

NEW VIDEO RELEASE

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

Canadian Learning Company™

THE PERSONALS: Improvisations on Romance in the Golden Years

See love and loneliness, passion and pathos in this extraordinary program about seniors learning to "improvise" – both on and off the stage.

On stage, the seniors of a drama group perform their roles with energy and laughter. Off stage, their lives are often lived alone, and in silence. Drawn from the comedy and drama of their own lives, the play is structured around the seniors' quest for dates through the personal ads. As the rehearsals progress, the filmmaker's camera follows the cast members into their homes, exploring both the joys and sorrows of growing old.

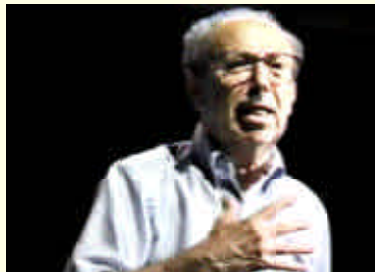
With the never-ending longing for love, sex and relationships as its central theme, this video draws a surprisingly humorous, intimate portrait of a segment of our society whose inner lives are not often explored.



"I'm very unhappy. I'm coming near to the end of my life and my life is a shambles ... a shambles. I have no children, no wife, and no relatives. I don't know what to do with the rest of my life. I'm afraid of dying and I don't know what to live for. It seems that life should have a greater meaning than it actually has. What that greater meaning is, however, I haven't got a clue."

— Harold Gordon, 82

1999
Academy
Award
for short
documentary



"Do you know how difficult it is for a man my age, with the hormones functioning beautifully, to find someone?"

— Fred Schechter, 77



"These are my golden years, they're really golden. But people that grow up nasty and don't have friends and think they're better than you — they don't have golden years."

— Rose Straub, 77



"I see people walking in the street, especially older people, I see the way they look at each other, I see they hold hands, I see the touching. It's what I miss. What I would really like is not the sex act itself. I just want to be held."

— Selma Wernick, 73

Adult, 35 minutes
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