

HEDDY HONIGMANN

Heddy Honigmann is considered one of world's best documentary filmmakers. Her films (short & long fictions, short & long documentaries) have traveled all around the world receiving major awards and important retrospectives as in Toronto, the Museum of Modern Art in NY, Paris, Berlin, Minneapolis, Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, Ontario, Utrecht, Grasz, Chicago and Berkeley between others.

She has also received many important awards for her entire work, as the Hot Docs Outstanding Achievement Award (2007), the San Francisco Films Society's Golden Gate Persistence of Vision Award (2007), the J. Van Praag Award from the Humanist Association (2005) Netherlands, the Jan Cassies award for her whole oeuvre from the Dutch National Fund for Cultural Films for Television (2003) Netherlands.

When she received in 2007 the San Francisco Persistence of Vision Award, John Anderson (a regular contributor to Newsday, the New York Times, Variety and the Guardian of London), wrote the following about Heddy's work:

Heddy Honigmann Is Good for You... and her films are appetizing antidepressants. Penguins, fast food and fat guys in baseball caps all have been credited with raising the profile of the documentary in recent years, but these are aberrations, stupid pet tricks at the symphony. Among the real artists of nonfiction, Heddy is as responsible as anyone for raising the standards of doc-making worldwide. She flexes the form to meet her purposes, but never sacrifices style or integrity. She champions the dispossessed without sermonizing, and she injects just enough of herself in her films to give us a sense of the woman behind the movie without ever eclipsing the subject or the substance, the sense of space or the sense of place (...)

That her films are ego less makes them all the more precious. This award is to honor the lifetime achievement of a woman who has taken us inside the hearts of subjects most other filmmakers would never have noticed.

Born in Lima, Peru in 1951, Heddy trained as a filmmaker in Rome and has lived and worked in the Netherlands since 1978. It is said that love brought her to Amsterdam, and love has been the engine of her art—especially if one considers art a form of love. Heddy isn't particularly interested in railing against social inequities, despite the sense of political dissatisfaction one hears rumbling under her movies like a dyspeptic subway train. Rather, she is obsessed with the way people of often limited means deal with those inequities—through art, through love, through sex. Through memory. Through dance and through music (...)

Heddy's films are elegantly composed, rich in precisely poetic imagery, fluid transitions and narrative flow. Ultimately, though, what one comes away feeling is the humanity, the empathy, the pouring out of hearts. Ask any theologian: What separates man from other animals? The same thing that distinguishes the work of Heddy Honigmann: Soul.

Selected Filmography

El olvido (2008)
 Forever (2006)
 A Shetl that's no longer there & 11 other shorts of the series
 'Food for Love '(2004)
 Dame la Mano (2003)
 Good Husband, Dear Son (2001)
 Private (2000)
 Crazy (1999)
 2 minutes of silence, please (1998)
 The Underground Orchestra (1997)
 O Amor Natural (1996)
 Au Revoir (1995)
 Metal and Melancholy (1992)
 Mind Shadows (1987)
 De Deur van het huis (1985)
 De Witte Paraplu (1983)