Critical Acclaim For

P.O.V.'s “BRIGHT LEAVES”

By Ross McElwee

Named One of the Top Ten Best Films of 2004 by:
San Francisco Chronicle and others

“A reflective, wise, often hilarious movie. . . . Bright Leaves leaves you feeling invigorated by the boundless curiosity, humor and high spirits of its creator.”

“Cigarettes are still a rich subject for drama, and once in a while the movies are up to the task. Bright Leaves is a fascinating diary-documentary.”
- Richard Corliss, Time Magazine

“Quietly captivating. . . . a beautiful, wistful meditation on fate, family, filmmaking, and the terrible legacy of tobacco itself.”
- O, the Oprah Magazine

“Many try to imitate but none can duplicate the documentary poetry of Ross McElwee.”
- Lisa Schwarzbaum, Entertainment Weekly

“McElwee’s work has an unusual emotional complexity. He . . . makes his personal story relevant and entertaining, using family history to provide a revelatory look at the legacy of tobacco.”
- The New Yorker

“Witty, thoughtful, illuminating. . . . A rewarding personal documentary.”
- Todd McCarthy, Variety

“Deeply personal, morally alert, and highly entertaining.”
- Christian Science Monitor

“Sweet, thoughtful and often hilarious.”
- The Financial Times, London

“His best since Sherman’s March.”
- Phillip Lopate, Film Comment

“Entertaining and thoughtful.”
- Film Journal International

“Idiosyncratic, funny and genuine, Bright Leaves is a little gem.”
- Allan Hunter, Screen Daily

“A work of thoughtfulness, warmth and unbitter irony.”
- Stuart Klawans, The Nation

“Both personal and honest. Nary a whitewash brush in sight. . . . but it is 180 degrees from those by in-your-face filmmakers with axes to grind.”
- Jean Prescott, Knight-Ridder Newspapers
“Invariably fascinating, maddeningly self-involved and whimsically profound. . . . McElwee has a knack for finding interview subjects who are as eccentric and articulate as himself.”
- Kevin McDonough, United Feature Syndicate

“Perhaps his best film. . . . raw and lovely.”
- Peter Rainer, New York Magazine

“A fascinating journey deep into his family’s past…clearly a quest worth undertaking.”
- Jack Mathews, New York Daily News

“A sampling of gentle insight and poetic retrospection quietly at odds with the exploitative culture around it.”
- Michael Atkinson, The Village Voice

“Ross McElwee shows just how far subtlety can go with his latest charming effort.”
- Lou Lumenick, New York Post

“Hugely engrossing.”
- AM New York

“Yet another of documentarian Ross McElwee’s droll, irresistible, multilayered, multifaceted journeys through the beguiling yet contradictory land of his youth.”
- Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times

“Bright Leaves is not a documentary about anything in particular. That’s its charm. It’s a meandering visit by a curious man with a quiet sense of humor . . .”
- Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times

“Brilliantly amusing . . . just sings along.”
- The Washington Post

“McElwee shows us the many ways that the past is always present – and how the present impinges on the future. Long after the closing credits, his film reverberates.”
- Carrie Rickey, The Philadelphia Inquirer

“Bright Leaves takes on a sizable foe – in this case, big tobacco – but with such grace and wit that his message never seems medicinal.”
- Carla Meyer, San Francisco Chronicle

“Hearing Ross McElwee’s voice at the beginning of a movie is like getting a phone call from an old friend.”
- Ty Burr, The Boston Globe

“Extremely impressive . . . wry, touching, deeply humane road journey.”
- Gerald Peary, The Boston Phoenix

“A witty and sometimes touching tale of film, family . . . and lung cancer.”
- Bob Longino, Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Ross McElwee . . . has spent almost 20 years chronicling his own life in a way that makes us think about ours. . . . To see his work at its best, delve into "Bright Leaves."
- Lawrence Toppman, Charlotte Observer
“[An] absorbing, one-of-a-kind film. . . . Set the VCR if you must, but don’t miss this gem.”

- Aaron Barnhart, *Kansas City Star*

“A truly wonderful, original and spirit-raising movie.”

- Martin Knelman, *Toronto Star*

“One of his funniest and most satisfying films.”

- Jason Anderson, *Toronto Eye Weekly*

“Smartly entertaining. . . . McElwee takes us in so many pleasing, unexpected directions.”

- *IndieWire*

“Like a dialogue with an old friend . . . incorporating not only journalistic truths, but also personal insights and philosophy, unique regional textures, and unexposed pockets of humanity.”

- Scott Tobias, *The Onion*

“Extraordinary. . . . blends nostalgia, economics, and personal reactions to new information at a perfect pitch that allows for laughter and deeply felt affection.”

- Rachel Gordon, *Filmcritic.com*

“Smart, ethically rich, innovative, and well-done.”

- *Spirituality and Health*