



Vaudeville Documentary LLC and Tiny Pierrot Productions

Present

Barry & Joan

A film by Audrey Rumsby

87 minutes, UK / USA

Official IMDb page

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt9810022/>

FINAL PRESS NOTES

<http://www.barryandjoan.com/presskit/>

Contact:

Audrey Rumsby
Vaudeville Productions LLC
1659 Magnolia Blossom Lane
San Jose, CA 95124
+1 (408) 835-9408
audreyrumsby@gmail.com

1659 Magnolia Blossom Lane
San Jose, CA 95124
tel +1 408 835 9408
www.barryandjoan.com

TAGLINE

Discover Britain's Best Kept Theatrical Secret.

LOGLINE

A joy provoking journey into the wacky and creative world of Barry & Joan: two national treasures who never learned how to grow old. Since they met in 1948, these stage-struck lovers have danced, acted and taught their way through 70 years of theatrical play.

SYNOPSIS

Discover Britain's Best Kept Theatrical Secret.

He was an incurable performer who loved to cross-dress. She was a dancing piano genius. She spotted his legs when they met in a musical. Seventy-five years later, they are still married, performing, and teaching. This quirky and delightful documentary takes us on a journey through the lives of Barry and Joan Grantham, a British couple with a rich history as performing artists and creators on stage and screen. They are emblems of expressive freedom, having built a repertoire of performance spanning from television and Music Hall to drag and nude theatre. Novices and performing arts professionals alike travel from Europe and the US to hone their skills and expand their craft under the methodical chaos of Barry and Joan's workshops on Vaudeville, Eccentric dance and Commedia dell' Arte. This tale of two national treasures is a rallying cry for uniqueness and self-expression in an increasingly box shaped world.

DIRECTORS' NOTES – ARTISTIC INTENT

I came up with the idea for this project in 2015, when I was working in theatre full-time. I've spent my whole life in the theatre. My parents are artists, and they imparted to me and my sisters when we were very small, that a life without craft isn't worth living. My father's craft was Shakespeare performance and direction, and my mother's was violin. Thankfully they understood that they had passed on little to no care for technical, practical things to their children, and ended up with three girls whose professions now consist of acting and directing, Medieval literature, and Jazz vocals. As an admittedly broad generalization, life in Silicon Valley does not smile on those of us who reject the societal norm of what is considered to be "useful and valid work". A career should consist of something which we decree the general population to need, which would indicate that we should all be doctors, politicians, computer scientists, or some variation of those things. I would never argue that those things are not necessary, but I would most definitely argue that art is equally important. Without it none of our practical jobs would be worth having.

This film is about artists and people who devote their lives to play. I don't claim for a single moment that the artists in this film are "doing it best" or are perfect in any way. It's about the experience of finding a craft, learning it, cherishing it, and devoting one's life to it. Barry and Joan symbolize a way of life, and a possibility for what you can be and who you can love, and what you can create if you're willing to be your own quirky self. That idea is the root of Commedia dell'Arte, Vaudeville, Music Hall, and Eccentric Dance.

Thank you for stepping into our world. I hope you like it here as much as I do.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

AUDREY RUMSBY, DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Audrey Rumsby has performed and directed more than 70 full-length stage productions in London, New York, Los Angeles, Boulder, and San Francisco. 45 of these have been Shakespeare including the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. The eldest daughter of two performing artists, she developed an early passion for performance and all areas of the production process. She left school at the age of 8 in order to devote all of her time to her parent's Shakespeare company, San Jose Youth Shakespeare. At 18 she attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art as one of the youngest students ever accepted into their post-graduate program. Upon graduating, she cultivated her career as an actor in theatre productions across the US and UK, and gradually found herself being asked to direct and choreograph. Notable appearances include a role as lead musician and dancer for the London 2012 Olympics Team Welcoming Ceremonies and directing work for Theatreworks and the Colorado and Arabian Shakespeare Festivals.

In 2015, she made a pitch to create her first feature film; a documentary about her beloved mentors, Barry and Joan Grantham. Some people open your eyes to theatre and music in astounding ways. For director Audrey Rumsby, her first encounter with Barry and Joan changed everything. This quirky portrait of artistic mentorship will rewire how you look at play.

ERIC POMERT, EDITOR & PRODUCER

Eric started life as a theater and film kid. A specialist in humor and music, he worked as a major brand tv commercial editor for 15 years before starting narrative work with his first feature *Love, Ludlow*, the runner-up for the 2005 Sundance Film Festival Audience Awards.

In addition to a slew of short films, he has edited hundreds of commercials for clients including Mercedes Benz, Heineken, Diet Dr Pepper, and Puma. His spots have won awards at the Cannes Film Festival and the British International Advertising Festival, and have aired on the Super Bowl and around the globe. Eric has collaborated as an editor and producer with top directorial and technical talent including the Oscars Awards team, and he has had the pleasure to work on projects featuring stars such as Will Ferrell, Usain Bolt, Barbara Walters, the Backstreet Boys, Rob Corddry, Mike Myers, Lauren Bacall, and Paul McCartney.

It's simple, but not easy, according to Eric: "Nuance of character, storytelling rhythm - that's where the magic lies."

CREDITS

FEATURING

Barry & Joan Grantham

Galen Bonwick
Harvey Dobbs
Richard Handley
Liam O'Neill
Samuel Penhastre
Steven Player
Evan Praznik
Elliot Ross
Audrey Rumsby
Evelyn Rumsby
Harriet Spring
Monique Squeri
Rein van Schagen
Emma Webb

And many other students and collaborators of Barry and Joan.

CREW

Executive Producer: Catherine Bonwick
Director: Audrey Rumsby
Producers: Audrey Rumsby & Eric Pomert
Editor: Eric Pomert
Cinematographers: Rick Cresswell & John Torreano
Sound Recordist: Paul Ridler & Lauren Younglove
Animation: Avi Ofer
Motion Graphics & Title Design: Jeremy Milford
Sound Design: Bijan Sharifi
Sound Rerecording Mixers: James LeBrecht & Bijan Sharifi
Composers: Joan Grantham, Patrick Hogan, & Nick Perez

Production Company:
Vaudeville Productions LLC
USA
audreyrumsby@gmail.com