



JANUS FILMS *presents*

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FILM
CONSTELLATION

DAVID LYNCH THE ART LIFE

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David Lynch: The Art Life looks at Lynch's art, music, and early films, shining a light into the dark corners of his unique world and giving audiences a better understanding of the man and the artist. As he says, "I think every time you do something, like a painting or whatever, you go with ideas, and sometimes the past can conjure those ideas and color them. Even if they're new ideas, the past colors them." We're invited in and given private views from Lynch's compound and painting studio in the hills high above Hollywood, as he tells personal stories that unfold like scenes from his films. Strange characters come into focus only to fade again into the past, all leaving an indelible mark.

United States/Denmark • 2016 • 93 minutes • Color • 1.85:1 aspect ratio • Screening format: DCP

CAST AND CREW

A film by Jon Nguyen, Rick Barnes,
Olivia Neergaard-Holm
Producers Jon Nguyen, Jason S.,
Sabrina Sutherland
Coproducer Marina Girard-Muttelet
Edited by Olivia Neergaard-Holm
Director of photography Jason S.
Music composer Jonatan Bengta
Sound design Philip Nicolai Flindt
Post supervisor Anders V. Christensen
Script consultant Pilar Alessandra

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Back in 2006, David Lynch was reluctant to sit down for interviews during the making of *Lynch (One)*, but we felt he was nearing a point where he would become more inclined to reflect back on his life. The birth of his youngest daughter in 2012 was a turning point for us. Over the next three years, we recorded over twenty audio conversations with Lynch at his home.

David Lynch the storyteller took us on a journey through his early years, recalling the events and people that have had a lasting effect on him. We learn about the journey that the young artist took and about the internal struggles that still shape him to this day. Hearing about Lynch's life, we discover how his art and films have become colored by it, reflecting ideas and moods that have originated from his personal experiences.

DAVID LYNCH ON LIVING THE ART LIFE

"I don't know when I started using the term 'the art life,' but one of the things Bushnell Keeler did, besides just living life as a painter, was he gave me Robert Henri's book *The Art Spirit*. I can't remember much about it now, but 'the art spirit' became 'the art life,' and I had this idea that you drink coffee, you smoke cigarettes, and you paint. And that's it. Maybe girls come into it a little bit. But basically it's the incredible happiness of working and living that life."

"I was painting a painting that was mostly black, but it had some green plants and leaves coming out of the black. And I was sitting back (probably taking a smoke) and looking at it, and I heard a wind, and the green started moving. And I thought: 'Oh—a moving painting but with sound.' And that idea stuck in my head."

"In the basement I had all these experiments going. I had fruit in various stages of decay and birds and mice in plastic bags and a bunch of stuff I had collected. I wanted to share this with my father, so I took him down to the basement. On the way back to the train station, he turned and told me, 'Dave, you should never have children.' I understand why he said that, but he mistook my experiments for some kind of diabolical man who needs serious help mentally and emotionally. The ironic part about this is unbeknownst to me and also to my father: Peggy, my girlfriend at the time, was pregnant."

"*Eraserhead* was one of my greatest, happiest moments in cinema. What I loved about it was the world and having it be my own little place."

BIOGRAPHIES

Jon Nguyen

Nguyen has collaborated on the trilogy *Lynch (One)* (2007), *Lynch 2* (2007), and *David Lynch: The Art Life* (2016). He also coproduced *David Lynch Presents "Interview Project Germany"* (2011).

Olivia Neergaard-Holm

Neergaard-Holm graduated from the National Film School of Denmark in 2013. She has worked as a freelance editor on various Danish and international feature films, documentaries, music videos, and commercial projects. She debuted as a screenwriter on the award-winning feature film *Victoria* (2015).