

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey

Once upon a time not so long ago
the Bld St. Laurent was like a nineteen
fifties film set where drinks were drunk
and friendships made...

- Documentary -
Press Kit



Design: Ying Wang stimuluscommunications@sympatico.ca

Jeanne Pope www.tellastoryfilms.com

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey - Documentary

Synopsis

This is an intimate artist profile and first-person ode. It explores the life and work of Montreal's late great sculptor and print-maker Stanley Lewis for his contribution to Canada's rich art heritage and also portrays his love for his beloved Boulevard St. Laurent, affectionately known as the Main.

This cinéma-vérité documentary chronicles the last years of Stanley's eccentric life as he struggles with his health and creative legacy. His nostalgic boulevard, his cluttered dusty studio and his vagabond friends all serve as a backdrop for the perseverance of his artistic vision and the cultural landmarks fading around him...

This is my personal journal and homage to my friend Stanley as well as an archival document.

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey - Production Notes



This is a local Montreal project with all collaborators living and working in the city.

Cinema Vérité: This work was created over many years where initially Stan and I only had a cheap consumer camera. The essence and soul of the street and Stan's world is about the instant, the rough and the ready; and our camera gave us a true gritty and dusty visual texture. It also allowed me to have intimate access, not only to Stanley and his studio world, but the many of the street people, his friends.

The editing reflects the moment; the essential elements of here and now.

Animation: We decided to animate Stanley's past by exploring a technique we had already used in *Up & Down the City Road*, which is the simplest of all approaches - stop-motion. We created a card-board cutout parody consisting of a photo of Stanley from 2005 which marched through his past whilst other characters were taken from very old National Geographic.

Sounds: The sounds are mostly diegetic, some have been brought in from a sound bank, but we wanted to keep the hum drum of the Boulevard and Stan's studio intact as much as possible.

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey - Bio



Jeanne Pope
Producer & Director

Jeanne Pope was born in London, UK and adopted into a Lithuanian-French family who instilled the love of travel, diversity and adventure in her soul. Leaving England at 16 to travel the ocean's wide she published various short stories inspired by these world travels, arriving in Montreal in 2000 with her daughter, Alyosha. She trained at the Mel Hoppeinheim School of Cinema creating a complete body of award winning work on the Boulevard St. Laurent and Stanley Lewis. **Dust. A Sculptor's Journey** is the culmination of her St. Laurent series.

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey. 52 mins: Director. HotDocs special selection. 2011
Fiction : *Born in Iran*: (director/editor/sound) 17 mins. HD. (Director) 2011.
Documentary. *ATSA* : (Production Team.) Magnus Isacson & Simon Bujold. 2009.
***Up & Down the City Road* :** (director/ animator/editor) 9 mins. Animation. 2008.
***Berson Boys* :** (co-director with Zoe Mapp/writer/editor) 20 mins. Super 16. 2007.
***Musee des Beaux Arts* -** Tribute to Stanley Lewis. Director/editor, 18 minutes, video, 2006.
***Birth of the Smoked Meat* :** (co-director with Zoe Mapp/writer/editor) 19 mins. b&w 16mm/35mm. 2006. (**Best direction – Montreal Film Festival – Cannes Film Festival. 2007 - Susan Schouten award for best documentary -**
***Where's Stanley* :** (director/writer/editor) 7 mins. 16mm color & b / w. 2005. (**special Metion LA shorts. De Seve Award.** (Carte Blanche with Pascale Montpetit : ARTV. 2006.)
5 minute Dance (director) 5 mins. 16mm. Experimental. 2004. (Carte Blanche with Pascale Montpetit : ARTV 2006).
Fiction : *Katryn's Place*: (writer) 86 minutes. 35mm. 2000. Theatrical release. Onion Film Productions.
***Angelica*:** (writer) 54 minutes. 16mm Couleur 1995. (**MWFF**)

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey - Bio



Mariano Franco

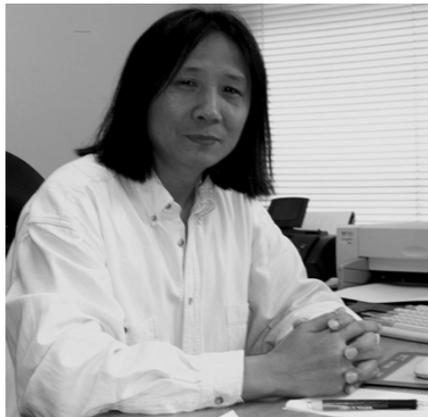
Co-producer, editor and writer

Originally from Mexico, Mariano Franco has lived in Montreal since 1996 obtaining his BA in film production from the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema, Concordia University. He won the «Prix Michel Trudel » for the film ***El Sueño***, which also won the Best Short Film at Festivalissimo in 2002.

He co-directed the documentary ***Shut Up Jealous*** (2006), with Marie Belzil. ***Interludes*** (2007) and ***Desolacion*** (2009) In 2009 in collaboration with Marie Belzil, he co-shot and edited the documentary ***The Image Mill***, produced by Productions of the 8th art and the National Film Board of Canada, a movie about the creative process that led to the architectural projection of Image Mill by Robert Lepage / ExMachina.

He works in different aspects in film from cinematography, sound and editing, yet it is as editor that Mariano Franco has accumulated an impressive track record. ***Territories*** by Mary Ellen Davis (2006) ***Land of Destiny***. Brett Story (2009) and Evan Beloff's recent film ***Underdog Plaza***. ***Dust. A Sculptor's Journey***, is his latest film.

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey - Bio



Ying Wang
Assistant director

Ying Wang is a Chinese-Canadian multimedia artist and documentary photographer. Ying has a Master degree in Buddhist Art History & Art Technology from The National University of Kobe, Japan, 1993. Later, he studied multimedia design at the *International Academy of Design Mel.*

He adapted the traditional oriental Art form “*Huajuan*” (in Chinese) or “*Emakimono*” (in Japanese) to his own work, which is a multi-perspective continuous story scene. By using digital technology he created his own unique style of photographic image he calls “the printed movie”, which captures a mile long street scene in one image. This technique was used as a backdrop for *Up & Down The City Rd* and for *Dust. A Sculptor's Journey*

Ying works as a collaborator in co-production for film between China and Canada. He also works with a nonprofit corporation who will launch the first Chinese film exhibition in Montreal, August, 2011.

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey - documentary (Assistant director, camera, research), 50 mins. 2011. ***Born in Iran-*** Fiction : (Co-editor/sound/ gaffer) 17 mins. 2011. ***Songzhung - the dream land of Artists*** - documentary, Director, camera, research, editor (In progress) 2011. ***La Chine, Lachine et Pate Chinois*** - documentary (Director, camera, research, editor), (In progress). ***Documentaire d'une memorie*** - art documentary, Albi. France (Director, camera, research, editor),. 50 mins, 2010 (post-production). ***Up & Down the City Road*** - animation, 9 mins, Collaborated with Jeanne Pope, 2008. ***Le Patin Libre*** - Alexandre Hamel show and animation on ice (Camera). ***The Coalition Justice for Adil Charkaoui*** (Camera), 2007. ***Dick Whittington*** (Centaur Theatre Company) Camera, Montage, 2007. ***Ten Stars*** - Corp-documentary (Concept Creator, Director, Camera)

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey - Production Credits



Produced by *Jeanne Pope. Evan Beloff. Mariano Franco*

Director: *Jeanne Pope*

Writers: *Mariano Franco & Jeanne Pope*

Editor: *Mariano Franco*

Production Assistants: *Ying Wang & Jeanne Pope*

Camera: *Glauco Bermudez. Jeanne Pope. Ying Wang.*

Assistant Directors – Interviews: *Ying Wang and Benedicte Ronfard*

Pre-production Assistant Editors: *Zoe Mapp & Farzin Farzeneh*

Animation Sequence: *Jeanne Pope & Ying Wang*

Sound Design & Mix: *Unai Miquelajáuregui*

Color correction: *Mariano Franco*

Music: *Fernando Pizon. Doriane Fabreg. Marianne Lance. Lousie Campbell*

Narration: *Jeanne Pope*

Subtitling: *Jeanne Pope*

Archival Footage

Ein Hod: 1965 © Jessica & William Miller.

Where's Stanley: Jeanne Pope © 2005. DP: Glauco Bermudez

Birth of the Smoked Meat: Jeanne Pope & Zoe Mapp © 2006. DP: Glauco Bermudez

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey - Production Credits Continued...

Archival Research : *Jeanne Pope & Ying Wang*
Stanley Lewis Archive transcript: *Andrew Bailey*

Assistant researcher: *Zoe Mapp*

Translation : *Benedicte Ronfard. Dr. Emmanuella Voltaire.*

Conseil des arts
et des lettres

Québec 

Starring

*Stanley Lewis. Ryan Larkin. Lorna Lousie. Myrissse. Salim. Pehn.
Peter Varvaro. Sylvie Berthiaume. (Berson Boys) Tony. Serge. Harry.
Bahram Joharchi (R.I.P. 1957-2009)*

Archival Credits

*STM photo archive – 'The Main. © / Stanley Lewis family archives
Jewish Library - Shanon Hodge / Jewish Congress - Jancie Rosen.
Quebec national archives / Montreal Museum of Fine Art
McGill Rare Book Department / Allan Raymond Collection ©
Alvaro Pacheco postcard collection©*

Funders

CALQ. ONF . Fred Kline Gallery

Special thanks

*Berson Monuments.
Peter & Dianne Varvaro of the MAIN DELI STEAK HOUSE
Alyssa Savage-Lewis. Stanely Lewis Family*



Dust. A Sculptor's Journey - Review Continued...

THIS WEEK'S JEWISH TRIBUNE
Hot Docs has Jewish hot docs
Written by Barbara Shainbaum
Tuesday, 03 May 2011



TORONTO – Varied Jewish content and themes mark Hot Docs 2011 throughout downtown Toronto, April 28 to May 8.

French-Canadian filmmaker Jeanne Pope profiles Montreal sculptor Stanley Lewis, in *Dust: A Sculptor's Journey*. In this thought-provoking doc, we see the elderly Lewis in his cluttered, dusty studio over a tombstone business on Montreal's boulevard St Laurent. Lewis, a child of Jewish immigrants and a friend of animator genius Ryan Larkin, practised his sculpting often against the grain and fashions of the times. He did it on his terms, buffered by occasional favour, but was dismissed at key moments in history when he desired fame. It's a portrait of the artist as a curmudgeonly eccentric.

Dust. A Sculptor's Journey - Review Continued...

Review: Dust: A Sculptor's Journey – Hot Docs 2011 By Carmen Albano · May 1, 2011

A Sculptor's Journey is an intimate portrayal of Canadian artist Stanley Lewis. A prolific stone sculptor whose history has taken him around the world, learning from masters of the craft. Louis, now resides in his dusty, cramped and discombobulated studio in Montreal's "The Main", an area of boulevard Saint Laurent. When he is not working above a tombstone-engraving workshop, Stanley cavorts around the neighbourhood looking more like a homeless man than an artist. His loyal friend Ryan Larkin, the famous animator, is ever present, clinging to his friend and mentor like a lovesick puppy. Stanley's ill health both mentally and physically begs the question, will Stanley's art ever again see the light of day or will it, and Stanley himself, end up returning to the dust?

The film, directed by Jeanne Pope has the feel of a home video and less like the polished and high budget documentaries we have come to know recently. Her fascination with Lewis gleams through the grainy monochromatic imagery. She cares deeply about this man, not because of his eccentricities, which probably drew her to him in the first place, but because of his genius. A brilliance that sits covered in dust and filth, like so many of his beautiful sculptures, covered in his dismal studio. Like many eccentric artists Lewis is a resident in his own microcosm. His only real passion outside of his chiselled work is the corned beef brisket across the street. A passion he felt he needed to showcase in a documentary of its own. A dusty old oddball surrounded by strange characters. His closest friend is the famous Ryan Larkin, the animator and subject of his own film *Ryan*, which won the academy award in 2005 for best-animated short film. Larkin's love for his friend is overwhelming and Louis' gentle acceptance of that love adds to his charm.