

The Films of Albert Maysles

Albert Maysles has a gift which he has been sharing with the world for decades. He loves people and through his documentaries we can catch a glimpse of the world through his eyes.

At the age of 28, Albert produced his first documentary. With a 16mm Keystone movie camera in hand he went to Russia to film the condition of patients at the Pavlov Mental Hospital. He captured the reality of these ordinary Soviet people in such a compelling way that it was broadcast and screened for doctors around the world. The film was titled "Psychiatry in Russia."

At the age of 30, Albert and his younger brother David filmed "Youth in Poland," a documentary which captured the student protests of Warsaw during the 1956 Revolution. The two brothers became known as "The Maysles Brothers" and would work together until David's unexpected death in 1987.

In the 1960's Albert joined a group of documentary filmmakers which became the pioneers of what we now call "cinema verite." The idea behind this new way of filming was to confront the audience with reality.

Albert's film "Primary" showed the viewer behind the scene, non-scripted daily routines of the then East Coast Senator John F. Kennedy and Wisconsin Senator Hubert H. Humphrey. The new hand held camera allowed Albert a freedom to film which he had not experienced before.

From the Kennedy's to the Rolling Stones "Gimme Shelter, Albert changed forever the



way we see films as well as the way we see each other. The film captured the violence of the 60's and up to this day has become a cult classic. Albert took private moments and made them public. The world would never be the same and as Any Warhol stated, eventually each person would have their "15 minutes of fame."

Today Albert is still capturing moments of truth on film. Some of his latest projects are "The Gates"-A Project for Central Park, NYC by Christo. It is the collaboration of Antonio Ferrara and Albert Maysles. "In Transit" - Strangers, fellow passengers on a train, who are you? what did you leave behind? When you get off, what lies before you? An Albert Maysles production and "Hand - Held and From the Heart", a self-portrait of Albert Maysles in his own words and images celebrating his 50th anniversary in filmmaking. A film by Nell Cox and Albert Maysles.



"As a documentarian I happily place my fate and faith in reality. It is my caretaker, the provider of subjects, themes, experiences - all endowed with the power of truth and the romance of discovery. And the closer I adhere to reality the more honest and authentic my tales. After all, knowledge of the real world is exactly what we need to better understand and therefore possibly to love one another. It is my way of making the world a better place" Albert Maysles **BT**

For more about the works of Albert Maysles please log onto amaysles@maysles-films.com