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## THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF A MOST EXTRAORDINARY COUPLE: ZEITGEIST BOWS DOC "CHRIS & DON: A LOVE STORY" ON DVD

New York (December 10, 2008) — Playing to widespread critical acclaim in its North American theatrical release this summer and winner of the Best Documentary prize at the Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Guido Santi & Tina Mascara's **CHRIS & DON: A LOVE STORY** comes to **Zeitgeist DVD on February 24, 2009.**

This irresistibly touching documentary tells the true-life story of the passionate three-decade relationship between **British writer Christopher Isherwood** (whose *Berlin Stories* was the basis for *Cabaret*) and **American portrait painter Don Bachardy**, thirty years his junior. From Isherwood's Kit-Kat-Club years in Weimar-era Germany to the sun-kissed beaches of 1950s Malibu, their against-all-odds saga is brought to life through reminiscences from Don and **Hollywood friends such as Leslie Caron and Liza Minnelli**—plus rare home movies with legendary artists including **W.H. Auden, Igor Stravinsky and Tennessee Williams**. With Isherwood's status as an out-and-proud gay hero, and Bachardy's eventual artistic triumph away from the considerable shadow of his life partner, **CHRIS & DON: A LOVE STORY** is above all a joyful celebration of a unique and inspiring couple.

Zeitgeist's DVD release features an anamorphic transfer created from Hi-Def elements and enhanced for widescreen televisions. **Special features** include more of Chris & Don's **beautifully preserved 8mm home movies** (including footage from the sets of *The Rose Tattoo* and King Vidor's *War and Peace*); **deleted sequences with Don Bachardy**, including an interview on gay marriage and tours of his home and studio; **deleted interviews** with actress **Gloria Stuart** (*Titanic*), filmmaker **John Boorman** (*Point Blank*), and actress **Leslie Caron** (*Gigi*); "Chris by Don": an **8-page printed booklet** of Bachardy's selected paintings of Isherwood; the U.S. theatrical trailer; optional English subtitles for the deaf and hearing impaired; and stereo and 5.1 soundtracks.

### CHRIS & DON. A LOVE STORY

2007 • 90 minutes • U.S. • Color • In English • 1.78:1 original theatrical aspect ratio • Not Rated  
• Cat. No. Z1111 • UPC 795975111133 • SRP \$29.99

Celebrating its 20th Anniversary as one of America's preeminent independent distributors, New York-based Zeitgeist Films has built an impressively diverse catalogue of foreign, documentary and arthouse titles by such renowned directors as Todd Haynes, Jan Svankmajer, Peter Greenaway, Abbas Kiarostami, Guy Maddin, Kirby Dick, Atom Egoyan, Agnès Varda, François Ozon, Derek Jarman, Yvonne Rainer, Olivier Assayas, Philippe Garrel and the Quay Brothers. Recent releases include Oscar winner *Nowhere in Africa*; blockbuster doc *The Corporation*; dance doc hit *Ballets Russes*; Oscar nominee *Sophie Scholl—The Final Days*; Oscar nominee *My Country, My Country*; Sundance winner *Into Great Silence*; Caméra d'Or winner *Jellyfish*; and 2008 Golden Gate Award winner *Up the Yangtze*. Launched in 2001, Zeitgeist Video has released dozens of highly praised DVDs, including the recently-released remastered Two-Disc Collector's Edition of Quay Brothers shorts, entitled PHANTOM MUSEUMS; and a Four-Disc Box Set of Derek Jarman masterworks entitled GLITTERBOX, starring Oscar winner Tilda Swinton (*Michael Clayton*).



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## **CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR *CHRIS & DON: A LOVE STORY***

"The rarest of documentaries: a realistic portrait of the human spirit."  
—David Edelstein, *New York Magazine*

"Tender, extremely touching..." —Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*

"Vibrates with life and love.... In part, the documentary answers the question of why some couples flourish and others flounder." —Carrie Rickey, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

"WILD APPLAUSE [Highest Rating]! Santi and Mascara are right to call their film 'A Love Story,' because this is the portrait of a marriage as full and enviable as the greatest unions in literature."  
—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Isherwood and Bachardy's story features cameos by a galaxy of literary and cinema stars, but few are as impressive as the protagonists, who defied the conventions of their times by living openly as a happy, well-adjusted couple." —*Onion A.V. Club*

"One of the most positive, affecting portrayals of queer romance in recent memory."  
—*Slant Magazine*

"With delectable-looking home movies of the couple's travels in California and Europe, *Chris & Don* offers an intimate portrayal of a passionate, enduring association, as well as a social history of postwar life—albeit one that happened to include brushes with Montgomery Clift, Igor Stravinsky and Anna Magnani."  
—*Washington Post*

"Guido Santi and Tina Mascara are superb filmmakers, fully alive in their terrific film *Chris & Don: A Love Story* to all the undercurrents of art, social class, sexual orientation, challenging relationships and, most especially, the touching love story at the heart of their film." —*The Hollywood Reporter*

"Rarely is love depicted onscreen with this much soul-rattling care." —Michael Koresky, *indieWIRE*

"Captures the spirit of a pioneering sexual, personal and artistic partnership and the remarkable literary-artistic circle—Aldous Huxley, Bertrand Russell and Igor Stravinsky were among their friends—that nurtured it." —Andrew O'Hehir, *Salon*

"A fusion of art and love that's deeply moving... A genuine love story grounded in the artistic inspiration the two men found in each other." —Chuck Wilson, *LA Weekly* (Critics' Pick!)

"The unlikely pairing of author Christopher Isherwood and painter Don Bachardy is one of those legendary but true L.A. stories that confounds the city's clichéd Tinseltown image, and *Chris & Don: A Love Story* is well-attuned to this, focusing on the texture and sweetness of a particularly beguiling real-life gay love saga." —*Variety*

"An affecting and beautifully realized documentary." —*The New York Post*