

Delve Deeper into "Following Sean"

A film by Ralph Arlyck

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Rebecca Federman of the New York Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Following Sean" that premieres on July 31st, 2007 at 10 PM on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

Filmmaker Ralph Arlyck first met Sean while living as a graduate student in San Francisco's Haight Ashbury neighborhood at the height of the 1960s. On the third floor of Arlyck's building was a come-one-come-all crash pad apartment from which the precocious four-year-old Sean would occasionally wander downstairs to visit and talk. One day Arlyck turned on his camera, and Sean's casual commentary on everything from smoking pot to living with speed freaks was delivered in simple sincerity resulting in a famous 15-minute film. Thirty years, three generations, and a lifetime later, Arlyck has returned to San Francisco in search of the adult Sean might have become. And what he finds, to his surprise, tells him as much about his own East Coast migration as it does about the Californian life he left behind.

ADULT NONFICTION

Anthony, Gene. *Magic of the Sixties*. Layton, UT: Gibbs Smith, 2004. A series of photographs documenting the San Francisco area in the 1960s. Includes both its famous and infamous residents and covers the historical movements of the 1960s through photos and personal stories.

Berger, Bennett. *Survival of a Counterculture*. Somerset, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 1981. A study of "The Ranch," a commune in northern California. Includes a section called "Communal Children" which examines parenting.

Gurvis, Sandra. *Where Have All the Flower Children Gone?* Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2006. Gurvis puts a contemporary face on the Age of Aquarius through photos, history

and firsthand narratives from former radicals and student protesters. The interviews tell how a generations' idealism have shaped historical movements, personal lives and impacted today's political situation.

Kaplan, Judy (Ed.) *Red Diapers: Growing Up in the Communist Left*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1998. The first of a series of autobiographical pieces by children of American Communists. Includes memoirs, poems and short fiction pieces by forty authors.

Kisseloff, Jeff. *Generation On Fire: Voices of Protest From the 1960s: An Oral History*. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2007. Contains interviews with a number of social and political protesters of the 1960's, including freedom rider Bernard LaFayette, peace preacher Daniel Berrigan and guitarist Barry Melton.

Kuttner, Robert and Sharland Trotter. *Family Re-Union: Reconnecting Parents and Children in Adulthood*. New York: Free Press, 2002. The authors examine adult parent-child relationships.

McCleary, John Bassett. *The Hippie Dictionary: A Cultural Encyclopedia (and Phraseicon) of the 1960s and 1970s*. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, 2002. This reference work details the cultural and political leanings of the "hippie" movement of the 1960s and 1970s, including popular phrases and their meanings.

Shuldiner, David P. *Ageing Political Activists: Personal Narratives from the Old Left*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 1995. Shuldiner interviews four friends and former members of the Communist Party, revealing their life stories and investigating the changes in their political beliefs over the years.

Stone, Robert. *Prime Green: Remembering the Sixties*. New York: Ecco, 2007. Stone, a journalist and essayist, looks back on his life in the sixties.

ADULT FICTION

Anderson, Robert Mailer. *Boonville*. New York: Perennial, 2003. A straight-laced marketer in Miami trades his life with his deceased grandmother and moves to Boonville, CA – her quirky former home.

Boyle, T.C. *Drop City*. New York: Viking, 2003. A novel about a commune in northern California.

Long, Goldberry. *Juniper Tree Jumping*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001. Juniper Tree Burning leaves her hippie childhood behind to become Jennifer Davis, but her past still haunts her.

Maupin, Armistead. *Tales of the City Series*. New York: Harper and Row, 1978. Maupin's *Tales* series, set in San Francisco, focuses on the lives and loves of the tenants of 28 Barbary Lane.

Rose, Joanna. *Little Miss Strange: A Novel*. New York: Touchstone, 1998. Sarajeon is the daughter of hippies who must negotiate the strangeness of life in the rootless world into which she was born. She lives with a guy who may be her father and comes of age in the commune world of drugs, poverty, and the dropout-ethic that marks the times.

Zappa, Moon Unit. *America the Beautiful: A Novel*. New York: Scribner, 2001. The daughter of famous hippies tries to find herself in Zappa's semi-autobiographical work.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Archer, Jules. *The Incredible Sixties: The Stormy Years That Changed America*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt Bruce Jovanovich, 1986. A comprehensive look at important changes in music, art, literature, science, politics, and civil rights in the 1960s.

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Ellis, Harry B. *Ideals and Ideologies: Communism, Socialism, and Capitalism*. New York: World Publishing Company, 1972. Reference guide for a younger audience on these three ideologies.

Hanff, Helene. *Movers and Shakers: The Young Activists of the Sixties*. New York: S.G. Phillips, 1970. A look at how the young people of the 1960s changed the political climate of the United States.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Barkley, Brad. *Scrambled Eggs at Midnight*. New York: Dutton Juvenile, 2006. Two children struggle with growing up and finding themselves despite their parents' desire for escape.

Hayes, Sheila. *The Tinker's Daughter*. New York: Lodestar Books, 1995. Holly's mom is a free spirit, with an antique shop filled with memories of the past.

Lindbergh, Reeve. *My Hippie Grandmother*. London: Candlewick Press, 2003. Meet a very different kind of grandmother, one who pickets City Hall and has a cat named Woodstock.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. *Criss Cross*. Waterville, ME: Thorndike Press, 2006. In a small town in the 1960s, teenagers question their position, their identities, and their lives.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

"51 Birch Street." A film by Doug Block, Copacetic Pictures, 2005. (90 min.) When his father quickly remarries after his mother's death, Block explores what was really going on in his parents' marriage.
www.cduniverse.com
(DVD release slated for August 2007)

"Children of the Left." A film by Eric Stange, New Day Films, 1989. (57 min.) Follows the lives of five people whose parents were members of the American

Communist party in the 1940s and 1950s.

"Diaries." A film by Ed Pincus, Center for Public Cinema, 1982. (200 min.) Pincus films his life and family from 1971 to 1976.
www.pincusandsmallfilms.com/

"One Step Away." A film by Ed Pincus, Public Broadcasting Lab, 1967. Looks at life on a commune in San Francisco.
www.pincusandsmallfilms.com/

"Tales of the City." A film by Alastair Reid, American Playhouse, 1993. A six-part series based on the first book of Maupin's *Tales* series.
www.amazon.com

"The 7 Up-Series." Films by Michael Apted, Granada Television. Apted first visits his subjects at age 7, and films them every 7 years thereafter to see how their lives unfold.
www.amazon.com

"Time Indefinite." A film by Ross McElwee, First Run Features, 1993. (114 min.) McElwee explores his own life: marriage and new fatherhood, and with those changes come probing questions about one's life.
www.amazon.com