

"A BEAUTIFUL MEDITATION ON MORTALITY"  
—THE FILM STAGE

# I Like it Here

a film by Ralph Arlyck

From the Director of  
FOLLOWING SEAN



# I LIKE IT HERE

2022, 88 min.

Directed by Ralph Arlyck

We talk or laugh about aging; its irritations and relentless progression, but we rarely confront the reality of dying or being left alone. Nor do we consider the lightness that can come when the success race seems not so crucial. I LIKE IT HERE is about all those things, and finally, about the simple pleasures of being alive. An American documentarian for more than 50 years, Ralph Arlyck has created an eloquent cinematic meditation on the reality and surprising beauties of moving through life. Arlyck conveys how it feels to experience the winding down of one's days as he visits friends from past and present, most of them rather lively, plus children and grandchildren. He punctuates those scenes with reflections on the challenges of feeling your joints and thoughts stiffen, as the camera confronts – both seriously and humorously -- the obstacles that loom up in front of anyone who is on the last lap. Threaded through with wistfulness rather than sadness or regret, Arlyck reckons with the reality we all must eventually face. The title's declaration has a double meaning. The "here" that the filmmaker likes is both his immediate rural surroundings (the fields, water and neighbors he sees out his window) – and life itself.



# Ralph Arlyck

## BIO

Ralph Arlyck has produced and directed more than a dozen prize-winning, independent films, which have appeared on PBS, the BBC, Arte, screened at the White House, and have played festivals worldwide, including Sundance, New York, London, Rotterdam. His documentary feature, *FOLLOWING SEAN*, played theatrically across the United States and on PBS was nominated for two Emmy awards. Arlyck has also produced *CURRENT EVENTS*, an examination of the ways people do (or do not) respond to the stream of horrific events on the nightly news, and *AN ACQUIRED TASTE*, a wry look at American culture's obsession with success — considered a classic of independent cinema and personal filmmaking, and called by Vincent Canby in *The New York Times*, “a delight...a funny, loving movie.”

Throughout his career, Arlyck has also played a key advocacy role for American independent producers, testifying twice in Congress and once before the Carnegie Commission on the role of independents in public television. He was centrally involved in legislation which first recognized independents as an important force within that system. He is a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship.



# I LIKE IT HERE

for  
LANCE BIRD  
(1941 - 2020)

**Written Filmed and Directed by**  
Ralph Arlyck

**Produced by**  
Ralph Arlyck  
Emmet Dotan  
Steve Leiber

**Executive Producers**  
Malcolm Pullinger  
Gina Fox  
Chris Silva

**Editor**  
Emmet Dotan

**Sound Mixing**  
CJ DeGennaro

**Original Music**  
John K. Stone

**Color Grading**  
Tam Le  
Sodalite

**Music Supervision**  
Jessica Gramuglia

**Additional Camera**  
Gus Aronson  
Devin Pickering

**Archival Research**  
Lewanne Jones  
Lucy Tamarkin

**Additional Editing**  
Gus Aronson  
Leander Fried

**Wise Counsel**

Rocco Campanelli  
Kate Urcioli

**Old Friends - Cast**

Erno Szemes  
Danny Klein  
Linda Chase  
Mel Watkins  
Catherine Murphey  
Harry Roseman  
Steve Leiber  
Lou Ambrico  
Jack Baran  
Terry Antman  
Elisabeth Cardonne

**Also Appearing**

Pat Ambrico  
Louis Asekoff  
Kevin Arlyck  
Matthew Arlyck  
Tom Blackwell  
Charlie Blum  
Leigh Davis  
Petra Epperlin  
Homayoun Kandeloussi  
Samuel Koszer  
Michael Tucker  
Freke Vuijst

**Phantom Friends**

Harriet Fimklestein  
Jennifer Church  
Daniel Freidman  
Louis Lipschutz  
Mikee Gonnella  
Steve Kelban

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Gloria Ross Charitable Fund  
Jewish Film Institute  
Puffin Foundation

**Fiscal Sponsor**

Filmmakers Collaborative

**Archival Sources**

Harvard Film Archive  
JE Allen Archives  
Pond 5  
Yivo Institute

**Festival Consultants**

Jim Browne  
Sean Farnel

**Production Assistance**

Drew Soleiman  
Ginger Port  
Jay Fung  
Masha Zabara  
Tom Davis  
Conor Williams  
Mariana Sanchez  
Yeon Jinlee

**First Responders**

Laurent Becu-Renard  
Jim Browne  
Anne Bruckner  
Elisabeth Cardonne  
Georgia Dent  
Simon Kilmurry  
Helen Lang  
Nina Lynch  
Carole Maso  
Dan Peck  
Marion Power  
Josh Sapan  
Pat Wallace

**Epilogue**

Louis Asekoff  
Poet, Teacher, Friend