

carrying for mom



MOM Mae Fong Mann

DOCUMENTED BY Emeline Mann Sanchez

SHORT synopsis:

caring for mom is an award-winning documentary short that relates to us all—what we must face in the foreseeable future. It shows the manifestation of age and Alzheimer's in one woman's life and the ways her family dealt with it. Being your parent's caregiver is an option that's not cut out for everyone but *caring for mom* shows how—should that route be taken—it's possible to have a transcendently rewarding experience.

MEDIUM synopsis:

While the award-winning documentary, *caring for mom*, is a short film, the making of it has been years in the works. It follows an elderly woman with dementia whose existence ultimately teeters to the edge of physical and mental breakdown.

The subject matter in *caring for mom* is inescapable for us all—we must all contend with the process of aging and the possible diagnosis of dementia either in ourselves or for those near and dear to us, but like an ostrich sticking its head in the sand, no one really talks about it preemptively, in particular when it comes to our own aging parents (unless there's no way to ignore it in reactionary fashion usually after a visit to the ER).

caring for mom is a real life look at what happens when it is decided to care for an aging mom at home, and while it's not all sunshine, lollipops and rainbows, in the end, it's a journey that is meaningful for the cared one, as well as the caregiver(s).

LONG synopsis:

caring for mom is an award-winning documentary short that has been years in the making, because it is only through the passage of time that the portrayal of the slow but steady decline of an elderly woman with Alzheimer's disease can be captured as her life eventually teeters to the edge of physical and mental breakdown.

The subject matter in *caring for mom* is inescapable for us all—we must all contend with the process of aging and the possible diagnosis of dementia either in ourselves or for those near and dear to us, but like an ostrich sticking its head in the sand, no one really talks about it preemptively, in particular when it comes to our own aging parents (unless there's no way to ignore it in reactionary fashion usually after a visit to the ER). The implications, of course, can be expanded to those who are involved with debilitating accidents or diseases, young or old, who will need care or companionship.

caring for mom is a real life look at what happens when it is decided to care for an aging mom at home, and while it's not all sunshine, lollipops and rainbows, in the end, it's a journey that is meaningful for the cared one, as well as the caregiver(s). Of note, this is a journey assumed by the documentarian, Emeline Mann Sanchez, who spent over ten years as primary caregiver to her mom, Mae Fong Mann, whose first serious fall led to surgery for a shattered wrist and was the precursor to subsequent falls, including a fall that she unwittingly took while coming to the aid of Emeline, who fell while attempting to come to the aid of Mae, leading to their dual admissions to the ER—caregiving is not without its ironic moments.

*caring
for
mom*

THE STORY

LOGLINE:

It's not all sunshine, lollipops and rainbows but in the end it's a journey that is transcendental for the cared one as well as the caregiver



CAST

Mae Fong Mann

After surviving the China/Japan war and civil unrest (in the 30s and 40s), Mae and family hopped on an airplane to the States. When her husband died, Mae, then in her 40s, got a job, got her two wayward teenage girls out of the housing projects and raised them to become functionally appropriate adults. While Mae often took her kids to the movies in SF Chinatown theaters back when Chinatown still had theaters, and the Shaw brothers were prolifically churning out movies from Hong Kong (Madam White Snake, Dream of the Red Chamber, The One-Armed Swordsman), *no regrets* is her first appearance on film (if you don't count the Canto/Mando language learning videos on YouTube that Mae's daughter included Mae in "Mommy speaks Canto and Mando on medical matters").

THE PEOPLE

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Director, Producer, Writer, Editor EMELINE MANN SANCHEZ

Emeline is an award-winning producer and director. Her first documentary, *carrying for mom*, premiered at the Marina del Rey Film Festival where it won the Audience Award for Best Short Documentary; it was also awarded Best Health and Medicine Film at the Kiez Berlin Film Festival, Best Short Documentary at the Ponza Film Awards, and screened, or will be screened at Seattle Film Summit, Sheffield Global Cinema Festival, Young Film Market (an initiative of the Social World Film Festival), and Will Rogers Motion Picture Festival.

Emeline's most recent documentary, *no regrets*, has won Best Experimental Film at both the Kiez Berlin Film Festival and Ponza Film Awards, and will be screening in that same category at the Buffalo International Film Festival.

On the varied paths in her ongoing journey, Emeline was recruited to be an art director for an Easter Seals telethon broadcast from San Francisco, finessed her way into an impromptu internship at a local Oakland television station in their creative department, completed a yearlong apprenticeship at a local Berkeley radio station—all leading to accidental filmmaker when her BFF, her dearest, sweetest mother left this world, the same mom she had been caregiving for the past 10+ years.

In her documentaries, Emeline shows how being with an elderly parent in their latter years can be rewarding not only for the parent but for the children; it is a topic in the here, now and future that pertains to all of humanity.

THE LINKS

TRAILER:
[caring for mom TRAILER](#)

The photos on this page are clickable hyperlinks as are the cover page movie poster and page 3's photo of Mae and Emeline

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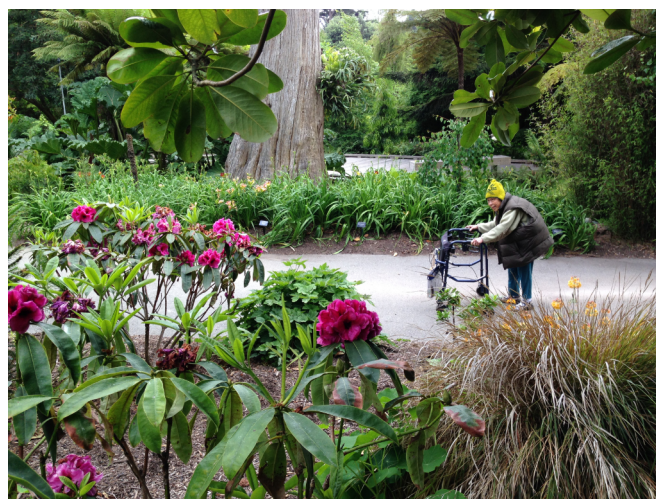


PHOTO captions (from top L to R)

Mom at the San Francisco Orchid Society's 63rd Annual Pacific Orchid Exposition, 2015

Birthday sweets for Mom, 2017

While visiting Los Altos Hills Town Hall, Mom clutches a crepe myrtle blowing on it like it's a dandelion, 2017

Mom sitting by artist Hung Yi's Dragon Fortune sculpture in front of the Asian Art Museum, 2016

Mom holding a pink camellia at Golden Gate Park's SF Botanical Garden, 2016

Mom enjoying fragrant flowers at the Morcom Rose Garden in Oakland, 2014

Mom checks out a rhododendron shrub at Golden Gate Park's SF Botanical Garden, 2016

Mom walking by Alice Aycock's spiral staircase at the San Public Library, Main Branch, 2015

Mom peering over the raised indoor infinity pond at the SF Conservatory of Flowers, 2014