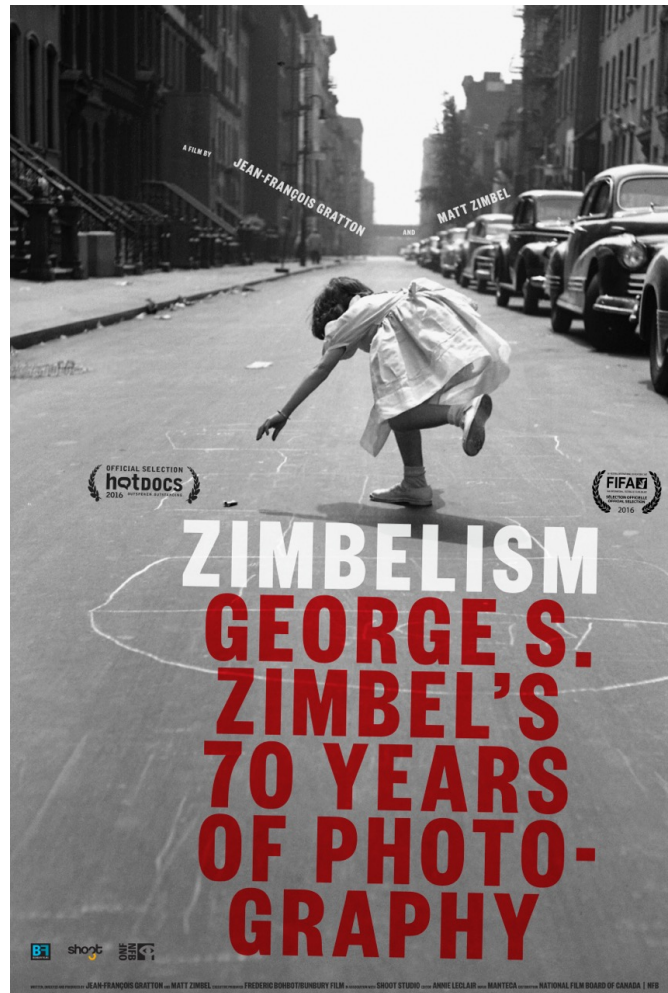




PRESS KIT
ZIMBELISM



A Bunbury Films Release
A Film By Jean François Gratton & Matt Zimbel



CONTACT INFO

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ABOUT THE FILM

TITLE: ZIMBELISM

DESCRIPTION: Remarkable tales from the darkroom on Marilyn Monroe, JFK and others from one of the last working elders of street photography, humanist photographer George S. Zimbel.

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/157736412>

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTED BY: Jean François Gratton & Matt Zimbel
PRODUCERS: Jean François Gratton & Matt Zimbel
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Frederic Bohbot
WRITTEN BY: Jean François Gratton & Matt Zimbel
EDITOR: Annie Leclair
COMPOSER: Manteca & Doug Wilde
DISTRIBUTED BY: Bunbury Films (Canada)
National Film Board of Canada (World)

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

GENRE: Documentary Film
THEME: Art, Society,
LANGUAGE: English
DURATION: 90/52 Minutes
DELIVERY FORMAT: HDCAM, DCP, Pro Res

SYNOPSIS

DESCRIPTION:

Remarkable tales from the darkroom on Marilyn Monroe, JFK and others from one of the last working elders of street photography, humanist photographer George S. Zimbel.

100 WORD SYNOPSIS:

Zimbelism is a feature documentary about the work of humanist photographer George S. Zimbel. At 86 Zimbel is one of the last working elders of street photography. A wonderful storyteller, his tales from the darkroom recall shoots with JFK, Marilyn Monroe, Harry Truman, the real Mad Men of Madison Avenue and a David and Goliath rights battle with his beloved New York Times. It's a photographic voyage through the back half of the 20th century, an honest and touching view of the human experience.

SYNOPSIS:

Zimbelism is a feature documentary about the work of humanist photographer George S. Zimbel. A 70 year photographic voyage through the back half of the 20th century framed with presidents, farmers, prime ministers, railroad engineers, movie stars and children, the film is an honest and touching view of the human experience.

At 86 George Zimbel is one of the last working elders of street photography. A wonderful storyteller, his tales from the darkroom walk the viewer through shoots with JFK, Marilyn Monroe, Harry Truman, the real Mad Men of Madison Avenue and a David and Goliath rights battle with his beloved New York Times.

As Zimbel takes us into his lab to print, he recounts his time at the legendary Photo League in New York City and shares his own humanity in the moving and very often funny story of his family life.

The film is photographic testament to documentary black and white street photography, once an essential record of society, now under siege by the digital camera, copyright infringement and privacy laws.

QUOTES:

“You can take a photograph at 1/100 of a second“, Zimbel says, “but it takes longer to read it. Reading a photograph is like taking a trip, you see things that kindle all kinds of memories, good and bad. Your life is the reference”.

“Zimbel sees the street as theatre“, says the esteemed New York photographic critic Vicki Goldberg. “The sets are designed by the camera’s frame, untrained actors are in starring roles and the city is the exquisitely formal backdrop.”

Zimbelism is an art documentary about the work of George Zimbel, a reflective voyage through the back half of the 20th century framed with presidents, farmers, prime ministers, railroad engineers, movie stars, children, architecture and a unique way of seeing the human experience.

Zimbelism is about the work of the 35 mm still photographer from the 1940’s to today, as the medium of black and white photography is forever transformed by digital, by rights legislation, by photoshop, and privacy laws.

A wonderful story teller, Zimbel reflects on his relationship with some of the masters; Alexey Brodovitch, Edward Steichen, Berenice Abbott, John Ebstel and the legendary Photo League, the real life Mad Men days of the Madison Ave ad world, his David and Goliath rights battle with his beloved New York Times, and the surprising and often intriguing contact from some of his subjects decades after the pictures were taken.

“George Zimbel brings home the diversity of everyday experience and emotion that we might otherwise leave on the plains of history” – Vicki Goldberg

CHARACTER PROFILE



GEORGE S. ZIMBEL

The American-Canadian documentary photographer George S. Zimbel is a key figure of the last generation of photographers faithful to the legacy of the Photo League, who in the fifties imbued their pictures with their personal commitment towards the people and the social landscapes they documented. Zimbel's camera captured the energy and the spirit of the "era of innocence" before its imminent end with the war in Vietnam.

At 86, he has been photographing for 72 years with an eye that is life positive. His work offers an insight to the various periods of his extensive trajectory from the early fifties to today. New York, New Orleans and 1950's Europe are major subjects, as are the portraits of renowned figures such as John Kennedy, Marilyn Monroe and Leonard Bernstein.

Born in Woburn, Massachusetts in 1929, George S. Zimbel made his first steps into photography while still in his early teens. During his studies at Columbia College in New York City, Zimbel was appointed both as photographer and city editor at the college newspaper. While still at university he published his first image in LIFE magazine and became a stringer for the PIX Agency. In 1949 he studied darkroom technique with John Ebstel at the Photo-League. He also formed the "Midnight to Dawn Club" with his close friend Garry Winogrand.

His shots of that era of streets, neighborhoods, and the children of NYC as well as the nightclubs of the legendary Bourbon Street in New Orleans demonstrate the simplicity, the elegance and the charm of a daily life that no longer exists. He also portrayed personalities such as Helen Keller, Mickey Rooney and Jean Seberg, and followed Presidents Harry S. Truman (in the famous series "A President in Retirement"), Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard M. Nixon and photographed both John and Jacqueline Kennedy. Zimbel was one of the photographers who took pictures of Marilyn Monroe at the iconic session during the filming of "The Seven Year Itch" in 1954.

In 1971 the Zimbels decided to emigrate with their family from the United States to Canada, expressing in this way their opposition to the Vietnam War and to the climate of political tension the country was undergoing. In 1977 they became Canadian citizens.

In 2005, Zimbel was inducted into the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and in 2011 appeared in the Jewish Museum exhibition of works from the Photo League.

George S. Zimbel still remains active. He always opts for subjects that interest him most and do not interfere with his ideology. George Zimbel lives in Montreal with his wife of 57 years, writer and psychotherapist Elaine Sernovitz Zimbel. They have four children and nine grandchildren.

www.georgezimbel.com

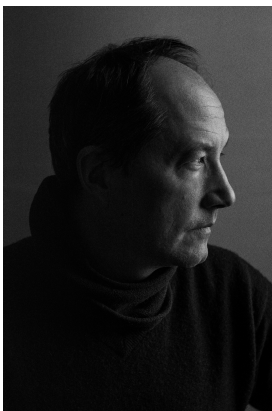
CREATIVE TEAM – BIOS



MATT ZIMBEL

DIRECTOR/WRITER/PRODUCER

Producer, writer, creative director and musician, Matt Zimbel's projects have varied from being vice president of Quebec's music TV channel MusiMax to creating the Gemini award winning political "uncoverage" for MuchMusic in the 1990's. He has produced and written numerous television programs and documentaries including My Messy Bedroom, Posthumous Pickle Party, Scars and Secret Language of Girls. His band, Manteca, has recorded 12 records and toured the world, sharing stages with Miles Davis, Weather Report and Ella. Matt Zimbel is also an artistic director and producer of large-scale shows, such as Canada Day on Parliament Hill 2011, which holds the record for the highest attendance in the history of the event. His most recent event was the opening of the Pan Am Games in Toronto for which he was the senior broadcast producer for the World Feed. www.mattzimbel.com



JEAN FRANÇOIS GRATTON

DIRECTOR/DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY/PRODUCER

One of Montreal's most recognized photographers, Jean-François Gratton has been celebrated by his peers with many awards throughout Canada and the United States (14 Lux Awards, 2 PCM Photography Awards, Grafika Creativity Award, Toronto Applied Arts Award, New York PDN Award). He has photographed campaigns for major clients such as Air Canada, Pratt & Whitney, Cirque du Soleil, Volkswagen and Bombardier. Jean-François Gratton was the DOP and a member of the creative team of the innovative ARTV interview program Cabine C. He is also one of the founders of one of Montreal's most respected photo collectives Shoot Studio. He is George Zimbel's personal choice for director and DOP.



ANNIE LECLAIR

EDITOR

Over 15 years Annie Leclair has mastered the delicate art of storytelling. Documentaries of note she has worked on are: "Tsunami: la deuxième vague" (2007), "Africorama" and "It's Our Story" (2010). Currently working on Radio-Canada television series "LES ACCROCHEURS", Annie is also an active board member of the FCTNM (Femmes du cinéma, de la télévision et des nouveaux médias).

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

SHOOT STUDIO



[HTTP://HTTP://WWW.SHOOTSTUDIO.CA](http://www.shootstudio.ca)

Shoot is one of the largest photo and video production house in Quebec. Each of Shoot's photographers has a characteristic style, a specific know-how, an established reputation and talent that has been recognized at home and abroad. Celebrated as "image workers" they all have a collective spirit of creativity and an eagerness to share their knowledge, never hesitating to pool their skills to benefit the most highly demanding photo and video assignments. Zimbelism is Shoot's first foray into feature documentary.

BUNBURY FILMS INC



[HTTP://WWW.BUNBURYFILMS.COM](http://www.bunburyfilms.com)

Academy Award winner Bunbury Films has become one of the most respected independent producers in Canada. On the back of the critical success of its first documentary **Once a Nazi...** (2006) Bunbury Films expanded its production slate and released a number of prize winning documentaries which are televised worldwide including: **Bigfoot's Reflection** (2007); **Leaving the Fold** (2008); **Burning Water** and **Land of Destiny** in 2010; **Underdog Plaza** (2011); **Triumph of the Wall** (2013), **My Brother's Vows** and the Academy Award winning short documentary **The Lady in Number 6** in 2014. In 2015 Bunbury completed docs **Underdog Rises** and **Vie de Chateau** while shooting **Boost**, Bunbury's first feature set for release in 2016. Along with **Zimbelism** the feature documentary currently titled **Shadows of Paradise** will also be released in 2016. Bunbury continues to develop quality programming for television and theatrical release.

DISTRIBUTED WORLD WIDE BY:

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

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Valerie Shamash

“Words by George”
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Post Production Coordinator
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