



MY DAD IS 100 YEARS OLD

a short film by Guy Maddin

a Zeitgeist Films release

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“Five years ago, Guy Maddin stole the [Toronto] festival with his six-minute THE HEART OF THE WORLD; this year, the Winnipeg Wonder did it again with the 16-minute MY DAD IS 100 YEARS OLD: Isabella Rossellini’s tenderly eccentric and shrewdly childlike tribute to the founding figure of Italian neorealism.”

–J. Hoberman, THE VILLAGE VOICE

Isabella Rossellini
on MY DAD IS 100 YEARS OLD

“*My Dad Is 100 Years Old* was made to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of my father’s birth in 1906. I know that during his centennial year there will be occasions to celebrate and remember my father’s work and I will be asked to present his films at screenings and give interviews. I wanted to say more than what I usually can say during those occasions.

“When I met Guy Maddin two years ago for the shooting of *The Saddest Music in the World*, I knew I wanted to borrow his unique images to illustrate the film I wished to do about my father. In Guy’s films there is a ‘cinema nostalgia’: the black-and-white, fading, dilapidated look of his films fills me with sadness - the same sadness I experience trying to hold on to my parents’ memory. Furthermore, Guy and his producer Jody Shapiro made me feel I could make a film, not just as an actress, but as a writer and an inventor. With the support of The Documentary Channel and surrounded by Guy and Jody’s crew and collaborators in Winnipeg, the entire atmosphere infused me with the courage and possibility of trying out my voice both in front and behind the camera: I wrote the script and illustrated some of my ‘fantasies.’ Guy guided me while writing and came up with wonderful ideas including the craziest one: that I was to play all characters. I would have thought that to be too pretentious of me, but Guy explained it was the simplest way to show that this is the way I perceived and remembered Selznick, Fellini, Hitchcock and Chaplin, my Mom and Anna Magnani. Guy felt like an older brother holding my hand and teaching me about filmmaking in a way I have never experienced before. Step by step, with Jody and Guy by my side, my fantasy world was formed: from script, to shooting, to editing, to the final fifteen-minute-long love letter to my Dad.”

—Isabella Rossellini

Guy Maddin
on MY DAD IS 100 YEARS OLD

“What a simple pleasure it is to bring Isabella’s picture to the Festival this year, but what a macabre and delicious thrill it was for me in the months leading up to this moment to collaborate with her on this singular filial reminiscence. In the name of research, I got to grill her about her childhood and all the immortals who occupied it at one time or another; in a series of interviews with her, I keenly mined her for priceless anecdotal gems, and dug even more avidly for the dirt from her rich and strange life—a biography that stretches far back to times which even predate her scandalous birth, into the glorious film histories of two continents, and which she laid before me, her trusted director, to use as I wished. And purely for the sake of my own nosiness, I made personal and titillating researches—completely irrelevant for this project—on her most intimate friendships in the fashion and movie industries; I made a phrenological study of her headbone; and during one extended stay at her home she let me sleep in her mother Ingrid’s deathbed. As a storyteller she is sometimes an awestruck little girl, sometimes a regal serenity, sometimes a bawdy beauty with a hair-trigger laugh and a taste for Grand Guignol. She’s always frank and practical, vulnerable and perceptive, refreshingly morbid and jaw-droppingly surprising. I felt my only job as director was to get this complicated recipe that is Isabella onto the screen without forgetting any essential ingredient, freeing her to tell you her tribute in her own wonderful way.”

—Guy Maddin

MY DAD IS 100 YEARS OLD

Starring
ISABELLA ROSSELLINI

Directed by
GUY MADDIN

Written by
ISABELLA ROSSELLINI

Cinematography by
LEN PETERSON

Edited by
JOHN GURDEBEKE

Sound by
RUSS DYCK, DAVID ROSE, DAVID MCCALLUM,
JANE TATTERSALL, RONAYNE HIGGINSON, LOU SOLOAKOFSKI

Production designer
REJEAN LABRIE
Music by CHRISTOPHER DEDRICK
Produced by JODY SHAPIRO

Executive producers
NIV FICHMAN, MICHAEL BURNS, PHYLLIS LAING
SPANKY PRODUCTIONS INC. / THE DOCUMENTARY CHANNEL

2005 • Canada • 16 mins • B&W • In English • 35mm • Aspect ratio: 1:33:1

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