

Sociology Of Aging

A Late Frost

M250.01

A Late Frost is divided into ten segments, which focus on such issues as life changes, the importance of remembering, work after retirement, taking leave of place and friends, and living life fully in old age. By utilizing interviews with children, aging men and women, as well as the writings of the late Gerhard Frost, A Late Frost truly reveals what it feels like to grow old.

1994, Color, 50 min, VHS

Bubbeh Lee & Me

M250.02

This Emmy nominated documentary is a hilarious portrait of an extraordinary, ordinary Jewish grandmother and a touching account of her grandson's search for his place in the world. Whether taking daily excursions to the grocery store to return under-ripe produce or sharing hard-won wisdom over blintzes on Rosh Hashanah, Lee Abrahams is a woman who lives on her own terms. For her filmmaker grandson, a young gay man born to a Jewish mother and a Protestant father, 87 year old *Bubbeh Lee* is a vital link to self and cultural identity, not to mention a reformed icon of love and acceptance. As the two of them relate feelings of love lost or hidden, kibbitz about strategies for shopping, and avoid meddling matchmakers, the strength of their bond emerges. A spirited reflection on family, culture, and identity, *Bubbeh Lee & Me* examines the legacies passed through generations and shows that the journey of self-discovery can begin at any age.

1996, Color, 35 min, VHS

Beauty Before Age: Growing Older In Gay Culture

M250.03

This groundbreaking film explores the power of youth and beauty in the gay community. A diverse group of gay men, ages 19 to 77, negotiate their fears of becoming old, undesirable, and alone. The film critically examines the pressure to look young and attractive, the lack of positive older role models, and the ways in which AIDS intensifies the fear and process of aging. Beauty Before Age offers a male perspective on a historically female issue, and illuminates the larger societal obsession with physical appearance.

1998, Color, 22 min, VHS

The Gin Game

M250.04

This powerfully bittersweet comedy follows the relationship that develops between nursing home residents Fonsia Dorsey and Weller Martin during a series of gin games in which their ailments, misfortunes and losses are exposed in funny, honest and increasingly heated moments. This film stars Emmy-winning actors Mary Tyler Moore and Dick Van Dyke.

2003, Color, 87 min, DVD

Old Like Me

M250.05

To find out how society treats older people, a young reporter, Pat Moore, disguised herself as a helpless 85-year-old woman. Venturing out on the streets in over a hundred cities, she experienced the terror that society can inflict on the weak and the old. She was rendered helpless by the speed and noise of the environment of our youth-oriented society. Once she was attacked by a gang of thirteen-year-olds. She found that even the simplest products can frustrate the elderly and make their lives miserable. Arthritic hands cannot easily open jars or hold pens. Labels are hard to read. She had to survive in a world designed for the young and fit. Here is a provocative film to help people understand the feelings and problems of being old.

1987, Color, 28 min, VHS

Aging Successfully:

Psychological Aspects of Growing Old

M250.06

Systematic examination of old age is a new field inspired by the unprecedented number of people living long enough to become elderly. Developmental psychologists Paul and Margret Baltes have proposed a model of adaptive competence for the entire life span, but the emphasis here is on old age. Their model SOC (Selection, Optimization and Compensation) is illustrated with engaging vignettes of people leading fulfilling lives, including writers Betty Friedan and Joan Erikson, and dancer Bud Mercer. Segments of the cognitive tests used by the Baltes in assessing the mental abilities of older people are shown. The Baltes discuss personality components that generally lead to positive aging experiences in this visually and intellectually appealing video.

1997, Color, 31 min, DVD

More Than Skin Deep

M250.07

Set against the backdrop of a nursing home beauty shop, this video examines issues of self-esteem and aging through the stories and insights of six nursing home residents. It takes an evocative look at the connections between living well, aging with dignity, and looking good. Award-winning filmmaker David Gaynes was inspired to make this film after a summer working as a transport volunteer at a nursing home. "I particularly enjoyed taking residents to and from the beauty shop," he recalls. "The change in self-esteem from the time I would drop a person off to the time I would pick the same person up was unmistakable. For many residents it was the highlight of their day." Life in a nursing home can be lonely and disorienting. The beauty shop and its rituals offer an example of the ways a good long-term care facility can help residents stay connected to their past lives, to their self-identity, and to each other.

2001, Color, 25 min, VHS

**The Personals: Improvisations on romance
in the golden years**

M250.08

The Personals follows a group of senior citizens as they rehearse and present an original play at a community theater on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Drawn from the comedy and drama of their own lives, the play is structured around their quest for dates through the personal ads. As the rehearsals progress, the filmmaker's camera follows the individual members of the group into their homes, as it explores both the joys and the sorrows of growing old in America. The video paints a surprisingly humorous and in-depth portrait of a segment of our society whose inner lives are not often explored.

1998, 37 min, VHS

American Odyssey

M250.09

AMERICAN ODYSSEY looks at this groups' unconventional lifestyle and comes to the conclusion that in these parts we don't vilify the rootless; we envy them. The Wally Byam Caravan Club manages to find unity, closeness and support from the very thing that tore us all apart in the first place: the road. AMERICAN ODYSSEY is a humorous and inspiring tribute to the creation of community in America.

34 min, VHS