



ANNIE LLOYD

Annie Lloyd is a vivid and powerful old woman who collects leaves and revels in the wonders of the world. She also happens to be the filmmaker's mother — making this an intimate tale of a mother and daughter celebrating life, love, and creativity in the very jaws of the dying process.

This short film, by the award-winning experimental filmmaker Cecelia Condit, explores issues of aging, mortality, mother-daughter relationships, and late-life love and creativity.

Annie Lloyd is rich with provocative images that can be used to catalyze discussion in both graduate and undergraduate classrooms, and general-audience discussion groups. The discussion guide can lead groups to question our individual and larger cultural attitudes toward death, dying, and aging across the life course.

A film by CECELIA CONDIT *Music by* CHRIS BURNS

2008, 17:20

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATIONSHIPS IN LATER LIFE

Women have a higher life expectancy compared with men. The mother-daughter relationship is one of the longer-standing intergenerational relationships and is considered to be the closest intergenerational one. This relationship is not necessarily the same across the life course.

- Describe ways in which the mother-daughter relationship evolves over the life course. Describe the mother-daughter relationship depicted in *Annie Lloyd*.
- How does this film make you think about your own relationship with your mother, grandmother, step-mother, etc?

Annie Lloyd fell in love in an assisted living facility.

- Is romantic love limited to a specific age range?
- How do we perceive/assume about older adults as lovers? And why?
- If you work with older adults, have you ever discussed romantic love with them? Why or why not?

DEATH AND DYING

In the film, *Annie Lloyd* stated, "death is the most interesting thing that can happen to us in our life."

- What comes to mind when you think about death?
- What did *Annie Lloyd* mean by her quotation above?

LEGACIES

Passing on a legacy from generation to generation is particularly important for older adults.

- In what ways is this film an opportunity for *Annie Lloyd* to pass on — her legacy, her values — to her daughter?
- What message is *Annie Lloyd* sending to her daughter?

Annie Lloyd is a professional film that is full of imagery and expressions of creativity.

- How can older adults and their families use creative expression to document family legacies?

PERCEPTIONS OF AGING

Annie Lloyd collected leaves and viewed them as "designs of God". She stated, in the movie, "most don't notice the leaves; they just walk past them".

- How does this quotation relate to the general perceptions of older adults? To your perceptions?

At the end of the film, *Annie Lloyd* stated, "I am fine. I'm just old, that's all".

- What does she mean by this statement?
- How does this statement challenge general perceptions of aging?

RESOURCES

Barusch, A. S. (2008). *Love stories of later life: A narrative approach to understanding romance*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Lustbader, Wendy. (2001) *What's Worth Knowing*. New York: Tarcher.

Ray, R. (2008). *Endnotes: An intimate look at the end of life*. New York: Columbia University Press.