

Programme notes : review : Longtime companion / National Film Theatre.

Contributors

National Film Theatre (London, England)

Publication/Creation

[between 1990 and 1995?]

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REVIEW

LONGTIME COMPANION

Executive Producer:
Producer:
Co-Producer:
Director:
Screenplay:
Director of Photography:
Film Editor:
Music:
Production Designer:
Art Director:

Lindsay Law
Stan Wlodkowski
Lydia Dean Pilcher
Norman Rene
Craig Lucas
Tony Jannelli
Katherine Wenning
Greg DeBelles
Andrew Jackness
Ruth Ammon

CAST:

Fuzzy:
Howard:
Bob:
David:
Paul:
Sean:
John:
Alec:
Lisa:
Michael:
Willy:

Stephen Caffrey
Patrick Cassidy
Brian Cousins
Bruce Davison
John Dossett
Mark Lamos
Dermot Mulroney
Brad O'Hare
Mary-Louise Parker
Michael Schoeffling
Campbell Scott

USA

1990

A Production of American Playhouse
Theatrical Films

LONGTIME COMPANION is a powerful drama that takes an honest look at the impact of AIDS on the gay community. Although LONGTIME COMPANION addresses the realities of living with AIDS, it is a life-affirming film that portrays families and friends creating support systems for each other in times of need. Director Norman Rene describes the film as 'a human drama above all, one that focuses not just on the heroics of a single character but rather on the interrelated struggles of an entire community.'

Production on LONGTIME COMPANION began on May 1, 1989 on Fire Island. Prior to the start of filming, Rene rehearsed with the cast for two weeks, an experience he found crucial to filming.

'In rehearsal, we tried to develop the characters' relationships,' he says. 'One of the things I wanted to show in the film was how everyday behaviour changes because of any crisis. But I didn't want to sentimentalise the situation. I tried to present everything as realistic and objective -- to make everyone's behaviour honest, true-to-life.'

Realising that, except for Lisa, all the leading characters in the film are gay, Rene says, 'It seemed important to make them human and identifiable, so that the film wasn't about New Yorkers and gays, but about people with whom audiences can identify.'

'The story is told through everyday events and commonplace activities and how they change when people are confronted with AIDS.'

Extract from the Production Notes - LONGTIME COMPANION