

Elizabeth Titus

Filmmakers Statement & Bio

Just three weeks after my husband's sudden death someone asked me if I was 'over it' yet. So despite the haze and numbness of early grief I knew that this journey would be challenged by the outdated concepts of mourning and the surface expectations of others. But the patterns inherent in waves and cycles of grief gave comfort by marking a pathway to a different, new life after loss. Loss, grief, renewal...I clung to these words even when they meant nothing to me. I know them now, down to the bone. I grew up in Los Angeles, one of seven children screaming around a pink Spanish house on Sunset Boulevard. A focus on the Arts evolved towards an escape to Europe with tuition money meant for my junior year of College. I returned after studying sculpture at Art school in England and receiving a BA in Arts. A multi-media Arts career continues to this day in film, design, an Art and Interiors Gallery, and fine art paintings that continue to be collected worldwide. November 11th, my husband Stewart left for work and never came home. He had a fatal heart attack and despite the best efforts of Compadres, EMT, Fire Department, and my panic-laced prayers, he died where he stood. Father, husband, surfer, musician, Hawaiian native...you've left a vast hole in our lives my friend. Our home became a house overnight. Our kids made their way. I sold my Gallery and took up residence in *Dantes th Ring of Hell**. The struggle to cope with an untimely demise in our death-denying society almost slayed me. The commonalities I experienced with other Young Widows and the almost complete lack of cultural support past initial funeral rights, casserole bringing sessions, and the predominant inability of those around us to acknowledge untimely death sparked this Documentary. Back now in Los Angeles among family and friends, the end of this three year filmic journey marks the beginning of my new life.

**wrath and sullenness*

s y n o p s i s

YOUNG WIDOW, Naked in the Memorial Playground

is a contemporary look at love and untimely loss in death-phobic Western society. Interviews with Young Widows and Widowers, clips, commentaries and plenty of dark humor reveal the challenges and transitions through loss, grief and renewal. Three years in the making, this Documentary trades Widow's weeds for tattoos, throws out black veils, and invites you to consider death and survival in the vernacular of our times. *running time: 61 minutes*

documentary by Elizabeth Titus

www.youngwidowmovie.com **Contact:** youngwidowmovie@hotmail.com

Elizabeth Titus

Director/Producer/Camera

(see separate bio)

Chris Blakely

Editor

Chris Blakely graduated with honors from Stanford University with a degree in Film and Broadcasting Communications. He earned an advanced degree from USC and immediately began producing films. He acquired the exclusive rights to make a documentary on the award winning band called X. After years of

effort, the result was the acclaimed feature entitled X, THE UNHEARD MUSIC. The film played out of competition at the Sundance Festival, and was ultimately distributed theatrically in over 150 cities. Since then, Chris has worked on hundreds of projects with directors including George Lucas, James Cameron, Tony Bill, Frank Marshall, Michael Apted, Jodie Foster, F. Gary Gray, Joe Johnson, Vincent Gallo, Tony Kaye and Luis Mandoki. In 2007 X, THE UNHEARD MUSIC was selected by the Sundance Institute to become part of the "Sundance Collection." The film played at Sundance and the print was donated to the UCLA Film Archives. Chris currently serves as President of Main Street Media Inc. in Santa Monica, California. There he has co-written, produced and directed five documentary shorts, primarily focusing on environmental issues and new technology. Chris worked with Glenn Hening to establish the Surfrider Foundation and served as founding Director, Secretary and Chairman of the Board.

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The Filmmakers:

Caitlin Winn

Editor/Camera

Caitlin Winn's credits include SHILOH FALLS, DEAD AIR, PENTHOUSE, DONNA ON DEMAND, THE DOUBLE BORN and MY SUICIDE

Chris Hole

Editor/Sound/Camera

Chris Hole's credits include THE DOUBLE BORN, PUNKS NOT DEAD, and MY SUICIDE

Tawd b. Dorenfeld

Animation sequences

Tawd b. Dorenfeld's credits include THE ANNA CABRINI CHRONICLES and MR. PRESIDENT

Natalie Hole

Camera

WIDOWS

Jana Bonderman

Carol Madonna

Sarah Kynoch

Uigei Sikoo

Greg Mitchell

Leslie Fager

Peggy Allison

Teal Thawley

Ed Murphy

MOONLIT INTERVIEWS

Peggy

Ray

Patty

Tom

Carol

