

A Walnut Hill Media Production



Love Etc.

Directed by Jill Andresevic

94 minutes – Color – English

FILM FESTIVALS

HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2010

Winner - Audience Award

IDFA Amsterdam 2010

International Premiere

FIVE BOROUGH FILMS

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SHORT SYNOPSIS

LOVE ETC is a witty, poignant and humorous exploration about the universal stages of love, depicted through five real stories over the course of one year in New York City. Young, old, gay, straight – everyone has experienced love – and the joy and frustration that come with it. From teen romance to a decades-long marriage; newlyweds to a recent divorcee, and even a bachelor so frustrated in his search that he chooses to have children without a partner, LOVE ETC. documents the intimate journeys of engaging characters aged 18-89 who reflect the city's diversity, and takes an honest look at life's most challenging pursuit.

LOVE ETC. began with a concept from Executive Producer Jonathan Tisch, inspired by the day he spent waiting in line, with his fiancée Lizzie, for their marriage license at the City Hall Marriage Bureau. Surrounded by an incredible diversity of couples, they saw that everyone there was united by a common hope and belief in love. This room was a microcosm of the city, and New York City was a microcosm of the world.

SUBJECT BIOS

ALBERT, 79 & MARION, 89 “*Lasting Love*”

ALBERT & MARION are a couple living in Canarsie, Brooklyn. For 48 years they have been happily married, writing songs together and caring for each other. Now Marion struggles with dementia and failing health and Albert must become her caretaker in their twilight years – while both still hoping for a “hit song,” their lifelong dream.

ETHAN, 41 “*Starting Over*”

ETHAN is a divorcee living in Forest Hills, Queens raising two teenage kids, Noah, 14 and Hannah, 15. He juggles a job in construction work, full-time parenthood, and the quest to find a new partner. When his son introduces him to his best friend’s beautiful mother Erika, he is optimistic about a new chapter in life and love.

CHITRA, 28 & MAHENDRA, 29 “*Getting Married*”

CHITRA and MAHENDRA are a newlywed couple living in Jamaica Hills, Queens. Through the preparation and ceremony of their big, traditional Indian wedding, we meet their families, learn of their past and dreams for the future. But when Mahendra has difficulty finding a job, Chitra’s modern sensibility and conventional expectations challenge this new stage of their relationship.

SCOTT, 52 “*Single*”

SCOTT is a single, gay father-to-be. He directs plays and television, but cannot seem to maintain a relationship as successful as his career. Now ready to start a family of his own, he courageously embarks on the surrogate journey alone, only to learn he is to be the father of twins.

GABRIEL, 18 & DANIELLE, 18 “*First Love*”

High-school seniors DANIELLE and GABRIEL are in their first serious relationship. Originally from Brazil, GABRIEL moved to Soho two and a half years ago and lives with his family. Falling in love with DANIELLE and New York City made the transition easier for him, but now approaching graduation, they face the painful separation that college may bring.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“Love Etc.” began through a casual conversation I had with Jonathan Tisch. He had been inspired by the day he and his fiancée stood in line at the City Hall Wedding Bureau waiting to get their marriage license. The scene was an unbelievable snapshot of the globe in one glance: Sikh cab drivers, Wall Street brokers, Hasidic Jewish men, women in traditional Indian garb, couples speaking Russian or Spanish or English, all waiting in line for services that revolved around the business of Love and Marriage. His enthusiastic observation inspired the following questions from me:

- Is love’s journey the same across different socio-economic conditions, cultures, and age groups?
- What does real love look like? Not Hollywood love, not reality TV show love, not romance novel love, but love in ordinary everyday life?

These questions lead to the journey that LOVE, ETC. has become. Little did I know what it had in store for me - the characters it would bring, and the lessons they would share. While I wanted to create a film that I could envision clearly in my mind, I learned that love couldn’t be scripted, managed or controlled. Creating any kind of a shooting schedule was a frustrating crap shoot, and my crew and producers learned to ride the ebb and flow of each of our characters, scrambling at the last minute to capture any moment that seemed relevant to our theme. I learned to communicate with my subjects in the fashion that was comfortable for them: I was updated through texts about Ethan’s love life, ended up capturing Scott’s first date coincidentally at the end of a pick-up shoot, and almost lost the Gabi and Danielle story due to Gossip Girl paranoia. Several promising subjects were intimidated by the exposure, or had stories that didn’t ultimately fit into what evolved into the larger context of universal stages. Nevertheless, they were generous enough to begin the journey with us, having total faith in the outcome, and for this I remain humbly grateful to them for the access.

I longed to explore the human condition of love authentically through real subjects, and expose the humor and depth of emotion in every story. At the same time, I wanted to create a world and an experience that was visually compelling and entertaining. It is my hope that each person in the audience recognizes some part of themselves in at least one, if not more of the characters in our film, and that their own journey of love – and the “etc” of love - will somehow be enlightened by what our subjects have so courageously shared with our cameras.

Finally, I have to acknowledge the one subject who made this experience a constant and steady source of inspiration, awe and redemption: New York City.

Jill Andresevic, August 2010

CREW

Director/Producer	Jill Andresevic
Producers	Jeffrey Stewart Chiemi Karasawa
Executive Producer	Jonathan Tisch
Editor	Alex Israel Mary Manhardt
Director of Photography	Luke Geissbuhler
Original Music	Rob Simonsen
Music Supervisor	John Bissell
Associate Producer	Sarah Scott-Farber
Production Sound Mixer	Tammy L. Douglas
Production Coordinator	Jaclyn Paris Kate McCormick
Still Photography	Rod Lamborn Shane Sigler
Titles & Graphics	Nice Shoes
Creative Director	Brian Bowman
Animator & Illustrator	Eve Weinberg
Senior Compositor	Kristin Koch
Animator	Andy Mai
Compositor	Kit Lam
Designer	Goran Kristic
CG Artist	Jim Collins
Flame Artist	Vin Roma
Executive Producer	Maribeth Phillips
Producer	Katie Boote
Additional Graphic Design	Eve Weinberg
Post-Production Services	Postworks, NY
Conforming HD Editor	Robert Judge
Digital Colorist	Scot Olive
On-Line Editor	George Bunce
Supervising Sound Editor & Re-Recording Mixer	Benny Mouthon, C.A.S.
Sound Editor	Andrey Netboy
Music Coordinator	Sarah Ferguson
Music Editor	Ben Pedersen
Assistant Music Editor	Lindsay Marcus
Score Produced by	Rob Simonsen

CREW BIOS

Director / Producer Jill Andresevic: *LOVE ETC.* is Ms. Andresevic's feature directorial debut. She began her career thirteen years ago at Weiden & Kennedy in Portland, producing award-winning campaigns for Nike. Between 2006 and 2008, Andresevic created over 40 short documentaries for Cadillac starring William H. Macy, Jay Leno, and others. In 2002, *Boards Magazine* named her one of the top freelance agency producers in the US, her work has also been honored by the *Wall Street Journal* and *Time Magazine*.

Producer / Jeffrey Stewart: Jeffrey Stewart is Co-Founder, Partner, and Managing Director of Walnut Hill Media LLC, a privately held company that makes investments in a variety of media opportunities and develops original content. Mr. Stewart has been the chief architect for various media and three best-selling literary projects. Walnut Hill Media is partners in Tribeca Enterprises, the parent company of the Tribeca Film Festival and Tribeca Film. He is the executive producer of the Emmy-nominated television show *Beyond the Boardroom* with Jonathan Tisch. Currently, Walnut Hill Media is co-producing the feature-length documentary, *NEW YORK SAYS THANK YOU*, scheduled to be released in 2011. Mr. Stewart serves on the Board of Plum TV and is a member of the Office of the President of Tribeca Enterprises.

Producer / Chiemi Karasawa: Ms. Karasawa founded Isotope Films (www.isotopefilms.com) in 2005 to make independent films based on true stories. Her career includes over 15 years working in film, television and commercial production with such notable directors as Spike Jonze, Jim Jarmusch, Larry Clark, Spike Lee, Stephen Frears, and Martin Scorsese. She produced *BILLY THE KID* in 2007 (Winner SXSW, LAFF, Edinburgh and Melbourne Film Festivals), Co-Produced Emmy Award Winning / Oscar Nominated film, *THE BETRAYAL* in 2008, and Spike Jonze and Lance Bangs' *TELL THEM ANYTHING YOU WANT; A PORTRAIT OF MAURICE SENDAK*, in 2009 (HBO) and Lance Bangs' *THE LAZARUS EFFECT* for HBO in 2010. Karasawa was chosen for the Spirit Awards Nominating Jury for Documentary in 2009 and has guest lectured at NYU and SVA.

Executive Producer / Jonathan Tisch: In 2008, Jonathan Tisch co-founded Walnut Hill Media LLC, a privately held company that makes investments in a variety of media opportunities and develops original content. Mr. Tisch is the Co-Chairman of the Board and member of the Office of the President for Loews Corporation, one of the largest diversified financial holding companies in the U.S. and is also Chairman and CEO of its subsidiary, Loews Hotels. Mr. Tisch is the host of the Emmy-nominated television show *Beyond the Boardroom* with Jonathan Tisch and the author of three best-selling books. He began his career as a cinematographer and producer for WBZ-TV in Boston where he was nominated for his first Emmy.

Director Of Photography / Luke Geissbuhler: Luke Geissbühler has been photographing documentaries, television, and feature films for over 20 years. His documentary work includes the graphic design film *HELVETICA* as well as Phillip Seymour Hoffman's, *THE PARTY'S OVER*, *MAIL ORDER WIFE*, *ACTS OF WORSHIP* and *RIGHTEOUS KILL*. PBS, Discovery, The History Channel, Bravo, HBO and The Muppets have been some of his wonderful television clients over the years. Luke is currently in New York filming Kathryn Bigelow's HBO pilot *THE MIRACULOUS YEAR*.

Editor / Alex Israel: *LOVE ETC.* is Mr. Israel's first feature film. He began his editing career in 2004 working on commercials at Spotwelders Editorial, assisting Editors Eric Zumbrennen ("Being John Malkovich", "Where The Wild Things Are"), Robert Duffy and Scott Chestnut ("Rounders"). In 2006 Mr. Israel edited, *WE ARE FAMILY*, a documentary produced by Universal, featuring Sister Sledge, Chris Brown, Patti LaBelle, BeBe Winans, Brian McKnight and other celebrities to raise money for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. His collaboration with Ms. Andresevic began in 2006, when the two created over fifty short documentaries for Cadillac. Mr. Israel's commercial work has been featured in Advertising Age Magazine, Boards Magazine and The Wall Street Journal and has been awarded the Golden Effie and The Cannes Silver Lion. He is a graduate of The School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Editor / Mary Manhardt: Ms. Manhardt is an Emmy Award winning documentary film editor based in New York, specializing in verite films. Her work has aired on HBO, PBS, ABC and MTV, and been honored in film festivals worldwide, including: Sundance, IDFA, Tribeca, Hot Docs and SXSW. Her credits include: *THE FARM*, *GIRLHOOD*, *THE EXECUTION OF WANDA JEAN*, *AMERICAN TEEN*, *MYSTIC BALL*, *A SON'S SACRIFICE*, *RACING DREAMS*, *BRONX PRINCESS*, *CAMP VICTORY*, and *AFGHANISTAN*.

Composer / Rob Simonsen: Simonsen began his career in film with the lush, orchestral score for the independent feature *WESTENDER* in 2003. Soon after, he met and befriended acclaimed film composer Mychael Danna. Simonsen began assisting, orchestrating, composing, and producing music with Danna on nearly 20 feature films and two television series in six years, and served as Co-Composer on Marc Webb's *(500) DAYS OF SUMMER* and Joss Whedon's *DOLLHOUSE*. Most recently, Simonsen has scored *ALL GOOD THINGS*, directed by Andrew Jarecki (Capturing The Friedmans) and CBS drama *BLUE BLOODS*, starring Tom Selleck, Donnie Wahlberg and Bridget Moynahan.

Walnut Hill Media: Jonathan Tisch and Jeffrey Stewart formed Walnut Hill Media in 2008 to create a company investing in a variety of media opportunities, providing guidance related to its investments, and building sustainable business relationships that further the success of all involved. Today Walnut Hill Media recognizes that its mission can only be fulfilled when an investment is made not only in a business idea, but in people.