Education Center, Institute on Aging, Portland State University, P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751. Librarian: Janet Owens. E-mail: owensj@pdx.edu

Sandra Martin

Terra Nova
Terra Nova Films, 9848 South Winchester Ave., Chicago, IL 60643, tel: 312-881-8491, fax: 773-881-3368. E-mail: tnf@terranova.org, web: www.terranova.org

Video Press
Video Press, University of Maryland, Department of Physical Therapy, School of Medicine, 100 Penn St., Suite 133, Baltimore, MD 21201-1082, tel: 410-706-5497. E-mail: videop@umabnet.ab.umd.edu.