

# Harvard Film Archiv



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*If it is true as Jean-Luc Godard once remarked that the “cinema is an X-ray machine in which one photographs one’s own disease”, then, in some sense, every film is a reflection of the spirit of its creator. That said, in recent years a rich exploration of direct and variant approaches to autobiography has begun to emerge within the cinema, akin to that of self-portraiture in painting, photography, etc. The challenge of how to render a view of oneself and one’s life without necessarily simply pointing the camera at the director is the underlying focus of this series. Sometimes the solution is found through impersonation ( Robert Frank’s ABOUT ME), sometimes through metonymy (for example how much can we learn about someone by listening only to their answering machine, in Dick Roger’s 226-1690). Whether via animation, re-enactment, visual diaries, parody, etc., the REVERSE ANGLE series celebrates the work of individuals not afraid to embrace the ideal of “Know thyself.”* -JOHN GIANVITO



JLG/JLG

Fri, 2/7 7:00pm & Sat, 2/8 4:00pm & 7:00pm

## JLG / JLG

France/Switzerland 1994 (63 min)

Jean-Luc Godard directed this self-portrait in 1994. This multi-voiced inner dialogue abounds in reflections not only on cinema, seen through the perspective of Godard’s own relationship with film, but also on memory, painting, money, Heidegger, the Swiss Alps, and tennis. “Of all Godard’s films, I think that JLG/JLG is the one that comes closest to the essential question: what do we mean by thinking? The film is disturbing because it dares to deliver a harsh judgment on our times, while at the same time maintaining a true ethical tenacity.” - Philippe Sollers

DIRECTED BY JEAN-LUC GODARD (French with English subtitles, color, 35mm)

## FILMMAKERS IN PERSON

Sat, 2/8 8:30pm  
Thurs, 2/20 8:30pm

## WHITE HOTEL

USA 1996 (90 min)

Documentary filmmaking which documents the filmmakers as well as their subjects, gives this film a personal and insightful feel unlike other documentaries. With video camera in hand, two women follow an American HIV research team to Eritrea, East Africa, and are catapulted into a land of joy and repression, promiscuity and sexual mutilation. They quickly drawn into circumstances which shatter the filmmakers’ objectivity and turns their journalistic inquiry into an intimate investigation of their own capacities to love, suffer and forgive.

DIRECTED BY DIANNE GRIFFIN AND TOBI SOLVANG (color, video)

## FILMMAKER IN PERSON

Sun, 2/9 7:00pm & Sat. 2/22 4:00pm



LIFE DEATH & BASEBALL

## FILMMAKER IN PERSON

Fri, 2/7 8:30pm  
Sun, 2/9 9:00pm

## LIFE, DEATH & BASEBALL

USA 1996 (57 min)

Through the prism of the present, in which the filmmaker’s anxieties about a loss are heightened by the impending birth of her first child, LIFE, DEATH & BASEBALL looks back at the unexpected death of the filmmaker’s sister, Adrienne, 25 years earlier and at her sister’s passion for the New York Yankees. A series of profiles is used as the structural framework for this exploration, beginning with the filmmaker’s oldest brother Jeff, an ardent proponent of family life and baseball, and ending with former Yankee pitcher, Rollie Sheldon. Ultimately, LIFE, DEATH & BASEBALL is a personal journey in which the filmmaker retraces her experience of losing her sister and, in a sense, losing her own grounding in the world.

DIRECTED BY MARILYN LEVINE (color, 16mm)

Fri, 2/14 9:00pm

Sat, 2/15 4:00pm & Sun, 2/16 9:00pm

## ABOUT ME: A MUSICAL SET IN NEW YORK CITY

USA 1971 (35 min)

This second autobiographical film by renowned photographer/filmmaker Robert Frank is an explanation of his struggle to change his art, escape his reputation, and avoid repetition. An actress (Lynn Reyner) portrays Frank, as he documents her (i.e. his) development as an artist and career as a photographer. The film utilizes music and musicians as metaphors for artistic freedom and self-expression, and takes the viewer on a journey into the life of an incredible artist.

DIRECTED BY ROBERT FRANK (16mm, bw)

## HOME IMPROVEMENTS



LOVE