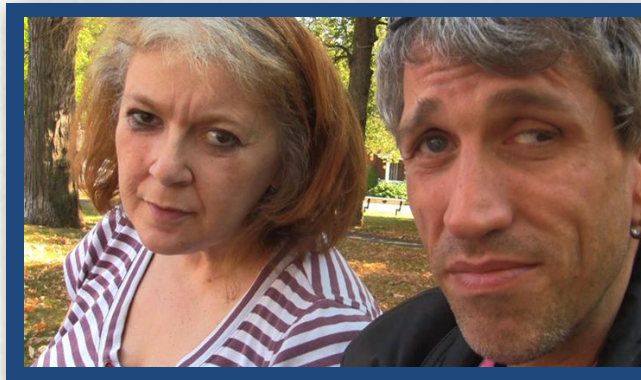




CHEZ LISE

SYNOPSIS

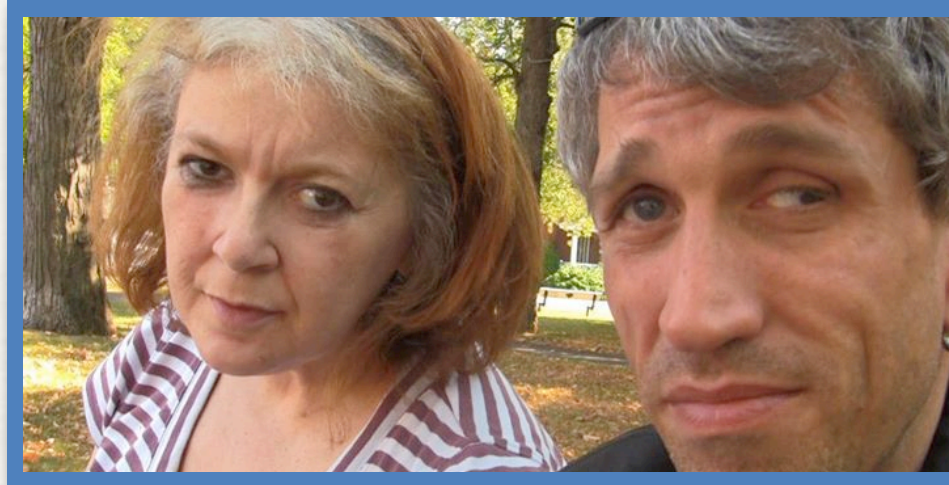
Deanna est bipolaire et diabétique. Gordon est schizophrène et en proie à de sévères psychoses mais ils s'aiment comme des fous, se détestent, se soutiennent, et se détruisent.

Après des années de relation à distance, ils vivent maintenant *Chez Lise*, une maison de chambres à Longueuil en banlieue de Montréal ou, Lise Bissonnette, la propriétaire depuis plus de quarante ans accueille sans aucune aide du gouvernement jusqu'à 90 pensionnaires - la plupart atteints de maladie mentale.

Comment vivre sa vie et son amour le plus « normalement » possible lorsque les circonstances et la réalité sont si complexes ?

Alors le but du film est de les suivre dans leur parcours amoureux ou nous observons avec tendresse et empathie le quotidien de ce couple tumultueux.

Émouvant, sensible et parfois troublant compose la chronique intimiste de cet amour unique, tout en rendant hommage au dévouement et au courage admirables de Lise.



CHEZ LISE : CRITIQUE

VOIR • Dorothée de Collason • 27 février 2014

"Ce documentaire, terriblement touchant, impose l'empathie à ses spectateurs."

THE GAZETTE • Bill Brownstein • October 12, 2014

"Viewers get full and revealing access to a world that is rarely effectively penetrated. In the process, Pope and Galwey are able to demystify many aspects of mental illness and chip away at the stigmas associated with it."

LE COURIER DE SUD • Marie-Philippe Gagnon-Hamelin • Octobre 10, 2014

"Chez Lise est une histoire d'amour (...) qui fait réfléchir à cette question fondamentale comment faire pour rendre les personnes atteintes de maladie mentale heureuses?"

LE POINT SUD • Annie Choquette • 30 Janvier, 2014

"*Chez Lise* (est) une histoire d'amour entremêlée de problèmes sociaux qui n'a laissé personne indifférent. "

THE SCANDAL MAGAZINE • Karl Ussakowski • October 22, 2013

Chez Lise at the Festival du Nouveau Cinema

THE SCANDAL MAGAZINE . October 22, 2013 . Karl Ussakowski .

Directors Jeanne Pope and James Galwey have inspired crowds at the *Festival du Nouveau Cinema* with their documentary *Chez Lise*.

The movie follows the life of two individuals who, despite their mental health issues, find love in a world they do not always have full control over. Deanna, suffering from bipolar disorder and severe diabetes, met Gordon, a schizophrenic, while they were both institutionalized at the Douglas Institute in Montreal. The directors trail through the lovers' journey for a few years while they are tenants at Chez Lise, a rooming house for those with mental health problems, and help to humanize those that society has cast away.

The most poignant aspect of the work is that it gives the audience a window into the intimate life of two people who, despite having everyday problems which differ greatly from our own, face the same trials and tribulations that love brings around for all. After the first twenty minutes of the movie, you find yourself rooting for the couple and feeling personally involved in the movie. This is where Galwey and Pope hit the nail on the head. The essence of a documentary is to get a reaction out of your audience and to make them live through a memorable experience. *Chez Lise* leaves the audience with the impression that they are departing from the theater having acquired new friends.

The movie also features the work of the owner of the rooming house, Lise, and her valiant staff who work incredibly hard and with awing patience to assure that the residents get proper medical care and have a respectable quality of life. Between the lines, it raises the issue of how the government totally abandoned mental health patients after the deinstitutionalization of psychiatric wards in the mid 20th century.

James Galwey and Jeanne Pope are two directors which should be on anyone's radar since they are some of the few directors who are able, in this day and age of abusive CGI, to create a cinematic masterpiece with basic equipment and wow people with the story's human aspect instead of relying on 21st century technological sorcery to impress the crowd.

