

The Gray-Haired Men

a Carl Z. Seibel film



twoforthewild



The Gray-Haired Men

a [twoforthewild](https://www.twoforthewild.com/) production

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/588112141>

Private Link: <https://vimeo.com/587653234/f851368b9d>

Project Type:

Short Film, Film Poem, Experimental Narrative

Runtime:

4 minutes 37 seconds

Completion Date:

August 15, 2021

Country of Origin:

United States

Country of Filming:

Bulgaria, Italy, Portugal, Spain, United States

Language:

English

Shooting Format:

Digital

Aspect Ratio:

1.85:1

Film Color:

Color

First-time Filmmaker:

Yes

Student Project:

No

I will remember the young faces of these gray-haired men. Before their eyes looked like they rest on sleeping bags worn out like hand-me-downs. Before their jaw lines were covered with wrinkles and drapes of flesh. Before their facial hair was full like the lives they've lived. I will remember the strong hands of these gray old men. In them the same choice of drink but branded differently to fit their taste. And off their tongues roll stories we've all seasoned. I'll remember these old men turned from boys with hearts filled with small bottles of spice almost empty. For their being has spread the flavor of existence on not only the world but the things in this world that mean the world to them. Strong, old, seasoned, gray men that have made me the man I am on this boat. Sharing all we have and all that we have left even when it's a story as old as them.

Overview:

The Gray-Haired Men is a film poem dedicated to brotherhood and companionship.

This film recounts the last three years of my life with the friends I left in Europe when I graduated from drama school in June 2020, and those I left in Chicago when I moved to Los Angeles in July 2021 to pursue a career in film.

Concept:

The Gray-Haired Men is realistic fiction. While some of the scenes are candid, most of the scenes are directed, blurring the line between cinema and reality. From the audience's point of view, it is a film about a group of friends and the bonds they share. From my point of view, it is a cinematic tribute to the memories and relationships I hold dear to myself.

Goal:

Creating a film that consists of personal footage for an audience that doesn't know you or your friends is difficult. This is where the text comes in. While the images are directly from my life, the text itself is universal. This juxtaposition allows the audience to take in my life from the outside and contemplate their own from within. My goal is to instill the cosmic importance of friendship in the audience through my own life experiences. By the end of the film, it is as if the audience knows my friends and I personally, appreciate and understand our bond, and leave reminded of the loved ones in their lives that make them feel the same exact way.

David Cameron Ward



The text is spoken from the perspective of David's older self. The text elucidates what he's thinking when we're all finally united years later and sitting on a pontoon boat on Lake Michigan telling the same old stories we've always told.

David composed the music for this film. He sampled the last known recording of the Kaua'i 'ō'ō, a now extinct bird indigenous to Hawaii.

Source

David has been my best friend since second grade.

Carl Z. Seibel



twoforthewild is my independent film production company.

I am an MFA film student at ArtCenter College of Design (though this film was made the summer before I began my degree).

My current style of filmmaking revolves around verisimilitude, which means “similar to the truth”. I explore veracious ways of telling stories, whether it’s getting down to the visceral truth or presenting it literally. My goal as a filmmaker is to blend cinema with reality.

Kevin J. Farrell



Kevin is a Local 281 sprinkler fitter in Chicago. He wrote the poem while we were sitting around a fire telling stories. I met him my sophomore year of high school.

Christo Bonev (Bulgaria)



Christo is an actor based in London. He was my roommate during my first and second year of drama school. He is one of my closest friends.

Andry Vildak (Estonia)



Andry is an actor and lives with Christo in London. He was my roommate during my second year of drama school. We share the same ambitions as creators.

Rita Duque (Portugal)



Rita is an actor based out of Porto. Christo, Andry, Rita and I reunited in Portugal this July before I moved to Los Angeles. All three of us went to drama school together. When Rita is watching the sunset, she is thinking about us and having *saudade*, a Portuguese word that is untranslatable. In so many words, *saudade* is:

“a deep emotional state of nostalgic or profound melancholic longing for someone or something that one cares for and loves. Moreover, it often carries a repressed knowledge that the object of longing might never be had again. It is the recollection of feelings, experiences, places, or events that once brought excitement, pleasure, and well-being, which now trigger the senses and make one experience the pain of separation from those joyous sensations. However it acknowledges that to long for the past would detract from the excitement you feel towards the future.”

Source

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Dear Reader,

Thank you for this opportunity.

Cordially,

Carl Z. Seibel