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 California life he left behind.

ADULT NONFICTION


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.


Shuldriner, David P. Ageing Political Activists: Personal Narratives from the Old Left. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 1995. Shuldriner 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.


ADULT FICTION


Rose, Joanna. Little Miss Strange: A Novel. New York: Touchstone, 1998. Sarajeas 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-ethnic that marks the times.


NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

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FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


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.


“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.