

# My Influences

~PEOPLE~

-An Artist's *Personality Exploration*-

“Why Am I the Way I Am?”

How to Understand How One Becomes An Artist

by

Eric Homan

**My** Personal *Artistic*  
*and* **Aesthetic**  
**Influences**, *Stimuli*,  
**Role Models**, **Rebels**,  
**Idols**, **Prophets**,  
**Motivators**, **Muses**,  
**Mentors**, **Maestros**,  
*Kindred Spirits*,  
**Dreamers**, **Idealists**,  
**Believers**, **Heroes**,

# Rebels, *Alter Egos*, Passions, *Loves*, *Soul* *Mates*, *saints*, Geniuses, *and* **Gods**

(Also known as Outsiders, Outcasts, Freaks, Geeks, Losers, Sinners, Ugliers, Perverts, Poets, Fools, Radicals, Revolutionaries, Loners, Atheists, Eccentrics, Weirdoes, Crazies, Criminals, Recluses, Oddballs, Nonconformists, Malcontents, Maniacs, Mutants, and Misfits)

Copyright 2014 Eric Homan

## Menu of Contents

### Writers/ Artists/ Critics

- Edgar Allen Poe
- Stephen King
- J.R.R. Tolkien
- C. S. Lewis
- Mark Twain/ Samuel Clemens
- Dorothy Parker
- Virginia Woolf
- Sylvia Plath
- Oscar Wilde
- William Blake
- W.B. Yeats
- Ed Skellings
- Truman Capote
- Jack Kerouac
- Allen Ginsberg
- William S. Burroughs
- Charles Bukowski

- Hunter S. Thompson
- Philip K. Dick
- Jules Verne
- H. G. Wells
- L. Frank Baum
- Louis Carroll
- Carl Sagan
- Stephen Hawking
- Frank Warren/ *PostSecret*
- Film Critics
- Pauline Kael
- Roger Ebert
- Harry Knowles/ "Ain't It Cool News" website
- Clifford Irving
- Hieronymus Bosch
- Norman Rockwell
- Vincent van Gogh/ Lust for Life
- Paul Gauguin
- Jackson Pollock/ Pollock
- Salvador Dali
- Roy Lichtenstein
- Edvard Munch
- Marcel Duchamp
- H.R. Giger
- Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec
- Pablo Picasso
- Joan Miro
- Frida Kahlo
- Andy Warhol
- Ansel Adams
- Leonardo da Vinci
- Michelangelo
- Joel-Peter Witkin
- Jean-Michel Basquiat
- Annie Leibowitz
- Banksy
- Thierry Guetta/ Mr. Brainwash/ MBW
- Henry Darger
- Frank Lloyd Wright

### Miscellaneous Individuals/ Family/ Friends

- Jesus Christ/ The Last Temptation of Christ
- His Holiness the Dalai Lama
- My Family
- Mom and Dad - My Accidental, Default Artists
- Lisa, My Wife
- Mrs. Guggenbiller
- Ron Saks**
- A Tribute to My Friends
- Joe Pleiman: A Living Tribute to an Old Friend
- Justin Jason
- Mike Folliett
- Matt Plotecher
- Kalpa
- Ryan Treptow
- Caleb Strauss
- Thomas Edison
- Albert Einstein
- Howard Hughes
- Gandhi

- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Thomas Jefferson
- Barack Obama
- Harvey Milk
- Joan of Arc
- Rocky Dennis/ Mask
- Nostradamus
- Christopher Columbus
- John Muir
- Fredrick Nietzsche
- Jean-Paul Sartre
- Napoleon Bonaparte
- Jackie Robinson
- Muhammad Ali
- Mike Tyson
- Malcolm X
- Alfred Kinsey
- Timothy Treadwell
- Hooters Girls
- Betty Page
- Siskel & Ebert
- Maya Lin
- Robert W. Kearns
- Michael Eisner
- Steve Jobs
- Robert W. Kearns
- Richard O'Barry
- Dr. Jack Kevorkian
- Temple Grandin
- Lewis & Clark
- Joseph Merrick, The Elephant Man
- Will Rogers
- J. Robert Oppenheimer
- John Kerry
- Anonymous
- Jack Rebney/ "Winnebago Man"
- Philippe Petit

## Writers/ Artists/ Critics

### **-Edgar Allen Poe**

Edger Allen Poe's poems captivated his emotions in a lust for imagination and fantasy. He knew that he would have to write his own poetry and words. It was his creative/ romantic way of saving himself, as well as impress his love.

"Is all that we see or seem but a dream within a dream?" -Edgar Allen Poe.

### **-Stephen King**

Stephen King once worked as a college janitor. He was also a teacher, and only wrote occasionally in his spare time. But he never fully believed his work would get picked up or become popular enough to continue doing full-time.

Carrie, an immensely personal movie, by myself. I've had grueling trouble with viewing Carrie in the past because it concerns a shy outcast/ scapegoat teenage girl who has to deal with her cruel high school classmates. Then after she finally gets a first chance for romance at the prom, stupid teenagers drop pig blood all over Carrie. Her telekinesis powers are like Phoenix's in the X-Men. Carrie, to me, is an X-Man outcast in high school.

Carrie: "The ultimate revenge tale for anyone who remembers high school as a time of rejection and ridicule"... "Wanting to be respected by your peers"... "Only at the end when they *really* humiliate her does she coldly use her

powers"... "We are all very sorry about this incident"... A sheltered high school girl with great powers of her own... "Did any one of you ever stop to think that Carrie White has feelings?"... Embarrassed because a boy asked her to the prom. But is it a trick?... "I got to get along with people better"... "I don't want to be funny to every person. I want to be normal"... "He's a nice boy, momma!"... "Everybody knows that dad ran away with another woman, momma." Stephen King's The Stand: "*Season's gonna fear the reaper!*"... Nearly everyone in the world got the Super Flu... "Jesus wept!"... "I can hear! I can talk!"... Martial Law has been declared over the globe. The hospitals are filled beyond capacity... "All the girls who used to laugh at the way I walked"... Classic 80's song (Hey Now, Hey Now, "Don't Dream It's Over" by Crowded House) played over the emotions of teenagers during the end of humanity... "Someone burnt down the entire city of Des Moines?"... Ghosts mowing lawns.

### **-J.R.R. Tolkien**

The Lord of the Rings: "Frodo! Do not tempt me!"... An animated storybook... Dark riders in the storm... "This waiting is horrible!"... "There's no point groping in the dark!"

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring: Will Gollum get an Academy Award nomination, the first for a fully computer generated actor to receive such a recognition... "Old Toby. The finest weed in the Southfarthing"... "Life force"... "Mushrooms!"... "Into the Wild".

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring: Special Extended Edition: "Hobbits are known for being fond of eating food, brewing ale, and smoking pipe-weed"... "But I think in his heart, Frodo is still in love with the woods, the fields, the little rivers"... The trees grow stars instead of leaves.

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers: "This is a dream"... The trees scream!... "There are dead faces in the water"... "The forest is full of memory... *and anger!*"... "Fading trees"... Gollum: the Great Method Actor... "*The Ents go to war!*"... "Many of these trees were my friends"... One thing we learned from this movie: DON'T MESS WITH THE TREES!!!

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers: Special Extended Edition: On J.R.R. Tolkien: "He wasn't writing for an audience. He was writing for himself"... "You get the sense that he was making it all up as he went along"... "No one had ever attempted to tell a story in non-linear fashion. None of the professionals had ever done anything like this. Sometimes inspired amateurs know something"... Gollum's voice was created from the inspiration of the actor's cat having something stuck in its throat! Eureka!... "I bet they thought I looked like some guy who just walked out of a fetish club with this bizarre outfit on in white tights"... This is *otherworldly* cinema... A middle-aged man who is actually 87 years old... "Then it is a good dream"... "It was a dream, nothing more." - "I don't believe you"... "*We're under attack!!!*"... "For death and glory"... Viggo had affairs with one of the bearded lady riders of Rohan and with a horse... Don't forget inserting in the "Human Factor" so that the audience will care about what is going on.

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King: Here ends the great trilogy journey. I've been there and back again. The heroic screams of "FIGHT!!!" still wail in my mind and ripple in my emotions. Upon getting up to leave the Arena Grand Theater after nearly four hours before a giant screen, I was speechless and overwhelmed by spectacle, imagination, and emotion. It blew me away to the point where engaging in conversation afterwards with my movie going buddies seemed false and premature. Didn't they just witness the same fantasy movie epic as I?!? How can they question to each other if the other "liked" and "enjoyed" it? Isn't that irrelevant to even ask?! There were scenes where I exclaimed out, "JESUS!!!" upon seeing such scenes of carnage that I've never gazed before! "King" is a marvel of mass entertainment. Rarely have I been in a movie theater and you don't hear a single breath when the movie goes silent for ten seconds. That's how much respect the packed audience had for this movie experience. This was also one of the greatest uses of computer generated effects/ animation ever exposed to the movie world. Yet, this is still a character driven drama. Even in death lies adventure. And so when the movie ended, I could sense a huge glowing smile on my face. This tale had ended, and a new one was about to begin.

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King: "In my future, you saw life. You saw my son"... "Nothing is certain"... "*Light the beacons!*"... "There was just a fool's hope"... "*Fight for your lives!!*"... The Riders of Rohan have arrived!! 6,000 warriors charge into battle on horseback!... The attack of the green ghoul warrior dead!!... "My eyes darken" as he dies away... Eagles vs. dragons... "One last adventure."

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King: Special Expanded DVD Edition: "I don't know what's going to happen"... "There are no more stars"... "It is but a shadow and a thought that you love. I cannot give you what you seek"... "Don't leave me here alone"... A flaming red evil eye... The joyful suicide ship. Sail off into the sun with a smile on your face... Rings extras: "All writers pour into their work elements of themselves... "He had a fear that no one was going to read his work."

### **-C. S. Lewis**

Shadowlands: C. S. Lewis: "A gateway to an imaginary world"... "Books are safe. You can't get hurt by books"... "Pain is good. Suffering is necessary"... Confirmed bachelors... "This is always such a trying time of the year"... "Friendship is a kind of love"... "We almost made it"... To know that things are finite, we will live a happier, more productive life by taking advantage of the time that we have and living more in the moment.

## **-Mark Twain/ Samuel Clemens**

Mark Twain – A Film Directed by Ken Burns: “I believe God created man because He was disappointed in the monkey”... “He was considered the funniest man on the planet”... “A genius of words”... “Art could be created from the American language”... “He idealized the American language”... “He wrote constantly”... “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”... “Mark Twain told the truth”... “He was always reinventing himself. Always restless. Full of contradictions”... “I am not an American. I am *the* American”... “I could see no promise in him”... “His chronic financial failures forced him to start over five times in a dozen years”... “He remembered that he never saw his father laugh”... “His mother delighted in hearing tall tales”... “He was the only independent person in the whole community. And because of this, he was always happy”... “Aunt Hannah, who was rumored to be a 1,000 years old. These were towering personalities”... “Those slaves had the saddest faces he ever saw”... “Lure him into a world of words and ideas”... “He read everything he could find”... “Hannibal seemed to confining”... “He set off down the river to make a name for himself. It was the beginning of a lifetime of wandering”... “An old dream was reawakened”... “To be a steamboat man”... “Mark Twain = Safe Water”... “Painted by the sun”... A brother and a sister both died when he was young... “I am left an old man before my time”... His brother was burned terribly in a steamboat accident. He later died. “Sam blamed himself”... “It was the biggest sorrow of his youth”... “His way through is sorrow was humor”... “There is no laughter in heaven”... “Our boat was so slow. We raced with islands”... “He stored up memories of places, scenes, and people”... “He was a noticer”... “This fascination with noticing”... “I ‘retired’ from the Rebel Army in ‘61”... “A man’s front yard on top of his house”... “Admiring the endless open spaces”... “Ham and eggs and scenery. These are happiness”... “Jackass rabbits”... “He gave up mining”... “A whole new newspaper art form”... “Mark Twain always lived on the edge, between light and dark, between safe and dangerous”... “He was quietly let go from the newspaper”... “The Golden Era”... “I slunk away from faces that were familiar”... “I felt more despicable than the worms”... “I was entirely penniless”... He was suicidal... “His Jumping Frog story got him his very first good review”... “Turning his articles into lectures”... “The thought of failing before a live audience terrified him”... “Contemplating his impending failure”... “Little by little, my fright melted away and I began to talk”... “Mesmerized by his powers of description”... “He was an unintentional genius of the stage”... “He had a draw. Pauses”... “He understand the pause... the tension”... “Twain saw it all”... “He wished to turn his dispatches into a book”... “She was slowly, but surely falling in love with him”... “I am so happy I want to scalp somebody”... “The People’s Author”... “He could not believe his luck”... “Their babies died young. Twain blamed himself”... “She felt cold towards God”... “Horrible things happen”... “He had a dark, depressive streak”... “This was balancing element to his personality that needed to be humorous and entertaining. It gave depth to his work”... “The library was the heart of the house”... “When he was home, he expected everything to revolve around him”... “Twain had his problems, his passions, his frustrations”... “His distance from his children. It was a complex relationship to be sure”... “The horrors of slavery and families told apart”... “It has no humor in it”... “He was discovering new ways of looking at the world”... “Imagine the luxury of it!”... “A man in the happiest years of his life surrounded by the people he loved in a place where he could have a free range of his imagination”... “He spent each day in splendid isolation”... “A rain of reminiscences”... “Out of his flood of memories, a new book emerged”... “‘Tom Sawyer’ is the Norman Rockwell of what we think our boyhoods were”... “Twain’s past seemed to be an inexhaustible source of inspiration for him”... “That time was the most productive of his entire life”... “It’s prose was pure”... “He was looking at the horrible failure of freeing the slave”... “Huckleberry Finn would be his masterpiece”... “He made a black man into a human being”... “The tragic comedy of life”... “It’s the great moral awakening for white Americans”... “20 years ago, he had contemplated suicide in California. Now everything was going his way”... “I am frightened by the proportions of my prosperity”... “We’re all nuts. We’re all a little foolish. Aren’t we funny animals?”... “His masterpiece, Huckleberry Finn, a cunningly subversive attack on slavery and racism”... “Missouri morals and Connecticut culture”... “Sam Clemens would lose everything and everyone close to him”... “I am God’s fool”... “He was read by everyday folks”... “A Connecticut Yankee”... “Clemens wished for his daughters to be little girls forever, overlooking his sometimes unpredictable behavior”... “It’s my swan song”... “He intended to write only for his amusement from now on”... “He considered himself an inventor”... “It’s because there’s an excess of imagination in writers”... “He’s hopeless as a businessman. None of his investments paid off”... “By 1890, Clemens had lost all of his wife’s inheritance”... “Travel has no longer any charm for me. I have seen all the foreign countries that I want to see, except heaven and hell”... “He grew into debt for \$200,000”... “Business failure means disgrace”... “Funny’, that’s all people see of him”... “60 years old and bankrupt”... “We have broken his pride”... “The strain of his bankruptcy”... “What a bitter world it is”... “Suzie’s death was the cumulating blow. It was the grief that trumped all other grieves in his life. It was the final collapse in his faith in a benevolent God”... “This was the death nail to the life they once treasured dearly as a family”... “Work became Twain’s solace”... “This wasn’t someone who was just trying to entertain you. This was someone who was trying to keep from killing himself”... “He was a life force”... “All of the ghosts of his childhood in Hannibal had returned. He had had his final catharsis. He was putting his boyhood to rest at last”... “As he played on the piano, Libby slipped away”... “Our life is wrecked. I have no plans”... “She was the glue. She kept everyone together”... “The happy family laid in ruins”... “He felt so alone”... “There is no God and no universe. There is only empty space”... “He was angry at a Christian God”... “His writings turned dark”... “He talks with Satan”... “The obscurity of human beliefs”... “The Mysterious Stranger”... “He didn’t want the writings to be released until well after his death”... “He struggled with a despair that was profound. I think he was a depressed person”... “It’s all futile. We *cannot* know

why we are all here. Life makes very little sense in the long run"... "He was so extraordinarily lonely"... "A museum of his memories"... "I am only human, although I regret it"... "He came in and out with Hailey's Comet"... "All the World Is Weeping for Mark Twain"... "The Lincoln of our literature"... "A poetry of laughter"... "A laughter born of the human experience that is almost too much for a human to endure."

The Adventures of Mark Twain: "I became a writer. I haven't worked a day since"... Claymation is like watching a fluid, tangible animated painting. It resembles oil paint; computer animation resembles plastic... "We're going to watch and learn"... "Naked people have little or no influence in society"... "It all started at the world's first birthday party! God, the artist of the universe"... "I've got friends in heaven *and* hell"... "I have come to like Sundays"... "A + E"... Give the Great Sphinx a nose job... Back to Eden.

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect." -Mark Twain.

#### **-Dorothy Parker**

I was watching a documentary on Dorothy Parker and found myself deep with empathy for her sorrow... "Suffering as a stimulus for writing... The personal pain (of feelings and love)."

#### **-Virginia Woolf**

"The Mind and Times of Virginia Woolf": "She must have thought that it's such great fun to be mad. You get such wonderful ideas. Better than you do when you're sane. But it wasn't fun for her or anyone else that was close to her"... "She did a great job of capturing the instability of the mind"... "It was her intense curiosity that made her a novelist"... "She believed that during WWII, she fell into a depression because being a writer during wartime was meaningless"... "Her diaries are what we will most value her for. They are a texture to them - a richness of observation"... "She believed in keeping a diary every day. Even if one believes that nothing interesting happens, *something* interesting does happen every day."

#### **-Sylvia Plath**

Sylvia: All true artists have a wall of rejection letters... A poet and a published poet... "He is... different"... "How is he going to support you?"... To try to kill yourself so you can be a *real* artist... "The subject is you. Write about you"... "There's no secret to it. You just *write*"... "Your poems are so beautiful - they're frightening... haunting"... "I see you!"... "The truth comes to me. The truth loves me"... "And I felt like God spoke through me"... "I have fallen a long way"... "All I want is blackness and silence."

#### **-Oscar Wilde**

Wilde: Oscar Wilde dejected by being exposed of "perversity": also see the Woody Allen story and the Michael Jackson biographies for similar lives.

#### **-William Blake**

"If *the doors* of perception were cleansed, everything would appear to man as it is: *infinite*." -William Blake.

#### **-W.B. Yeats**

"The end of art is peace. And the pursuit of art is like the pursuit of religion in the intense preoccupation it demands." -W.B. Yeats.

#### **-Ed Skellings**

4-4-00: I realized something this late afternoon as I was working. Ed Skellings built the Center up as a research center and later as a graduate program for computer arts. I took for granted that Ed is doing this *for* the students, and less for himself. I wouldn't have a Master of Fine Arts if it weren't for Ed and his dream. (I thanked him tomorrow with all sincerity which he was appreciative of. I did know inside that he also made the Center into a graduate degree program because the state was getting rid of state-funded research facilities. But still there is a dream in the program.)

11-14-01: Ed can recite any one of the thousands of poems he's written and others have written by heart, verse-by-verse, stanza-by-stanza. It was like he was possessed by the art of poetry. It's *unforgettable* to him. I'm truly amazed to witness his gift.

#### **-Truman Capote**

Infamous: "Answered Prayers"... "You know how hard it is for me to modify myself"... "When you're tiny, you have to be tough"... "He's an enigma"... "We have an 'understanding' that one of us is not around to sexually satisfy the other, we are allowed to fulfill ourselves with others. I hardly ever wonder, but he does"... There's a sincere duality to his persona. He'll be someone's best friend, but the next day happily gossip away his "best friend's" secrets to another friend of his. He'll emotionally break down and retell the suicide of his beloved mother if it will help the killer tell his story of killing three innocent people. He's conscious of what he's doing, but there's a desperate side to it as well. He can be manipulative and not be trusted, but you can't help but love him for being so different and rejected in his life and physical presence... "You have the soul of an artist. Artists have the power through their imagination to escape the

real world and create a better one"... "We really connected, didn't we"... "He said he loved me, and he always has"... "I can alchemize what wounds me into art"... "Friend Capote"... "Writers die a little every time they write. It just goes to show how much they gave."

Capote: "He couldn't bear to be alone with his thoughts. It was too painful"... "I can sense him. He's desperately lonely. Crazy"... "We're on suicide watch"... "Pretend to have fun"... "I frankly don't see what all the fuss is about."

### **-Jack Kerouac**

On the Road with Jack Kerouac: "The economic hardships that followed would force the already shy and introverted Jack Kerouac to retreat even further into his own fantasy world... Temporary madness and confusion... Overwhelmed by restlessness and rebellion, he moved out... Poured out his frustration... Each novel was an act of desperation... Poetry is the language of a state in crisis." He is me.

"The only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn like fabulous yellow roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars..." -Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*.

### **-Allen Ginsberg**

The great Beat poets that can make one's mind expand through the rhythms and wisdoms of his words.

### **-William S. Burroughs**

William S. Burroughs: Commissioner of Sewers: "When did I stop exposing myself in public?"... Poetry aimed to trance the viewer right-brained.

William S. Burroughs: Spare Ass Annie and Other Tales: An audacious sonic reading by Burroughs set to lullabies and jams.

Naked Lunch, featuring another fantastic Judy Davis performance, worked sensationally on hypnotizing my mind. I was transported elsewhere. The hallucinations, weird creatures, and the warped homosexual themes flex-flipped out my subconscious mind to a delirious well after the movie was over. *I and time* moved slower than usual.

Naked Lunch: "Exterminate all rational thought"... "I gave up writing when I was ten - too dangerous." -"Only if someone reads what you write, and we haven't had that problem!"... Shooting up bug powder... "It's a Kafka *high*. You feel like a bug"... "I thought you were finished with doing weird stuff." -"I thought I was too, but I guess I I'm not"... A giant cockroach that talks out of an asshole on its back... A typewriter bug... "The leaves will always be perverts"... "I'm dying of loneliness. I can't connect with anyone. I seem to be addicted to something that doesn't even exist"... "Joan was a centipede"... "New Orleans is a dead museum"... "It's time to discuss your philosophy of drug use as it relates to artistic endeavor"... "His asshole could talk... farting out the words"... Being bugged from behind by a giant mutant bug in a giant parrot cage in someone's North African bedroom... **Bleeding dried up corn on the cob**... Typewriters cumming with ideas... "Mugwump jism can't be beat"... I'm so glad I didn't watch this movie with company over because I stopped the movie over twenty times to jot down notes whenever I got inspired to write. The movie put me on a different state of mind. I was free of distractions that allowed the words to pour out of me like sporadic hallucinations. I started the movie at 9 a.m. I didn't finish it until 2 p.m. A 115 minute long movie took five hours to get through.

### **-Charles Bukowski**

Bukowski: Born Into This: Charles Bukowski: "He used to tell me that if your parents are beginning to like your work, it's getting *bad!* If the cops are around, something good must be happening. Your work has to be *alive*. 'Drink, Write, and Fuck' - that was his advice"... "There was an electricity in the air. This was a Bukowski event"... "Liquor is like a symphony or a classical song"... "I never had a woman until I was twenty-four. I wasn't a pretty looking guy. I had no money. I never went to the high school ball. I was an outcast"... "He was looking for that golden sentence"...

"Something about looking at a woman's legs makes you want to dream"... "Neither of us really cared about anything, and that made us very free"... "Poetry didn't pay anything. But it was a passionate, pleasurable form where I could scream a little bit. I needed to scream a little bit"... "He was appalled by Mickey Mouse. He's say, 'That three-fingered son-of-a-bitch has no fucking soul!'"... "He wanted enough money to get his own little cave to work in"... "The Outsider"... He had an old girlfriend with a white beard... He worked at the United States Post Office for many years... This documentary on a raw poet is like inhaling creativity. It gets you high on being dangerous again. On taking risks. On not doing what everything tells you to do... "Not being able to create art, they will not be able to understand art"... "Notes of a Dirty Old Man"... "I'm a suicide case anyhow"... "He was the voice of the common people. He wrote about the dark corners of places that no one wanted to go"... "Once he gained some notoriety, women started to come to him"... "When he could finally write about his childhood, it was a cathartic experience"... "I give Linda a lot of credit for sticking with him and saving his life"... "He would be baiting her to get her angry and get a fight going"... "He went after girls that were slightly damaged"... "He dealt with dying by making art out of it"... "Blowing My Hero"... "He felt the sun gave him life energy"... "Because of his intense childhood, he was in pain all the time"... "He empathized with people going through dark periods of their life"... "He was very aware of the

falseness of human beings”... “He was so sensitive to other people”... “His sensitivity was profound. His awareness of the suffering of sentient beings”... “Don’t try”... “His work is plain spoken truth”... “He had no social skills outside his circle of friends”... “He viewed the liquor that he would drink before a poetry reading to be the blood of a coward”... “From being beaten as a child, he understood the power of pain”... “An innovator has some rough edges, like van Gogh or Mozart”... “He was about honesty and telling the truth”... “He was full of contradictions.”

### **-Hunter S. Thompson**

Gonzo: The Life and Work of Dr. Hunter S. Thompson: “He lost that Gonzo edge”... “Creatively, he had written all his great stuff. He hadn’t been productive in four to five years”... “Make no mistake about it. We are at war now”... “That’s when the strange music starts”... “The edge is still out there”... “He was a reporter with a wild imagination. He filtered ‘reality’ through this ‘Gonzo’”... “He was going to be dead at 30 anyways. So he was living on borrowed time”... “He had two extremes in him that he lived with constantly”... “He always felt a bit like the outsider”... “He was an agonized human being”... “He wanted to smash the windows of the rich”... “The Hell’s Angels were like Genghis Khan on an iron horse”... “The gangbang was surrealistically horrifying”... “It was a mad, mad scene”... “Their mystique became so thin that it became transparent”... “What that Hell’s Angels book did do was make him realize that there was a market in the freak circus of the 60s”... “Coming to grips with my gun problem”... “Wild boar hunting with a sub-machine gun”... “They’re saying that the gun is the ultimate cure for what ails us: the American Way”... “He wants to ride out the death of the American Dream”... “I left the 1968 Democratic Convention in a state of hysterical angst”... “The only thing against him is that he’s a visionary. He wants too pure of a world”... He ran for sheriff of Aspen, Colorado!... Dope-smoking police... “He had the passion to move people”... “Gonzo was born when the evil came out of me in the drawings”... “‘Raoul Duke’ and ‘Dr. Gonzo’ were Hunter’s covers”... “He was high all the time... pushing the limits of consciousness”... “Hunter had to have some type of running crisis in order to animate him and get him going”... “He had a view of the ridiculousness of it all”... “I am sick and tired of old men sitting in air-conditioned rooms in Washington thinking up wars for young men to die in”... “He liked that that George McGovern was honest, and for that, he was a loser”... “I said there was a rumor in Milwaukee that he was addicted to this drug, which was true. I started the rumor in Milwaukee”... “Nobody wrote this kind of stuff”... “He loved to shock the squares”... “He almost had the attributes of an action hero”... “The nightmare we’re in today (Bush) was like the nightmare we were in back then (Nixon)”... “We as a nation have no qualms about killing anyone that makes us uncomfortable”... “He understood the darkness to the American Spirit”... “The inventor of Gonzo Journalism”... “Why can’t writers be like rock and roll stars?”... “His greatest ability was his anonymity”... “Then came a period where he just lost it”... “Eventually he didn’t go out at all”... “His marriage was falling apart”... “His first big failure was the ‘Rumble in the Jungle’ with Muhammad Ali where he failed to write up about his assignment”... “He became a prisoner of his own fame”... “He talked about suicide *all the time* throughout his life and relationships”... “He didn’t get angry about the Bush election, he got depressed”... “He flamed out too quickly because of how he lived his life.”

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: Non-fiction fiction reality... A reptile orgy in a Las Vegas bar... “We’re hired geeks”... It’s a mind-bending trip trek into mental confusion and hilarious offensiveness under unrestraint. Opps? Help me, I think I’m flying again... This is a movie that demands that you be on its twisted wavelength, or this will surly be a bum tripppppp... “Dogs fucked the Pope. No fault of mine”... “We’re in the vortex of the American Dream”... “Look, there’s two women fucking a polar bear”... “That girl really fell in love with me. Eye contact”... “Learn to enjoy losing”... Hunter S. Thompson used an alter ego while on a trip as Raoul Duke!... “I desperately needed peace, rest, sanctuary”... “I feel a powerful lust for red salmon”... “Six hairy tits growing on your back”... Holy bleeding Jesus! It’s over.

Buy the Ticket, Take the Ride: “He was the cherry on the cake”... “He was a mad, crazy poet”... “I’d feel really trapped in this life if I didn’t know I could commit suicide at any moment”... “I was the Billy the Kid of Louisville, Kentucky”... “He never liked to be alone. He liked to be around people”... “There was a blurring of what was real and what was imagination”... “He’s going to tell you the truth, but he’s going to do it in his own way”... “Nixon was Hunter’s villain”... “He believed that journalists needed to be shaken up”... “He went by Raoul Duke because he thought he’d get fired for writing such a drug-induced account”... “It is the most accurate, least factual book about the ’72 campaign”... “He was an action figure for the underground”... “He was part Bozo the Clown and part philosopher”... Hunter’s writing is like imaginative journal writing... “He was a man of excess”... “It was not unusual for him to order everything on the menu”... “Football season is over... The fun is over”... “His legacy will be a sane man in a mad world.”

Breakfast with Hunter: “Hundreds of hippies and freaks have escaped into the Rocky Mountains of Aspen, Colorado away from the American system”... “At the Freak Party Headquarters”... “I should be dead. That way we could sell a lot more trouble of this book. It would be a lot less trouble for everybody”... “I believed I had to be a writer because I wasn’t good at anything else”... “The problem is that you published a novel with *drawings*”... Wow. Hunter S. Thompson as asshole supreme to director Alex Cox!... And he goes off driving while drinking. It’s one thing to put himself in harm’s way. It’s another when he puts others in harm’s way... “I was really depressed in ’72”... “This is a bitch of a book”... “I have caused some pain and some injuries”... “He really lived.”

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: Wonderful rants of psycho wisdom: “As your attorney, I advise you to...”... “Look! There two women fucking a polar bear”... “No, calm down... learn to enjoy losing”... “It would be one of those hellishly intense introspective nightmares”... Did you know that Surrealism Cinema is this funny?!...

A movie book as sanctuary asylum.

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: "It is not about drugs. It is drugs."

Where the Buffalo Roam: Watch one's thoughts ramble out without suppressing oneself. The movie was a psychological drug - therefore, no substance drugs were needed to be taken. Star rating of worth: "\*\*\*\*" ... "Like piranhas with guns!" ... "Don't get weird on me now!"

### -Philip K. Dick

"Remembering Philip K. Dick": He had extreme agoraphobia... He didn't make much money until the end of his life... No one respected the science fiction genre. They considered it a lower form of literature... "He wanted to be a *real* writer, like Mailer. And to have such aspirations are to make yourself unhappy"... "I have never heard any good news come out of Hollywood."

Blade Runner: The Director's Cut: One of my lasting personal favorite movies from my high school days: imagine being created for the sole intention of sex: "The fourth skin-job is Pris, a basic pleasure model"... a future where the owls and animals are *artificial*... The thought-provoking irony that he was a replicant created to kill replicants... "How can one not know what one is?" ... "I designed your eyes"... She had used memories implanted in her body that she thought she were truly hers. How devastating... "My friends are toys. I make them"... A photograph image that reveals another photograph image deep inside it behind a corner... the replicants are like children, being truly alive for only four years. They're deeply empathetic in that sense... "The light that burns twice as bright burns half as long. And you have burned so very brightly"... "Revel in your time"... Midget gangs roaming the streets of L. A.... Pris looks just like one of J. R.'s toys... "All those moments will be lost like tears in rain."

Remember, the more I wrote about a movie, the more stimulated I was to pause its flow and record what it inspired in my mind.

Blade Runner: Extreme close-up of an eye.... A world of flying cars.... Clown faced city dwellers... He's a replicant and he doesn't even know about it. He's even a blade runner who hunts blade runner... "They feared they might develop their own emotional responses"... "Is this to be an empathy test?"... Flickering lights... Film noir cigarette smoke... Light rays and fog lights... "You're Nexus! I designed your eyes"... Memory implants... "It must get lonely here." - "Not really. I make my friends. I'm a genetic designer"... Infinite photographs.... Los Angeles as an Asian city... "Are you for real?"... L.A. as the ultimate surreal cultural melting pot... "Wake up. Time to die"... "I dreamt music"... A strange light in their eyes... They love passionately because they don't have much time left to live... "We're stupid and we'll die"... Ostrich wearing a bowtie... "There's some of me in you"... "I think therefore I am"... White skin, black fingernails... There's not much time for them to live... "Got a brainstorm, did we?"... "It's not an easy thing to meet your maker? Can the maker repair what he makes?"... "You're the prodigal son. You're quite the prize"... "I've done questionable things." - "Extraordinary things!"... Other worldly sounds and languages... A decaying apartment complex with heavenly beams of light... "Not yet!"... "That's the spirit!"... Wide-eyed Roy Batty... Controlling the sound design: ADR for dialogue to be more prominent... "I guess you're though, huh?" - "Finished."

Blade Runner - The Director's Cut: The experience.

Blade Runner - The Director's Cut. Ridley Scott directed the movie (which was in gorgeous letterbox) and really showed off his creative *vision*. Vangelis' music was mesmerizing. I'm definitely getting the soundtrack now. Blade Runner is one of the best movies I've ever seen. It was the ultimate experience. Rutger Hauer's performance as a desperate and powerful leader of a group of renegade replicants and the psychological glow of the movie left its own influence on me.

Notes from *Counterfeit Worlds: Philip K. Dick on Film* by Brian J. Robb: "So began a habit which he would maintain for the rest of his life: playing classical music records while writing. His rejection slips were defiantly and proudly taped to the walls. Even the return of seventeen manuscripts, all rejected in one single day, failed to knock the confidence of the would-be author"... "But his paranoia, extreme loneliness and depression returned, resulting in a half-hearted suicide attempt in March 1972"... "It was as though Dick had finally fulfilled his own legend: the mad SF author who'd conjured such bizarre novels as *Ubik* and *A Scanner Darkly* had finally cracked, going mad himself and experiencing the plight of many of his characters. Perhaps the whole thing was a form of extreme research or role-playing for his next novel?"... "Aliens, who have no music but communicate through colour"... "My physical stamina is nothing like it used to be... I can still write well, but the cost"... "Fancher had decided to move in a more commercial direction, believing this was the only way he'd get anything produced"... "Dick's obsession with Victoria Principle was part of his 'dark-haired girl' syndrome, where he would fall in love with women he felt reflected the image he had in his head of his long-dead twin sister, Jane. Most of his wives, and several actresses upon whom Dick fixated whenever movie possibilities arose, filled his criteria"... The Annotated Blade Runner Screenplays... "It was, however, the nascent mediums of home video and cable TV which really saved *Blade Runner*"... "What Hollywood found were thirty-six novels and over 150 short stories packed with brain-warping ideas, any one of which could form the basis of a high octane action thriller

given a respectable edge by actually featuring complex philosophical ideas at its core"... "The fact that Hollywood titans like Cruise and Spielberg were attracted to Dick's ideas was enough to guarantee that his remaining fiction would be heavily minded by idea-starved studios, writers and directors out to create entertainment that is smarter than the average summer blockbuster."

#### **-Jules Verne**

Futurist: work includes: [20,000 Leagues Under the Sea](#), [Journey to the Center of the Earth](#), [The Mysterious Island](#), and [Around the World in Eighty Days](#).

[20,000 Leagues Under the Sea](#): Seaweed cigars... Harvesting an undersea farm... The Nautilus cruised safely beneath a tempest.

[Around the World in Eighty Days](#) delightfully entertained me with an adventurous quest and enchanting music.

#### **-H. G. Wells**

Futurist: work includes: [The War of the Worlds](#), [The Invisible Man](#), [Things To Come](#), and [The Time Machine](#).

[The Time Machine](#) (1960): Using a time machine as a war device of knowing how to surprise the enemy... Watching changes like flowers bloom and welt that used to take hours occurred in seconds... Everyone in the future is born as an adult blonde... "Don't stand there like fattened cattle!"

H.G. Wells' breakthrough imagination of [The Time Machine](#) translated provocatively as a "Twilight Zone-like" affecting movie. Freely children grazing as cattle for the working-class Morlocks seemed insane to my understanding. Though time travel was explained convincingly enough to my imagination, I believed that its revealing possibilities could have gone wildly further.

[The Invisible Man](#) rampaged and invented chaos with the imagination and emotions of the vulnerable public.

#### **-L. Frank Baum**

[Magic Cloak of Oz](#): Fascinating cross between reality and non-reality to have someone in a theater-like donkey costume existing as a donkey in a child-invented world along with human beings and animals.

#### **-Louis Carroll**

[Dreamchild](#): Louis Carroll's inspiration for "Alice In Wonderland" happened to be a deeply repressed affection for a particular little girl named Alice. The author's terribly lonely stare at Alice was immensely obsessive, yet never vulgar. Alice's affection toward Louis was always subtle: a thankful smile, a small kiss on his cheek, or silly laughter.

#### **-Carl Sagan**

[Contact](#): Sensitive messages from a solar system not ours... "Ten Commandments or a Billion Commandments" - I really don't know how many there are... Images from an eight-year-old dream witnessed in reality in this movie - sunny day on an island, just off the coast, with a white futuristic high-rise structure on it.

[Contact](#): "At Sunday school, I kept asking all these annoying questions like 'So where did Mrs. Cain come from?' After a while, they called up my dad and asked him not to bring me anymore."... "What do these diagrams mean?" -"Moses with a few billion new commandments..." ...Tell me, does an ant believe in God? It doesn't have to... "I need proof in the existence of God. -"Did you love your dad?" "...Yes." -"Proof." Emotion - primarily *love* - is God...

#### **-Stephen Hawking**

[A Brief History of Time](#): Stephen Hawking proposed: "Who created God?"

[A Brief History of Time](#): An interesting documentary about the unlimits of the universe, black holes, and wheel chairs with vocoder speech boxes.

"Einstein was wrong when he said, 'God does not play dice'. Consideration of black holes suggests, not only does God play dice, but that He sometimes confuses us by throwing them where they can't be seen." -Stephen Hawking.

#### **-Frank Warren/ *PostSecret***

Notes from *PostSecret: Extraordinary Confessions From Ordinary Lives*, compiled by Frank Warren: "You are invited to anonymously contribute a secret to a group art project. Your secret can be a regret, fear, betrayal, desire, confession or childhood humiliation. Reveal *anything* - as long as it is true and you have never shared it with anyone

before. Be brief. Be legible. Be creative”... “For a community art project”... “It had grown into a global phenomenon, exposing our individual aspirations, fantasies, and frailties – our common humanity”... “This extraordinary collection brings together the most powerful, personal, and beautifully intimate secrets, and brilliantly illuminates that human emotions can be unique and universal at the same time”... “The psychological and healing aspects of art”... “A taboo thought”... “Four years ago Frank experienced an emotional crisis in his life”... “Healing through art”... “Self-Communication”... “Also from this universal level comes direct access to healing and personal transformation”... “There is no separation of the arts from spirituality or healing”... “By participating in PostSecret, we all are invited into that collective level to become artist – free to explore and share private aspects of ourselves creatively, both through writing and through the alternative language of visual art”... “The project also invites us into the collective level to heal ourselves, healing that has several characteristics similar to psychotherapy. For example, the prominent themes in PostSecret mirror some of the reasons people are drawn to psychotherapy: seeking relief from suffering; sharing painful experiences (especially concerning difficulties in relationships or feelings of isolation); expressing shame and anxiety about aspects of self that are difficult to face; and admitting one’s impulses, fears, and fantasies. Although many of the secrets are about psychological pain, the grist for the mill in psychotherapy, others are hopeful, optimistic, or even humorous. Hope and humor are certainly important aspects of the psychotherapeutic process as well”... “A journey into our depths, perhaps into the unconscious mind”... “The goal is to bring experience to conscious awareness and to express what is deepest inside and not have it be the end of the world”... “This exercise gives us the potential and the opportunity for self-reflection, for self-acceptance, for increased understanding about the self, and for healing and personal growth”... “In PostSecret, art and healing are one”... “I am still struggling with what I’ve become”... “After reading one particular PostSecret, I was reminded of a childhood humiliation”... “We all have secrets: fears, regrets, hopes, beliefs, fantasies, betrayals, humiliations. We may not always recognize them but they are part of us – like the dreams we can’t always recall in the morning light”... “I don’t think I’m interesting enough to have a secret”... “When I’m alone I see myself as beautiful. It’s when I’m around others that I feel so ugly and flawed”... “I’m jealous of her baby”... “Thinking about being with him is more exciting than actually being with him”... “I believe I will accomplish something truly great in this lifetime. I am going to be 53 tomorrow”... “I’m terrified of not existing”... “When I’m mad at my husband, I put boogers in his soup”... “Finding God is proving difficult”... “Sometimes after dark my friends and I strip down to our bras and panties and run around our local park, swing on the swings and feel so free”... “I am a peaceful person who happens to be filled with violent rage”... “I considered pressing statutory rape charges just so he’d regret breaking my heart. But then he’d never want me back”... “My parents are related”... “Income from teaching creative writing: \$32, 654. Income from writing creatively: \$0.00”... “I hate people who ‘reply to all’ on emails”... “I make up fantasy stories because my real life SUCKS. And now my fantasy life is starting to SUCK, too”... (Braille): “God is the only one who loves me. No one else on earth does”... “I’m in love with a comic book character (Nightcrawler) – because it won’t get me in trouble – and real men have been too painful”... “My parents think I’m checking my e-mail when I’m reading online erotica”... “I know where I am put... I’m lost”... “Sometimes when I’m having sex with my wife, I’m thinking of my mom”... “I pulled a muscle in my neck while masturbating. I couldn’t move my head for 3 days. (I told my husband it was from moving furniture)”... “I masturbate to pictures of Civil War soldiers”... “I think that ads for lingerie are sexier than porn, magazines, and cheaper”... “I’ve always suspected my father molested me, as well”... “I actually enjoy being an outcast”... “I wish I were a popular idiot instead of a lonely genius”... “No one can turn me on more than my Eighth grade boyfriend did”... “I hated my childhood”... “Suicidal soldier”... “I know it really stinks, but I like the smell of my own poop”... “I fear I have an undiagnosed mental illness”... “I wanted the plane to crash so I wouldn’t have to miss him anymore”... “I FEEL”... “Sometimes I think my fiancé isn’t THE ONE”... “I am a Southern Baptist Pastor’s Wife. No one knows that I do not believe in God”... “I was seven years old the first time I attempted suicide”... “Sometimes when I do Chinese takeout, I order for 2 people so I won’t look like a fat, lonely loser. Then I eat it all”... “I want to die... a hero”... “This jackass at my school died. I’m kind of happy that I don’t have to see him anymore”... “I love to pee when I’m swimming”... “My secret hobby: Collecting porno pics”... “I wish I would have left the mask ON”... “I need to change”... “I know that sending in a stupid postcard to share a secret with a bunch of strangers won’t do a damn thing to change the daily loneliness and unhappiness in my life. And I sent this anyway”... “What’s your secret?”

Notes from *My Secret: A PostSecret Book*, compiled by Frank Warren: "But the secrets that arrive from young people usually stand out; their passions run deeper, their loneliness feels more desolate, their joy is expansive. Their postcards reveal a hidden landscape and sound as though they come from brave explorers finding their way through a wilderness"... "A teacher in Chicago told me that she displayed a 'Veil of Secrets' at her school - a patchwork of more than three hundred postcards she collected from students. 'It got students talking and caused people to feel more connected.' She went on to tell me that it exasperated certain administrators, who removed it and declared, *What state standards could possibly support such gratuitous and sophomoric impulses?* (I went to high school in Illinois. I wish I had been lucky enough to have been in her class.)"... "For some reasons, I know I will die young... and it scares me a little bit"... "My dreams are bigger than this small apartment"... "I believe in my childhood Dreams"... "I wish I had just one talent"... "Today, I masturbated in the Ladies' Room"... "I've watched my bipolar sister become a zombie on her meds. I'm bipolar too, but I'm not seeking treatment. I like the highs and lows....."... "I want to have sex with a piano"... "I don't feel entirely alone when I go through the postcards on your website, or rather, I still feel alone, but I feel like there are a lot more people alone with me"... "My mom puts a star on the calendar for every day I haven't cut myself. I don't deserve 5 of those stars"... "I forgive the man who raped me"... "I want to talk to somebody because

they care, not because it's their job"... "I can't wait till I prove them all wrong"... "This was supposed to help me feel less anxious and sad. Now I feel nothing at all"... "If you feel like you are going insane, and you are trapped in a dysfunctional environment, You Are Not Crazy"... "Deep down I've always believed I am meant for something really big... Now I'm just waiting"... "I can only love her when she leaves me"... "I sleep to escape"... "Sometimes I wish I was better at faking it"... "And let me tell you.... There is nothing more invigorating or life-affirming than shredding old suicide notes"... "Fuck the odds"... "I saw your secret... and I love you anyway"... "My heart is an idiot"... "I am afraid that the only thing I like to do (art), won't take me anywhere. I hope I am wrong"... "Sometimes... I miss God"... "I was molested for most of my childhood. Sometimes I like it. I will always hate myself for that"... "If I died no one would noticed"... "I am afraid to live a Christian life because I might miss out on all the fun"... "I will always be the weird quiet girl"... "I don't remember when jumping on the bed stopped being fun... but I dream of returning to such carefree days"... "My husband would rather jack-off than have sex"... "I orgasm when I swim laps. (Only once and usually around the 400 meter mark)"... "I don't believe that 'perfect families' exist... They all fuck you up..."... "Even though it will ruin all of my future plans, I am trying to get pregnant so that he can't leave me"... "If I had a time machine, I would not kill Hitler or meet Jesus. I would take you to the movies"... "Surprise! Adolescence is not an exciting adventure. It's actually very boring... and lonelier than you could ever imagine"... "I accidentally stumbled across my dad's porn stash... And it turns out that he has a fetish"... "When I was fourteen I tried to commit suicide with a razor, then with pills. Now that I am thirty I understand that my teenage problems were resolvable. I would have missed out on things like being a parent, my nephews, getting my first tattoo, learning to ride a motorcycle and falling in love. Even though I will have these scars on my arms for life I am glad I didn't die"... "When I was a kid, I thought I was special. Now I'm not so sure"... "I steal photographs from my Grandma... because I find it hard to see things from her point of view"... "I hope to never forget"... "With these PostSecret postcards, I was being let into somebody's soul and sharing with them whatever emotion they invested into creating the card."

Notes from *A Lifetime of Secrets* by Frank Warren: "They were more than confessions"... "Some people told me they recognized a hidden part of themselves on a stranger's postcard. Others shared personal experiences of how talking about a painful secret had helped heal a lifelong relationship"... "My father broke the silence by asking me, 'Do you want to know my secret?' He bravely recounted a traumatic childhood experience. When he finished, we had a true talk that gave me a richer understanding of my father and recast our relationship"... "I am the product of adultery"... "I've put off telling my mother that I'm depressed and need help... 'cause I'm afraid she'd be angry I'm not the perfect daughter she thinks I am"... "I am very afraid that this is the climax of my life"... "Sometimes, life is really ridiculously repetitive"... "I want someone, anyone, to look at my secrets and feel something"... "It's weird... forgetting what you look like"... "I'm so scared that growing up means dying a little inside"... "The biggest reason I want to be teacher is because I miss my childhood"... "I am quitting my job in two weeks. I don't have another job lined up. I am feeling awesome and terrified. This is my rebirth!"... "The most important thing I realized lately is that painful breakups, unrequited love, shitty jobs and the like help us to BUILD CHARACTER and that no matter how bad it feels, we are much better off because of it"... "I'm a nerd and proud"... "I write home telling everyone what a great time I've having... Secretly I've never felt so ALONE in my life"... "I've masturbated since I was a little girl. I'm OK with this now, but sometimes worry that it keeps me from having meaningful relationships, were all the orgasms worth it?"... "Our nation is spoiled, corrupt, & ignorant... but I would die to protect it"... "I can't decide if I've stayed in the same job for ten years because of loyalty, stupidity, laziness, or fear"... "I am almost 40. I have average hair, an average body and average looks. As a result, I am invisible. No one ever notices me. Every time I go shopping, I steal something. A pack of gum or a \$50 bottle of perfume. If I'm buying something, you can be assured that I've taken something of higher value. I don't even try to be sneaky about it. I just pick what I want, put it in my pocket, and walk on. Because I am invisible, nobody sees me or what I take. I live in fear that I will be caught. And that I won't"... "I wish I could help those who send in their secrets. I want to make all the pain go away for them. I am your friend even if you never meet me"... "I aborted the baby you never knew about. Sometimes I want to tell you. But I doubt you would care"... "I pray to a God that I don't think exists"... "I'm 44 years old. I'm my own therapist"... "I fear the loss of my imagination"... "I will die alone and happy"... [www.postsecret.com](http://www.postsecret.com).

Notes from *PostSecret: Confessions on Life, Death, and God*: "The only reason I didn't kill myself in high school was because my art teacher cared!"... "I'm afraid there will be nothing outstanding or interesting to say about me in my obituary"... "I had my dream wedding with the wrong person"... Finding kindred sensitive souls... "Nature and Writing are my true therapies. They make me want to live"... "There better be sex in heaven"... "I'm afraid I'm not going to make it into heaven because I masturbate (a lot)"... "Without it, I am immobilized by anxiety. With it, I am immobilized by apathy"... "I masturbate to photos of us when we were happy"... "I only pray to God when I'm in extreme pain"... "If Jesus happens to be gay, I will still follow and love him"... "Caring for cancer patients has stopped my suicidal ideations"... "The problem with my kind of loneliness is that other people don't seem to cure it"... "Free to travel, I roamed the country"... "Today I realized I am allowed to be HAPPY"... "Please don't kill yourself tonight"... "Call me. Dad died"... "Today is the day I stop masturbating"... "You are invited to anonymously contribute a secret to a group art project. Your secret can be a regret, fear, betrayal, desire, confession or childhood humiliation. Reveal anything – as long as it is true and you have never shared it with anyone before"... "My first soft porn was the JC Penny catalog"... "I like turbulence on planes. It reminds me that I can still die"... "I spent my childhood wished I was an adult and now I spend my adulthood wishing I was a child"... "I'm a Christian but I'm afraid to learn too much about God because I'm afraid it won't make sense and I'll stop believing."

Notes from *The Secret Lives of Men and Women: A PostSecret Book*, compiled by Frank Warren: "Courage is more important than training or technique in creating meaningful art"... "I'm the one who has ben photo-editing your head onto the bodies of porn stars and submitting them to adult websites"... "I continue to be surprised by the many unfulfilled adults I have met who grew-up in privilege. And by the large number of people I have known who suffered difficult lonely childhoods but late, unexpectedly, found happiness and love"... "I am a 40 year old child"... "When I was a kid I promised myself I would never fight in front of my own children"... "I hate it when people say prayer works because it didn't when I was begging God to save my baby's life"... "I faked a miscarriage... twice"... "I gave up my dream because of one bad teacher"... "Some of the secrets make me think: 'WOW! I'm not alone'"... "I am a respected staff member of the school where I work. Nobody there knows that I have pierced nipples"... "I am starting to think that my so-called existential crisis is just my personality"... "She Said No"... "When I was 16 I had an abortion. When I was 33 I had a miscarriage. I think God was punishing me"... "My family's secret ingredient is almond extract"... "I have both a wife and a girlfriend and I have never been lonelier!!!"... "I am addicted to Internet Porn"... "I want life to be simple and easy... again"... "I'm wasting my life"... "Every year on June 4<sup>th</sup> I slow dance alone to the same song... while pretending to hold the baby I miscarried"... "I can only write poetry when I feel sad and alone... I haven't written a poem in over two years"... "I love and hate being alone"... "Dear soulmate, I don't know who you are, where you live, or what you look like. But I pray for you every nite, & I ask God to point you in my direction"... "Winters pass."

### **-Film Critics**

"The mass audience tends to seek escapist entertainment: Movies are a way of forgetting their troubles. Film critics must endure a constant barrage of such pictures in their daily line of work. Hence, they tend to get bored with anything that treads the tried (and tired) and true. What they seek in movies is something unusual, challenging, and daring." -From the book "Understanding Movies".

### **-Pauline Kael**

I've encountered some great film criticism throughout my life in study of movies. But I've never come across someone as insightful as this woman. Upon discovering her book *For Keeps* at the local library, I became captivated to how perceptive her comments and deductions were. She even criticized films I personally adored. Still, her thoughts were valid and challenging. She dug deep into cinema with a passion that was addictive to read.

"I see little of more importance to the future of our country and of civilization than full recognition of the place of the artist. If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him." -Pauline Kael.

### **-Roger Ebert**

He was the first movie critic I started to seriously read for his film criticism and film theory in his movie reviews. I read through his "Home Movie Companion" book when I was a senior in high school. I credit it for opening my mind for what to look for in movies and what makes a movie good. I enormously liked his writing, being as visual as it was.

From Roger Ebert's Video Companion: "Comedy is, after all, a release of tension." This explains why I laugh so much.

2-16-10: **Roger Ebert is dying in increments, and he is aware of it.**

*I know it is coming, and I do not fear it, because I believe there is nothing on the other side of death to fear, he writes in a journal entry titled "Go Gently into That Good Night." I hope to be spared as much pain as possible on the approach path. I was perfectly content before I was born, and I think of death as the same state. What I am grateful for is the gift of intelligence, and for life, love, wonder, and laughter. You can't say it wasn't interesting. My lifetime's memories are what I have brought home from the trip. I will require them for eternity no more than that little souvenir of the Eiffel Tower I brought home from Paris.*

There has been no death-row conversion. He has not found God. He has been beaten in some ways. But his other senses have picked up since he lost his sense of taste. He has tuned better into life. Some things aren't as important as they once were; some things are more important than ever. He has built for himself a new kind of universe. Roger Ebert is no mystic, but he knows things we don't know.

*I believe that if, at the end of it all, according to our abilities, we have done something to make others a little happier, and something to make ourselves a little happier, that is about the best we can do. To make others less happy is a crime. To make ourselves unhappy is where all crime starts. We must try to contribute joy to the world. That is true no matter what our problems, our health, our circumstances. We must try. I didn't always know this, and am happy I lived long enough to find it out.*

### **-Harry Knowles/ "Ain't It Cool News" website**

Notes from "Ain't It Cool?" by Harry Knowles: "Pauline Kael once said something to the effect that Steven Spielberg and George Lucas are a couple of young filmmakers who, while having the best intentions in the world, have destroyed the movies forever. Except that it wasn't spectacle or extravaganza or special

effects or the pure visceral thrill ride of movies like *Jaws* or *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* that wrecked the movies - or continually threatens to do so. And it wasn't the big money moving in afterward, although that was part of it. It was the crowding out of everything else. It was the hobbling of character and the streamlining of plot; it was action beats and pure sensation and perpetual climax with nothing to hang it on. So that, regardless of the changes in locale or motivation or stakes or the source of jeopardy, to a certain degree, every movie was now the same movie.

### **-Clifford Irving**

The Hoax: "Your first book sold poorly." And his second book wasn't going to be published because a prominent magazine gave it a terrible review... To write a *false* autobiography of reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes – and convince many of Hughes' closest advisors no less!!!... "I am the spokesman for the lunatic hermit!"... "It's sensitive"... "The lying is giving me a headache"... "Who are you now? General Patton?"... "You will have a shit storm rain down on you!"... "He wants us to bring down Nixon!"... "Taking down a corrupt president"... "How Howard Hughes bought Richard Nixon"... "You're not important, Clifford Irving"... "This is so beyond the bounds of the imagination."

### **-Hieronymus Bosch**

One day, I discovered the art of Renaissance painter Hieronymus Bosch. It was such a shock to discover actual *Surrealism* in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century centuries before it became an art movement! "The Garden of Earthly Delights" featured such disturbing visionary fantasy that no one had ever graphically recorded before. It was unseen imagination! He was Salvador Dali, the Brothers Grimm, David Lynch, and Terry Gilliam all in one.

### **-Norman Rockwell**

I fully discovered this artist's power in how he could capture an ordinary moment and tell a story through painted details and dozens of individual expressions of people's faces. Rockwell's images tended to dwell into the innocence of America and traditional values of yesteryear. I found a great beauty in how he could portray the positive, sentimental side of life over and over again in new, fresh ways. His characters were ordinary people with normal jobs; yet he made them all seem iconic and real at the same moment. These were photograph-like painting capturing that special moment that we can't freeze in time to notice and appreciate its humor, wonderment, expressions, grace, and quirkiness. I'm attracted to his voyeuristic view of a nostalgic world where children were still innocent, cute, said their prayers at night, mischievous, yet still obedient to their parents. Rockwell created an idealized America that seems like a surreal fantasy world to me now.

Norman Rockwell: Painting America: "He created a mythical, wonderful land of childhood innocence and exuberance"... "He painted the American dreams better than any other artist"... "All he had was his ability to draw"... "He did have a lonely childhood"... "I paint life as I would like it to be"... "Exploring the dreams of youth"... "American idealism"... "He lived and breathed his work. He was a workaholic"... "They were portraits of America and Americans without cynicism"... "He was a storyteller"... "He really did feel that he was *good*."

### **-Vincent van Gogh/ Lust for Life**

My personal notes on Vincent van Gogh that I've taken throughout the years from movies, books, and his diary:

I suppose I do want to be the next van Gogh... an artist expressing his vision of what he feels no matter the criticism... it's Romanticism in my mind of emotional forms.

Personally, Kirk Douglas' portrayal of Vincent Van Gogh in the movie Lust For Life became the (role) model for my emotions.

Lust for Life: "He had disastrous love affairs"... "He reads long and obscure sermons"... "I'll do anything! Use me... use me!"... "I'm going to live like a *true* Christian!"... "You've become an idler!" -"There are two different types of idlers. How easy it would be to simply choose to be lazy. But I want nothing but to work. But I can't because I'm in a cage of shame, self-doubt, and failure!"... "It's so good to be home and at peace for a time"... "God didn't mean people to mourn forever"... "We can't stand to see you suffering, Vincent"... "Blessed is the man who has found his work and a woman to love"... "I want children"... (Here is a movie where I could very well quote the entire screenplay because I relate so deeply to it)... "Take care of yourself, Vincent!"... "People would call us sinners. Yet is it a sin to love? To need love?"... "I want to make things that move and touch people"... How long until his woman becomes impatient with his artistic ambitions?... "It was wrong to be with her from the beginning"... "You're not the only one who's lonely, Vincent"... Gauguin: "When you get as old as I do, you measure what is worth your time. Anything else that hampers your ability to work you cut off. And then you spend the rest of your life questioning if it was worth it"... "Maybe with the change he will find himself" -"Or will he find more loneliness?"... A painting so vibrant and hot - it sweats... "Whole days go by without me talking to anyone"... Continuity error: a blond van Gogh?... "He must be so alone down there"... "If I could just sell one painting, that would help"... They're both impatient, passionate,

competitive, and self-absorbed - a massively glorious mismatch!... "You paint too fast!"... "I release my internal violence before it can affect me"... "I'm tired of being cooped up in here"... "I don't know what I'm doing or why I even came!"... "So much of life is wasted in loneliness"... "I know all about loneliness. Only I don't whine about it"... "It would appear that painting is beneficial if not necessary for Vincent's well-being"... The greatest comfort of this movie is that it shows loneliness through the portrait of a brilliant artist. The fact that the viewer can recognize that they're not alone is a great, therapeutic comfort. Vincent becomes a hero to the outsiders of the world. He triumphed even though he suffered long.

Lust For Life: "How could you call my sermon poor!? I spent all week on it."

"I feel that Lust For Life is an autobiography of my own life - just in a different time period." I am consciously aware of Vincent's end. *Very aware.*

I've been watching Lust For Life revealingly retell in introspective and passionate details the life of Vincent van Gogh, and discovering so much to empathize with his emotional struggles. This movie became more than a passive movie experience for catharsis arrived through my empathy for his struggles. I believe I can accomplish this more so through making art interactive as well as cathartic. Vincent's astonishment and enthusiasm with discovering the Impressionist movement was like my experience with computer art. To be so frustrated with the art I was working with and to find a whole new light! "Is it really art?" Vincent also moved from home to home, leaving lover, family, and friends for a new start. Theo wondered: "Will he find himself... or more loneliness?"

Vincent: "I will not ignore or avoid emotions"... "I must have my work to forget myself or an inexpressible melancholy will crush me"... "A fire inside me that I can not quench, but I must keep ablaze"... "To express sincere human feeling"... "I know well that healing comes, if one is brave, from within through profound resonance to suffering and death - through the surrender of your own self-will and your self-love. ...But it is of no use to me. I love to paint. To see people and things that make our life... artificial." -Quotes from the letters of Vincent Van Gogh.

Vincent: The Life and Death of Vincent van Gogh: Vincent writes: "Dear Theo:"... "We only pass through the earth. We only pass through life"... "I walked alone"... "I recall all our childhood memories"... "Do not mind to be eccentric. It is good to love flowers and fur trees!"... "Our aim must be to find a steady profession to which we can devote ourselves entirely"... "I must become a clergyman with something to say that is right and has use in this world"... "I think someone only gets some peace once they have accomplished something"... "I will try to fight the good fight"... "What is the use of a beautiful body?"... "Always learning and observing"... "I could come back with something to say that was really worth hearing. I saw this with all humility, and yet with confidence"... "There are many beautiful graves, evergreens, roses, and forget-me-nots"... "How rich art is! If only one could remember what one has seen! One is never without food for thought or truly lonely. Never alone"... "Often I draw far into the night"... "Like everyone else, I look for the need of family and friendship, of affection, a friendly intercourse"... "How could I be of any use to anybody?"... "The miners have deep melancholy eyes"... "The only thing to do is to hide oneself"... "When I was around the surrounding of works of art, I had a violent passion for them reaching the highest pitch of enthusiasm. And I'm not sorry about it"... "I am often homesick for the land of pictures"... "For more than five years I have been without employment"... "Do our inner thoughts ever show outwardly?"... "I think that everything good and beautiful comes from God"... "Love's a friend, a wife, whatever you like"... "Sometimes I draw sketches even beyond my will"... "My drawings have changed... What seemed impossible before now seems possible now"... "A deep love has grown in my heart for our cousin Kay"... "She said she could never return my feelings"... "Love is something so positive, so strong, so real that it is impossible to take back that feeling. Life has become very dear to me. And I am very glad that I love. My life and my love are one. Should I accept her "No! Never! Never!" or just give up?"... "That inexpressible moment of anguish"... "I want to go through the joys and sorrows of domestic life in order to paint from my own experiences"... "Why don't my drawings sell?! For once I would like to make some money to pay for a train ticket to visit that "No! Never, never!" Without her, I am nothing! I need a woman. I cannot - I will not - live without love!! I am a man and a man with passions"... "That woman was very good to me, very kind. When you wake up no alone in the morning with a fellow creature beside you, it makes the world seem so much more friendly"... "It gives me a feeling of satisfaction that I have gone so far that I cannot go back"... "There is safety in the midst of danger. What would life be if we did not attempt anything?"... "If I could only express what I *feel*"... "Misery would force her back in her old ways"... "We don't pay any attention to what people say"... "She knows what poverty is. So do I"... "My life or death depends on your help"... "Then I felt a love died within me. A void - an infinite void - came in instead"... "My God, why have thou forsaken me!"... "There is no God!"... "What is worse: danger or the fear of danger?"... "I want to do drawings that touch some people. Something straight from my own heart"... "I want to express serious sorrow. I want people to come away from my work, 'He feels deeply. He feels tenderly'"... "What am I in most people's eyes? A non-entity? An eccentric and disagreeable man? Someone of no social standing and never will have any. The lowest of the low? If this much is true, I want my work to show what it is like in the heart of such a nobody"... "There is music inside me"... "I have some experiments in painting"... "Painting is such a joy to me!"... "I no longer stand helplessly in front of nature"... "I found it difficult to get the depth of color"... "The glow and depth of that rich color"... "Those figures are full of poetry!"... "I am glad I did not learn painting or else I would have passed this by"... "The laws of color are utterly beautiful"... "Feel more faith in nature"... "My greatest desire is to make beautiful things"... "I regret that the woman with whom I live with understands neither books nor art. In other cases, I

would call her *stupid*... “Sometimes I cannot believe that I am 30 years old. I feel so much older”... “I see life as a kind of sowing time, and the harvest is not here”... “The money I have gotten from you has been absolutely indispensable since I have not found employment”... “I must start painting again. I can’t do without colors! A certain frenzy and rage for work”... “If I fail, what is my loss mean?”... “I do not care to spare myself or emotions or difficulties”... “I do not care if I live a longer or shorter time. I see it all from afar... like a dark shadow”... “With all her damned faults, she will always be good in my eyes”... “The right thing to do would be to marry her. But she herself makes it impossible. She is not good, and neither am I”... “I have worked and economized, yet I have not avoided going into debt”... “I have been faithful to the woman, but I had to leave her”... “Leave me to my fate”... “How handicapped I am to be here”... “I feel inexpressibly melancholy to be without my work to distract me. And I *must* work! I must forget myself in my work. Otherwise, it *will* crush me”... “I seek out this white light”... “One’s ability to stay there is based upon one’s ability to stand the loneliness”... “Father does not know remorse like any other creature. The good within father is wrongfully applied so that it acts like evil. The light within him is black and spread darkness”... “From my heart of hearts”... “Our youth was gloomy and frustrating”... “It is dreary outside”... “Very gloomy these dark winter days”... “I wrestle with nature in order to know her secret”... “I have no other wish than to paint deep, *deep* in the country and paint rural life”... “Painting is a faith”... “To make pictures that rouse various thoughts in those who think serious thoughts about art and life”... “I feel a power within me that I must develop. A fire that I may not quench, but must keep ablaze, though I don’t know to what end it will lead me. I wouldn’t be surprised if it is a gloomy one”... “What I am trying to do most is bring life into it”... “They have honestly earned their food”... “‘The Potato Eaters’ is a real peasant picture. I know it is”... “One of the most beautiful things to do is to paint darkness, which nevertheless has light in it”... “I see that a certain poverty will be in my future. But I shall be a painter!”... “I firmly believe that with perseverance I shall win”... “‘Van Gawk’ is such a difficult name to pronounce. Yet the whole world can pronounce ‘Vincent’ correctly”... “It is an attempt to come into contact with people”... “I have had a difficult and harassed life, much care and sorrow... and no friends”... “I have lost more than ten teeth”... “*Painting has the secret of giving someone a second youth*”... “I do not care if I hunger or am short of life”... “I want to leave some sort of souvenir of some shape or form of paintings”... “I want to express sincere human feelings”... To see van Gogh’s portrait paintings come to life!... “I have tried to render in intense color”... “And so I am struggling in life and progress in art”... “My only anxiety is: How can I be of use in this world?”... “At times I feel old and broken”... “One must have ambition in order to succeed”... “I will take off down south so I can be away from so many painters around that disgust me as men”... “How does one become mediocre? By compromising and making concessions, by always following public opinion”... “One must find a retreat in order to recuperate and get one’s poise back”... “I may be going to the south of France, the land of blue tones and gay colors. I’m not an adventurer by choice, but by *fate*”... “Will the artists see less troubled days?”... “I feel I was in Japan”... “It is my constant hope that I am not working for myself alone”... “A new art of color”... “The dead will live!”... “I am up to my ears in work for the trees are in blossom”... “I work in spite of the wind. It’s too *lovely!*”... “It may be more worthwhile to make children than make pictures”... “There will be things here that I create that will last”... “We hope that in some other life we will see something better than this”... “A man who dreams great dreams”... “I paint *infinity*”... “And the ‘nice people’ will only see the exaggeration as caricature”... “Being all alone, I am suffering from this isolation”... “Piling it on, exaggerating the color”... “You feel color differently”... “Color plays a very important part”... “Everyone will say I work too fast! Don’t you believe a word of it! Is it not emotion, the very sincerity of one’s feeling for nature that draws us?! Sometimes I work so strongly that I am unaware that I am even working”... “There will be days when One must strike while the iron is hot”... “Everything else was just dreams”... “The unlimited possibility of future existence”... “Looking at the stars always makes me dream”... “We take death to reach a star”... “That is my right to pain”... “The power to create... one is to create thought rather than children”... “I have found a brighter sun”... Classical music set to van Gogh’s paintings. John Hurt’s voice as van Gogh’s... “If the storm within gets too be too loud, I take a glass too much to stun myself. Now painting has become a distraction for myself”... “My concentration becomes more intense and more sure”... “The more I think of it, there is nothing more artistic than to love people”... “The painter doesn’t say anything”... “There is a light that I can only call *yellow*. How lovely yellow is!”... “I must be able to express my personality in my work”... “I will not end up feeling lonesome in this house. Hope is breaking for me on the horizon. That hope in intermittent flashes has sometimes comforted in my solitary life”... Van Gogh’s bedroom come to life... “You have no idea how much it pleases me to have as such good company as Gauguin’s”... “Gauguin gives me the courage to imagine things. And certainly things from the imagination take more a mysterious character. We talk a lot. Our arguments are terribly electric”... “These difficulties are within ourselves”... Shadows and light flickers on a van Gogh painting... “When I am ill”... “I will start on the orchids in bloom”... “To make funny of the great griefs of life”... “I feel strange undercurrents of sadness I find difficult to define. My God, those anxieties!”... “The music of the colors”... “I have no illusions about myself anymore. There are moments where I am twisted by enthusiasm, madness, or prophecy”... “The effect of hysterical over-excitement”... “It is too beautiful for us to paint it... or even to *imagine* it”... “I have come to see that madness is a disease much like any other”... “I am now trying to recover like a man who meant to commit suicide”... “I feel a desire to renew myself, and that my paintings are like a cry of anguish”... “I love to paint”... “At present, this horror of life is less acute”... “I have almost no desire to see my friends”... “It does trouble me a lot to have done so many pictures and paintings without selling one of them”... “I am always filled with remorse”... “I see in this reaper someone fighting like the devil to get to the end of his task. I see an image of death. Yet there is nothing sad in this death. It goes its way in broad daylight with the sun flooding everything

with a light of pure gold!"... "It is all yellow"... "I am sending you my portrait. I hope that you will see that my face is much calmer"... "I've tried to make it simple"... "It is basically true that a painter is a man that is too absorbed with what his eyes sees, and is not sufficiently a master of the rest of his life"... "I am too overwhelmed with grief to face publicity. Success is just about the worst thing that could happen"... "I have lived too hard a life to die from it. Or lose the power to work. My surroundings here are beginning to weight on me more than I can say. I need air. I feel overwhelmed with boredom and grief"... "What things I could have done here. I leave it with great grief"... "His profession and faith still sustain him"... "We must count on Dr. Casua at all. For one thing, he is as sick as I am. When a blind man leads another blind man, don't they both fall into the ditch?"... "It is difficult to know oneself. I should like to have a soul less unquiet than mine"... "I feel *exhausted*. So much for me"... "I feel this is the lot I had got and which will not change. The prospects grow darker. I see no future at all"... "I generally try to be very cheerful. But my life is threatened at the very root... and my steps are wavering"... "They are vast fields of wheat under troubled skies. I didn't have to go out of my way to express sadness... and extreme loneliness"... "My canvases will retain their calm even in the catastrophe"... "In comparative crisis"... "My own work... I am risking my life for it"... "*But what is the use!*"... A film seen from Vincent's point of view... "I wish I knew it"... Sunflowers on his coffin... 1853-1890.

Lust For Life: "Blessed is the man who has found his work and one woman to love"... "The clergy would call us sinners. Is it a sin to love, Theo? To be in need of love? Not to be able to live without love?"... "I want to see nature under a clearer sky"... "I'm working like a steam engine. Whole days go by without me speaking to anyone. I have a power of color in me like I've never had before"... "Painting seems to be almost necessary"... "The excesses of emotion"... "It's *impossible!*"... "I want to go home..."

Lust For Life: "But I must say what I feel. I'm not an atheist... I do believe in God - a God of Love. And I believe that there are many ways to serve him... one man does it through a pulpit, another through a book or a painting."

Lust for Life: I loved Vincent Van Gogh for the euphoria and loneliness I shared with him - though we were not always the same... "I want nothing but to work! Only I can't. I'm in a cage - a cage of shame, and self-doubt, and failure! I'm alone. I'm frightened!" The immense yearning in his voice shivered into my emotions... I'm dying from the same death Vincent suffered through his life: loneliness.

Lust for Life: Intensity + sensitivity = a brilliant portrait. To experience the movie was pure inspiration to be sincere and undenyng to my emotions.

Lust for Life: He strove to become an evangelist at the age of 25... I've actually done what van Gogh does in this film: wonder around the countryside wildly looking for inspiration and beauty. In my case, I use a digital camera to capture my canvases.

"Blessed is the man who knows his work" - Vincent van Gogh in Lust for Life.

Judging between two cinematic portraits of Vincent van Gogh, Lust for Life is almost "romanticizes insanity" in its interpretation of his life, while Vincent and Theo portrays him as strictly an insane genius in a unromantized portrait.

Vincent and Theo: The intensity of watching a portrait of Van Gogh obsessed into me. I pulsed with creative ideas and creative angst - I could conquer art with my emotions. Until the inspiration waned away, the possession of his manic passion was like a present to my emotional being. Vincent painted a woman's face and kissed her: making love to his art. Later, he painted his own face a masterpiece. Was he more beautiful painted?

Vincent and Theo (The van Gogh Brothers): "I'm gonna be a painter"... A portrait of an enraged and mad Vincent van Gogh, consumed by his artwork. A document of the madness of creativity... "I can't live with my family any more. They despise me"... "You better marry a rich wife. It's the only hope for an artist"... "None of my children have a father"... A pregnant prostitute moves in with him as his model and lover... "This is not reality. This is his perception of reality"... Vincent painting his own body as a masterpiece... Artists are the most passionate of lovers... "You wanted to change my life?"... He eats his own oil paints... Enjoy being a misfit and an outcast! It is the road to becoming and being a genius!!... Displaying paintings on the floor... "I have my own tastes. I want to be my own man"... "Christ the sower, Christ the sun"... Painting in the midst of a swarm of sunflowers and then violently destroying the image and canvas!!... Kurt Cobain as Vincent van Gogh... Vincent's fire-red hair... "I AM THE HOLY SPIRIT. I AM WHOLE IN SPIRIT"... A mad woman painting women, giving them "self-portraits"... "I don't see where he finds the time... all the letters he writes and the paintings" - "Hard work"... "Letters are private things"... "Those who are not artists are the sick ones. Working people are boring people"... "Would you like to paint me nude?"... Constant heartbreak... An uncompromising artistic vision.

Artists live a life in a quicksand of sensitivity. Look at Michael Jackson, Kurt Cobain, Elvis Presley, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Jim Morrison, Vincent van Gogh....

Vincent: "How good it is to be eccentric... and I'm not sorry for it"... "The land of pictures"... "For more than five years I have been without employment"... "I must forget myself in my work or else my sadness will crush me"... "I have had a difficult and harassed life"... "My only anxiety is how can I be of use to this world?"... "I am suffering a bit from this isolation"... "Success is about the worst thing that could happen to me... I've lived too hard a life to die for it or lose the power to work."

Van Gogh once wrote: "I must learn to paint what I feel - not what I see; but what I feel about what I see."

Van Gogh was attracted to a woman who felt great sadness, but had a bland personality.

Shortly after his death, someone discovered a few of his paintings and used them as targets for his archery practice. Imagine an immensely emotional work of art (which would later be worth millions) impaled with arrows?

Van Gogh once wrote in a letter about comparing himself to a bird in a cage. The bird that once longed to be released into the stormy skies was now struggling against the elements. Freedom will turn to exposure and independence to isolation. -I wrote that because I have felt it and empathized with its sentiments deeply.

"In September 1889, Vincent van Gogh painted a self-portrait to send his mother for her seventieth birthday. In it, he presented himself as the clean shaven, young, and unworried man he used to be, not the harassed, disheveled creature he had become."

Vincent: A Dutchman: "Yet the painter needs public reassurance of their respect and admiration for his talent"... Theo van Gogh: Vincent's economic support for most of his life. Wow! I could live in Yellow Springs for a year and be economically supported by my father and my own savings! I could live as a creative artist in an artistic community like Eddie has done in Hungary! I could have time off to live, make love, and create! In a Brilliant Light: van Gogh in Arles: "His absolute individuality drove him on"... "Portraits bring out the best in me"... To translate life through a rapturous imagination... "I feel at home in the laboring class"... An artist who was entirely self-taught... He read a lot. "What Dickens does in words, I do in paint"... He was an *honest* artist... Vincent felt most at home in country landscapes. Yet after two years, he got sick of it and had to move on... "He was learning to be himself"... van Gogh's Sunflowers paintings were like stained glass windows in a church... Four Great Crises... I could do very well without God in my life or my paintings... If a man decides to create thoughts instead of children in his life, he is still part of humanity."

Van Gogh's Van Goghs: He never stopped painting... "Yellow was van Gogh's color"... "After two years in Paris, Vincent was eager to escape to the bright sunlight of Arles"... To be a prolific artist... Colors playing off of each other. Saturated chroma with contrasting blacks... A love affair with the countryside... If other artists could come down, we could have an artist colony!... Gauguin: painting from memory, imagination, ideas, and emotions... "With my extreme sadness and extreme loneliness, I am risking my own life for my art." But I know there is a reason... and that's all right.

Akira Kurosawa's Dreams: "Crows": "Man is genius when he dreams"... "Why aren't you painting?! To me, this seems beyond belief!"... "If that natural beauty is there, I lose myself in it as if in a dream. But it's so hard to hold it all inside." -"So what do you do?" -"I work, I slave, I drive myself like a locomotive"... "So little time for me to paint. The sun, it compels me to paint. I can't stand around talking to you"... Wandering through van Gogh painting country! "Biography: Vincent van Gogh": "When van Gogh lost his clergy position for his extreme methods of living, he lost all his faith in organized religion. But he never lost *his* religion, *his* faith in God". Still his failure plunged into depression. In his despair, he returned to his drawings - the one activity that gave him joy. There's not much communication with his family and there was a period of intense self-reflection"... "I am a man of passions capable of foolish things"... "I am often homesick for the land of pictures"... "He fell in love with a 32 year old, pregnant, alcoholic prostitute. She fell back into her old ways of selling her body and drinking too much. She also had her mood swings. After living with her for nineteen turbulent months, he determined that he was better off alone"... "There was no enthusiasm for his work when he showed it"... "Van Gogh and Gauguin were both rebels. They were both passionate about color and art. And both were slightly eccentric which drew to attract them together"... "His teeth were crumbling, his stomach bothered him"... "He was always on the end"... "He dreamed of forming a community of artists"... "There are dreary days where there is no inspiration. So one must strike while the iron is still hot. To pain quickly with full emotional charge"... "An artist's life is one long martyrdom"... "I have always found it idiotic how painters always live alone. You always lose by being isolated"... "Here was a full-fledged artist who had his own opinions who had done brilliant work"... "Vincent grew worried that Paul would grow tired of him with both of them cramped inside a small room in the yellow house. He has become disenchanted with me"... "When Gauguin told Vincent he was leaving, Gauguin had murdered the dream of the painter's studio in the south. Vincent couldn't contain his distress"... "Vincent became desperate to leave the asylum"... "My surroundings begin to weigh on me more than I can say. I need air. I feel overwhelmed with boredom and grief. I am at the end of my patience. I can't stand it anymore. I must make a change - even a desperate one"... "Flooded with ideas, he never had enough time to paint all that he wanted"... "I have rested my life in my work and it has cost me half my reason"... "I tried to kill myself, but I missed"... "Vincent did not want to be saved. He said, 'The sadness will last forever'."

"In Search of...: Vincent van Gogh": "Theo wanted to prove that Vincent wasn't insane"... "He was born twice"... "He considered himself a stranger on the earth"... "How could products of such beauty be the work of a deranged mind?"... "He was well read and knew five languages"... "How could this man work so diligently, skillfully? How could he write over 500 beautiful written letters to Theo so sensitive and full of enlightened insight if he were actually insane?"... "What was the cause? Was it the intense loneliness?"... "Vincent dreamed of starting a community of artists"... "Gauguin had deserted his wife and five children in favor of painting"... "To share his home, Vincent could not have picked a more unsuitable partner"... "Vincent always the passionate seeker of truth"... "Gauguin baited Vincent"...

"Was it the agitation of the argument?"... "Why was he suffering such personal pain while his work was soaring?"... "I have done no harm to anyone"... Suffering from epilepsy... "The idea of work as duty is coming back very strong"... "A newspaper article praised Vincent as the leader of the Impressionists"... "I feel as if nature had spoken to me"... "The damnable voices that beleaguered his brain"... "Why did he see death as a trip to a star?"... "Young Vincent visits a grave that bears his own name"... "He lived his whole childhood with a ghost that bore his name"... "He was impatient. And perhaps he had good reason. He had 70 days left to live. Did he know that? Was he in a race against time?"... "On Sunday July 27<sup>th</sup>, Vincent was about to make a decision"... "He was a man with a physical problem that led him to a desperate act"... "It seemed that he was determined to succeed in his own death. He said, 'I've been a failure at so many things in my lifetime. I hope I haven't failed at this as well'... "And then he was gone"... "It's amazing to think of how much Vincent accomplished."

Notes from "Lust for Life" by Irving Stone: "Red-headed fool!"... "His family would say he could never succeed, that he was worthless and ungrateful, the black sheep of the Van Gogh family"... "Whatever you do, you will do well. Ultimately you will express yourself and that expression will justify your life"... "I draw a bit in my spare time for relaxation"... "He was tormented by his worries, What would happen to hi if Theo lost his job? Would he be thrown out into the street like some vile beggar?"... "He had no money to buy liquor. He had no money to buy paints and canvases. He could not ask Theo for anything at such a crucial moment. And he was deathly afraid that when he had his seizure in July, he would do something insane, something to cause poor Theo even more worry and expense. He tried working, but it was no good. He had painted everything he wanted to paint. He had said everything he wanted to say. Nature no longer stirred him to a creative passion, and he knew that the best part of him was already dead"... "But at the base of everything lay the overwhelming fear of what epilepsy would eventually do to him. Now he was sane and rational; he could do with his life what he wished. But suppose his next attack should convert him into a raving maniac. Suppose his brain should crack under the strain of the seizure. Suppose he became a hopeless, driveling idiot. What would poor Theo do then? Lock him in an asylum for the lost ones?"... "He had labeled Vincent the black sheep of the Van Gogh family"... "One cannot paint good-bye"... "His mind broke under the strain."

"His rough strokes, his vibrant colors, were part of his special vision... one that saw the world through a lens of madness. With each leap in brilliance on his canvas, however, he marked another step on his own agonizing journey toward utter, final despair. He became solitary early on, as he searched for what he would do with is life... The world he saw was visible only to him. He was a camera that looked through the lens of madness... Of more than 800 oil paintings and 700 drawings, he'd sold only one, and he'd never had a show of his own." –Notes on Vincent van Gogh from "The Big Book of Weirdos".

"I dream my painting, and then I paint my dream" -Vincent van Gogh.

### **-Paul Gauguin**

"Biography: Paul Gauguin": "Once he lost his job, Gauguin felt free to pursue his art fulltime"... "He was over-confident. After two years without an income, his savings had dwindled to nothing. And his wife was about to leave him from living on nothing"... "He had decided to put a type of self-love before all else. He made the decision to put his art before everything. And once he's made that decision, he remains true to it for the rest of his life. If people get hurt, well people get hurt in the process"... "I have gradually hardened this sensitive heart of mine to keep up my psychological fortitude"... "There are two temperaments in me: the sensitive man and the savage"... "He was broke and desperately needed to sell his paintings. He was virtually ignored at the exhibition"... "I will take my paints and reinvigorate myself on that deserted island away from "Man". I shall live like a savage"... "Art is an abstraction"... "He sought to attract the *attention* of Paris by painting exotic lands as well as pictures derived from memory and imagination"... "He purchased several Tahitian concubines, even one that was thirteen years old"... "I am a savage in spite of myself"... "He may have killed himself from an overdose of morphine – which is a painless way of killing yourself because he was so miserable at that time from syphilis"... "I know I am a great artist because I have endured such suffering."

Paul Gauguin: The Savage Dream: "In search of solitude to practice his art and expand his imagination"... To immerse oneself in virgin nature... Sleep is a metaphor for death, or for releasing ones dreams... Considered himself an outcast among Western Society... Conflicting sides to his personality... Christ with Gauguin's face nailed to the cross... As with Vincent van Gogh, he was destined to be misunderstood... The imagination of a lonely man has decorated his home with dreams... "Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?" - 'I have put in it, before dying, all my energy, such painful passion and terrible circumstances... I wanted to kill myself.'

### **-Jackson Pollock/ Pollock**

Pollock: Inside the mind and creativity of Jackson Pollock... She fell in love for him just from seeing his abstract artwork... "Are you experimenting with Surrealism? Is this a dream?"... "The source of art comes from the unconscious"... "You have total artistic license"... He can hear the criticisms and comments... "He's original and ambitious, but it's a bunch of mud and the titles are pretentious"... He suffered from extreme depression and self-doubt... "Cathartic disintegration"... "How do you know when you are finished with a painting?" - "How do you know when you are finished making love?"... "Is Picasso more important than your family?"... Dedicated to my mother and father... "He was desperate for recognition, attention, and approval."

Yet it gave him no peace, no solace, no comfort. It filled his ego, but that didn't last too long"... He cracked art right open... "Painting takes time. You really have to be committed to it"... He was a very insecure individual... His need to matter drove him to create art... A Rage... "His frustrations, his hopes, his dreams, his demons, his doubts"... He was emotionally unequipped to deal with life. He hadn't grown up yet. He was still nine... They shared their ideas about art and their love for art... Watching this movie was like a self-discovery journey for myself.

From Roger Ebert's movie review: "I first saw the movie at the Toronto Film Festival and a day later ran into the painter Julian Schnabel. I mentioned Pollock's suffering. "What happened to Jackson Pollock when he was painting," Schnabel said, "is, he was free." That's what Ed Harris communicates in the film. A man is miserable but he is given a gift. The gift lifts his misery while he employs it. It brings joy to himself and others. It creates space he can hide in, space he can breathe in, space he can escape to. He needs that space, and given his demons, painting is the only way he can find it.

### **-Salvador Dali**

His work opened up my mind and imagination to stuff outside the borders of typical still lifes and pretty pictures that I've been taught how to do. He broke the edges right off of all our consciousness.

Un Chien Andalou: Surreal Depravity from Salvador Dali!

Salvador Dali Museum experience: Four-sided cross with four crucified people.

### **-Roy Lichtenstein**

Roy Lichtenstein: A van Gogh painting with Roy Lichtenstein... Even this great artist worked as an assistant professor during a period of his life.

### **-Edvard Munch**

Edvard Munch: The "Anti-Christ" that never was... Trying to form a society based upon love and feeling... Utter frankness of one's soul... Unrelated information of history (the year of the invention of the machine gun, the birth date of George Patton) is inserted for no reason except excessive knowledge... False lives... "You demand more and more love from me - more than I can give - to you."

### **-Marcel Duchamp**

I learned so much from the Dada movement of Absurdism in art that it also seemed to mirror life in a way that other works didn't quite incorporate. Duchamp was the fore-runner in this progressive movement to deconstruct art, kill it, and rebirth it out as something else. This was surrealism taken one or one gazillion steps forward.

### **-H.R. Giger**

Giger's Alien. Disturbing, yet wildly visionary, erotic mechanical organic creations.

### **-Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec**

Moulin Rouge (1952): The story of Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec... There is a spot in Paris where the under-class go to die into the night. Drunk and distraught, they stare blankly, motionless. Those who dance simply hold their companion as they spin pointlessly in a circle... "We all have our escapes. Mother: her prayers. You: your horses and falcons, and your dreams of an age that is no more. And I: my [alcohol] (that eases the pain in my deformed legs and the thoughts of my loneliness and "ugliness")."

### **-Pablo Picasso**

Picasso, the Impressionist.

"Colors are only symbols. Reality is to be found in luminance alone." -Pablo Picasso.

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." -Pablo Picasso.

"Everything you can imagine is real." -Pablo Picasso.

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once they grow up." -Pablo Picasso.

4-13-01: I invited Owen to accompany me to the Boca Raton Museum of Art for the Picasso exhibit "Passion & Creation". After the first ten images, I was overwhelmed by too much form, line, psyche, sexuality, subconscious, and color. With so many women around, a cacophony of perfumes was on display for my senses. It was like a subconscious museum of the scents.

Surviving Picasso: "She wasn't very intelligent and he got bored with her"... What image was painted over with the existing painting? (A horrible image of his mistress behind bars eating bread and water?)...

"Creativity comes from chaos."

### **-Joan Miro**

"Art class was like a religious ceremony for me. I would wash my hands carefully before touching paper or pencils. The instruments of work were sacred objects to me." -Joan Miro.

### **-Frida Kahlo**

Frida: "If you're a real painter you can't live without painting. You paint until you die"... "It's in the way he looks at you. He sees beauty in your imperfections. It's irresistible"... "Thank you for making me a happy man"... "I'm used to pain"... "I'm like a jigsaw puzzle"... "Your paintings express what everybody feels: that they are alone, in pain"... "All I can do is keep working."

### **-Andy Warhol**

Superstar: Andy Warhol - the "man" who was not hetero or homosexual, rather **fame** was his sexuality. Once art had been envisioned, Andy decided to exploit it for its cheap beauty, art history importance, and profit potential. Andy Warhol was outside of creating art - he was turning art into a joke and relished the humor behind the hue.

Warhol: I was totally inspired by Andy Warhol as a possible role model. He was a liberal and a confused, repressed man in his own work, which was his pop life.

### **-Ansel Adams**

Ansel Adams: Photographer: "I wanted a snapshot of the emotion."

### **-Leonardo da Vinci**

"Art is never finished, only abandoned." -Leonardo da Vinci.

### **-Michelangelo**

The Agony and the Ecstasy: Michelangelo's struggle in painting the Sistine Chapel: "Look! Moses! Here in the marble"... "He needs me as much as I need him"... "I was angry when I wrote that"... "You will correct the clumsiness of my uncle's architects. You will decorate the ceiling"... "If the wine is sour, throw it out!" So he scratches out one of his ceiling paintings... "Don't let your *regard* of him make a fool of him... You don't keep your secrets as good as you think"... Michelangelo sees the Sistine Chapel in the clouds... "I planned a ceiling. He plans a miracle!"... "I was working and I forgot!"... "There was no room in me for love. Maybe there never was"... "Because I am different!"... "I've seen him in one of his working fevers"... "You should know your enemies"... "You'll destroy him!"... "I won't deny that I have a sort of love for him"... "The cure for his illness is *work*"... "As your pope, I cannot retreat or negotiate"... "We as artists must find a patron... or a pope to pay for our affairs"... "We are harlots, always peddling beauty at the doorsteps of the mighty"... "You will always be an artist. You have no choice"... "Even if it means swallowing that mighty pride of yours"... Raphael who copied Michelangelo's style... "Sometimes it appears that God seems to be deaf"... "Now it is finished and I am content"... "I still feel that painting is not my trade."

### **-Joel-Peter Witkin**

He is one of the master image makers of the macabre and disturbing. When I was first exposed to his work in art school, it scared me terrifically. Yet I was also enchanted by it the way I would be by Grimm's Adult Fairy Tales. I loved the forbidden horror to the imagery. They were obscene surrealism! There was something beautiful and unsettling about his work. I wanted to look away, but stare some more!

Joel-Peter Witkin's photography is a mixture of "Faces of Death", chicks with dicks, scratched imagery, dead people, beheaded bodies, more penises, aborted fetuses, S & M fetishists wearing black masks with religious imagery, mutilated pets, grossly obese men and women, dead naked children, crucified monkeys, torture porn, XXX fist fucks, bestiality, more chicks with dicks in masks, and mutilated human limbs and body parts - all gorgeously and beautifully photographed in a classical style in black and white.

"When people see my work, there is no "gray area" of response. What they experience is either love or hate. People who hate what I make hate me, too. They must think I am a demon or some kind of evil sorcerer. Those who understand what I do appreciate the determination, love, and courage it takes to find wonder and beauty in people who are considered by society to be damaged, unclean, dysfunctional, or wretched.

My art is the way I perceive and define life. It is sacred work, since what I make are my prayers. These works are the measure of my character, the transfiguration of love and desire, and, finally, the quality of my soul. With this work, I am judged by myself, by my contemporaries, and finally, by God. My life and work are inseparable. It is all I have. It is all I need." -Joel-Peter Witkin, 1990.

### **-Jean-Michel Basquiat**

Basquiat: "Samo's Day Old Soup - \$5.10"... The art dealer was aroused by his art!... The tormented, euphoric lifestyle of an artist... "I think about you a lot"... it made me realize that I also have a limited # of friends, one or three. My main friend and lover is my artwork - it is what I communicate through the most. I

make love through the colors, ideas, concepts, designs, and imagination. Perhaps, that makes me unique, but also, quite occasionally, very lonely and introverted. Along with my art I have the music that I listen to and the movies I watch.

### **-Annie Leibowitz**

Annie Leibowitz: Photographer: "I fell into that 'You have to be in a lot of pain in order to be working' way of thinking."

### **-Banksy**

#### **-Thierry Guetta/ Mr. Brainwash/ MBW**

Exit Through The Gift Shop: "Paranoid Pictures"... A Banksy film... "Tonight, the streets are art/ ours"... Guerilla graffiti artist extraordinaire... "He never went anywhere without a video camera"... "Videotaping is like a drug - an obsession!"... "I couldn't do anything without capturing. Keep filming, keep filming"... Putting your art out on the public streets and in society so people can see it... "Street artists who had to make their mark by any means necessary"... "The biggest counter-cultural movement since punk"... "It's my passion"... "I was starting to see a gallery that was outside"... "I liked the danger. It made me feel good"... "Thierry had accidentally found a focus"... "We needed someone who knew how to use a camera"... "It's great that we had someone getting this stuff on tape"... "The question arose: 'What was Thierry filming for?'"... "I am going to make a street art documentary"... "In his new role of documentary filmmaker"... "Terrorist" artists... "I didn't know if he was passionate and a bit crazy. But I respect passion"... "*BORING!*"... "I'm proud to be an art terrorist"... The baby Jesus strapped with dynamite across His chest while being held by Mother Mary... "Banksy is a fucking sell out"... Thousands of videotapes of recorded moments, many of which were not even labeled!... "I lost my mother when I was eleven years old"... "Missing such an important event stayed with him. He felt increasingly compelled to record the events of the people around him"... "I would make those moments live forever"... "Art of War"... Part practical jokester... "The notoriously secretive artist"... "I'm in a legal gray area"... "He was a legend, like a Robin Hood"... "Thierry struggled to keep himself entertained after the high of his scoop with Banksy"... "I like to be free"... "I was like an addict"... Guantánamo Bay protest installation piece Disneyland ... A movie that actually has a sense of danger to it. Remember when making art was considered dangerous rather than safe?... "Controversy, celebrity, and the painted elephant turned the show into an event"... Decaying versions of Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe... "Street art had become a white hot commodity"... "Art collectors" had to have a Banksy... "I think he's a genius"... "Everything was becoming crazy"... "It's not about the money or the hype"... "He had to transform the thousands of hours of tape into the documentary he had been promising"... "Life Remote Control"... "ummmm... There was a point where I realized that Thierry may not be a filmmaker. But actually a person with mental problems who just happened to have a camera. It was an hour and a half of unwatchable, nightmare trailers like someone with a short attention span with a remote control flipping through a cable box of 900 channels"... "He set out to create his own alter ego"... "The whole movement of art is all about brainwashing"... "He started to plan the next phase of his artistic career"... His alter ego: "MBW: Mr. Brainwash"... "His debut show: 'Life Is Beautiful'"... "Amusement Park/ Art"... "Can you build me a monster made out of TVs?"... "I'm a nobody"... "Build the hype"... "That one? \$24,000. This one? \$30,000. How much is it? \$18,000"... "A riot of themes and styles"... "Art fans"... "He has 20 helpers"... "Street Art and Pop Art together"... Is this movie actually a parody of L.A. art hipsters?... "Frankly, he's just kind of retarded"... "His art does look like everyone else's"... "His real success would be told through dollars and cents. He sold over a million dollars of 'art'"... "A lot of suckers buying into his show"... "Maybe he's a genius. Maybe he just got lucky. It may also mean that art is a bit of a joke"... "Everyone should make art"... If it seems as if Banksy is making fun of Guetta, he mostly holds a mirror up to hipsters who'll fall for anything deemed cool (like this film).

### **-Henry Darger**

In the Realms of the Unreal: Henry Darger, an elderly recluse, spent his childhood in Illinois's asylum for feeble-minded children and his adulthood working as a janitor. He lived a quiet, nearly solitary existence, but his imaginary life was exciting, colorful and sexually provocative. When he died in Chicago in 1973, his landlady discovered in his room 300 paintings, some over 10 feet long, and a 15,000-page illustrated novel (*The Realms of the Unreal*), which told the epic story of the virtuous Vivian Girls leading a child slave revolt against the evil Glandelinians. This haunting portrait of Henry Darger, a reclusive janitor by day and a visionary artist by night, could be an alternate portrait of my own recluse artist role... The ultimate outsider... Henry Darger spent his life working as a janitor in Catholic hospitals, living alone in a rented room on Chicago's north side, attending Mass up to five times a day, and writing a picaresque tale in 15 massive volumes, composed of 145 handwritten pages and 5,084 single-spaced typed pages, and titled *The Story of the Vivian Girls, in what is Known as the Realms of the Unreal, of the Glandeco-Angelinian War Storm, Caused by the Child Slave Rebellion*. To accompany this enormous literary production, Darger also created several hundred large-scale illustrations--pencil on paper drawings painted over with watercolor and occasional additions of collage--that relate the story: On an unnamed planet, of which Earth is a moon, the good Christian nation of Anniennia wars with the Glandelinians, who practice child enslavement. The heroines are the seven Vivian sisters, Abbiennian princesses, who, after many battles, fires, tempests, and lurid torture, succeed in forcing the Glandelinians to give up their barbarous ways. *The Disasters of War* offers an affordable introduction to Darger's astonishing outsider oeuvre. It

explains the technique, diligence, and creativity of the works, illustrates details, and features a conversation between the Darger estate holder and the Kunstwerke's curator. A selection of 12 previously unpublished excerpts from *The Realms of the Unreal* and from Darger's diary explore the artist's favorite topics: thunderstorms and atrocities... "He was an innocent kind of man. In a way, he was a child"... "He never thought he was turning it into art"... "His knowledge of sex was limited"... "His world by day was only a few blocks. His work by night was a growing universe"... "Not many people noticed him"... "He lived in a world of his own. He lived in a world by himself"... "My life at the asylum was like a sort of heaven. You might say I was a fool to run away from heaven"... "His life was really not that interesting. He led a boring life." I can certainly relate to that. Live a seemingly dull life with an extraordinarily rich imagination... "He was very alone. He didn't want to get too close to people. Henry was afraid of people. He only had conversations with himself"... Little girls with penises... "The abuses of his life turned him off to the world"... "Reality and unreality got very mixed up"... "Weather journals"... "When you don't have a family, a radio, or television, see what you can achieve!"... "Upon retirement, he spent his unwelcome free time writing in his journal and working on his autobiography"... After watching this documentary, I am convinced that I could easily make a documentary on my own "great artistic outsider" life, artwork, writings, and imagination. We're kindred spirits of sorts... "I wish to be young always"... "The moment he left his world (his apartment), his life was gone"... "He had a very sad personal life... a lonely one. But his inner life was richer than any other person's."

### **-Frank Lloyd Wright**

Frank Lloyd Wright: A Film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick: "Beethoven was a great architect"... "Every spirit builds itself a house"... "Build therefore your own world"... "Reinventing the world"... "Showing his countrymen new ways to build their homes and see the world around them"... "He was at the mercy of his emotions"... "He broke all the rules in his work and his life"... "He suffered terrible personal tragedy"... "He was 200% alive"... "So what if he made up a few details in his autobiography"... "His mother believed he was predestined to be a great man"... "He developed a love of nature"... "Their own spiritual use of nature"... "His restlessness"... "He felt distinctly different from his classmates"... "He was eager to get away from his family's troubles"... "Order Out of Chaos"... "Form must follow function"... "His wife's parents disapproved of him because he was too poor"... "At first, he lived within his means"... "Wright's houses were horizontal rather than vertical because of the flat Midwest landscape"... "Transformative architecture. It would make people different to inhabit that space"... "It was an essay in the third dimension"... "His buildings would always cost more than their original estimates"... "He loved living on the edge. Being in debt"... "He was a man who never grew up"... "His greatest strengths and weaknesses were from his childishness"... "If he is sane, he is dangerous"... "I attend the greatest of all churches: nature"... "He felt he wasn't getting the recognition he deserved"... "He hadn't had a major commission"... "He and Kitty were growing apart"... "He grew to resent how much attention she gave to his children"... "He didn't really like being a father"... "He was never a real father"... "Their affair began"... "Wright didn't care that people knew. He was captivated with his new life"... "She was all for him in a way that Kitty was no longer. Kitty was too involved with her six children to pay much attention to Wright"... "Wright deserted his wife and kids with nothing but bills to pay"... "He did exactly what his father had done to his own mother and him when he was young"... "I went out into the unknown to test faith in freedom"... "In the history of soul-mating"... "He drank in all the architectural history he could"... "He constructed the idea of himself as a superior being. He was a creative artist. Therefore outside the bounds of conventional morality"... "He had to have a refuge"... "This was a sanctuary for him. A meeting of the spirit and the soul. Of nature and human beings coming together"... "Organic architecture"... "He lived in the now. He didn't look back"... "He did his best to ignore the gossip"... "He tried to restore his relationship with his children"... His lover and her children were murdered... "In his grief"... "I think she would have stabilized him"... "He consoled himself the only way he knew how: by consuming himself in his work"... "He liked living on the edge"... "Architecture was as much construction as it was art"... "His hotel in Japan was one of the only buildings that survived a great earthquake"... "She was infatuated with Wright"... "It was a doomed relationship from the beginning"... "Drawing inspiration from ancient Mayan architecture"... "He got inspiration from many different sources and combined them all together"... "He estranged himself from his son for a while"... "There was another woman"... "He said he was only guilty of having ideas in a democracy"... "Few corporations would take chances on the notorious Frank Lloyd Wright"... "People considered him a has-been in his fifties"... "He was now penniless"... "It was a terrible time"... "Nobody was interested in his concepts anymore"... "It was the most desperate moment of his life"... "Times had changed"... "The excesses of his ego"... "He wore many disguises"... "His long, turbulent career seemed to be at an end. Wealthy clients no longer knocked at his studio door"... "Younger architects considered him a has-been"... "He stubbornly refused to admit defeat"... "His autobiography was his way to sell himself to the public"... "There was intellectual excitement there"... "The new architecture was about using glass and metal"... To Wright, architecture is a spiritual thing... He was competing with younger architects... Falling Water: "Wright drew it all in less than three hours before his client arrived"... "He had these great dreams"... "What a release of bent-up energy"... "Instead of an office building, he built a palace, a temple!... Lilly pads on the ceiling that diffuse the light... "He had his problems and failings. Roofs that leak"... "Aspiring to something greater"... "At 70, he was reborn"... "I can't get them (the ideas) out fast enough"... "He was haunted by certain shapes all his life"... "I am immortal and I will be immortal."

## **Miscellaneous Individuals/ Family/ Friends**

### **-Jesus Christ/ The Last Temptation of Christ**

Jesus committed a complicated form of suicide. He choose to be the Lamb - to give up his life in self-sacrifice.

I keep thinking about The Last Temptation of Christ: it's one of those rare movies that *heals* the viewer, who may be emotionally wounded. "When one friend or woman leaves, another takes their place. There is a universal friend... and a universal woman."

The Last Temptation of Christ: Jesus, the doubtful, overflowing with human weaknesses... "I'm the saint of blasphemy"... a man possessed by God, possessed by emotions... Listen... there is only one woman in the world - one woman of many faces. This one falls and the next one rises." *Love has many faces.*

The Last Temptation of Christ: The *New Testament*... He struggles. People spit on him. Jesus was dancing! ...Jesus and the Seven Dwarfs... I judge a movie by how many times my eyebrows raised during the movie. This one got me many times.

The Last Temptation of Christ: Jesus had migraines and felt surrounded by sin... William Dafoe wasn't allowed to smoke on the set because it would ruin the mood with Christ smoking a cigarette... Jesus drank and danced, hung out with prostitutes... "Congratulations, Jesus. You passed the temptations of a woman and a family. We're both bigger than that"... If one woman falls, another takes her place. "There is only *one* woman in the world. Go inside."

I viewed The Last Temptation of Christ with my mother. Good film. I admired the alternate reality perspective of Jesus where he lived as a "normal man instead of the almighty savior he was supposed to be. No wonder Catholics were offended. Father Keith was the one who shocked me the most when he expressed his admiration of the film in one of his sermons.

I viewed The Last Temptation of Christ in full length this evening to an awe-inspired mind. I gave it \*\*\*\* for its changing of the saga of Christ in a more human perspective. Excellent film masterpiece.

### **-His Holiness the Dalai Lama**

"If you have a sense of caring for others, you will manifest a kind of inner strength in spite of your own difficulties and problems. With this strength, your own problems will seem less significant and bothersome to you. By going beyond your own problems and taking care of others, you gain inner strength, self-confidence, courage, and a greater sense of calm." ~His Holiness the Dalai Lama

### **-My Family**

To be perfectly honest, I didn't have many artistic role models in my family or bloodline... let alone any type of art or culture. I grew up in a small town called Coldwater, Ohio (pop. 5,000) on the mid-west side of the state nearby the Indiana border. (For recreation, there was bowling and attending sporting events.) My parents were schoolteachers. My oldest sister Lara had artistic ability, which initially started me up with a competitive drive. Eventually, she left art behind and concentrated on 4-H and teaching. I had one aunt on my mom's side that painted landscapes and portraits. My uncles and aunts on my dad's side were mostly farmers or domestic housewives, with one bank president and a schoolteacher. Because of my outcast standing, I was never attracted to those ways of life. I wanted more out of my art. I had the creativity – I just needed to focus it! So I found my role models elsewhere, mostly by reading about them at the library or by watching movies.

Yet I do have an inkling of how I did come to be with an advanced imagination and a liking for movies. While I was growing up, my father was a pretty strict parent to my two older sisters and I. He wasn't what some of my peers would call a "cool parent", but that's all right. Because of that strictness to his attitude, there wasn't a great deal of fun in our household. If I did something wrong or got bad grades, my parents would limit my watching television privileges or my computer video game playing privileges. I was never grounded because I rarely left the house anyway. I didn't have many friends, so I gradually had to create my own entertainment through creating my own imagination. It was all in the pursuit of having *fun*. I needed company, so I naturally found a love in movies, music, comic books, and video games. Whenever I was sent to my room as punishment, I'd "get back" at them by spending extra time in there for hours sulking and playing with my toys or reading, only to leave to go to the bathroom. That was the first recollection of *withdrawing* from reality through building my own fantasy worlds.

Yet I do recognize that my parents and family raised me into a considerate, "well-behaved" human being. And for that I must thank them.

### **-Mom and Dad - My Accidental, Default Artists**

7-21-01: Yes, it's true to a certain extent... my parents were artists. They created organic metabolisms, children, called "Lara", "Tanya", and "Eric". They had one failure in between "Lara" and "Tanya" that was a miscarriage. My mom and dad were Michelangelos and van Goghs. The only reason people didn't recognize them as artists was because everyone makes babies. I turned out different and original, so I fully recognize them as great artists. It may be stated that they didn't make the artist – just the canvas in a human body with workable brain. The artist got his inspiration and creativity from other people and sources, but they did provide me with an accommodating upbringing and a comfortable household in order for me to grow into that artist. They were the inevitable patrons to the arts in the artist. Yes, Eric Frank Homan has been sponsored by his mom and dad.

### **-Lisa, My Wife**

9-1-06: The thing about Lisa that I just adore is that she is loving. *She's loving!* She gives back *love*. And that's something I never got to such a degree from most of the women I've known personally. That is why I feel this relationship is a keeper... a winner.

9-4-06: Let me just state it up front that Lisa has made being in a relationship *easy* for me. And it's all about her personality and willingness to be with me that I find so wonderful about her. When I'm with her, I cannot think of another person or thing. She "completes" me in a sense. I feel no stress or worry. Life simplifies in the best way I could possibly imagine. I am happy. It's that simple, people: I am happy. And I give Lisa all the credit in the world for it. She's made this relationship work. She's the guiding light to make me whole again. My life has a balance that it hasn't had... perhaps ever!

It is pretty remarkable how well Lisa and I get along. Is it her relaxed, positive attitude towards life that makes her work well with me? She's not so opinionated to make me feel suffocated. She's not a "sugar mama" either, which is good (and bad). I suppose I've wanted to "marry well" and get the better things in life. But that isn't buying happiness at all. "Marrying well" means being with someone who brings you happiness rather than misery and superficial expensive trappings.

I recall in years past I would spend this long Labor Day weekend alone with nothing but my computer, movies, and comics to keep me company. My friends weren't always in or available. I am happy now that I have someone special to spend my free time with. I feel like I've got a life now. A real life that I feel proud of and humbled by in the best way. Love can do that to you. I'm no longer afraid or sheepish about telling Lisa I love her now. It's very real.

### **-Mrs. Guggenbiller**

1-4-95: Yet the best moment during my custodian work hours occurred when I passed Mrs. Guggenbiller in the elementary hallway. We suddenly struck an energetic conversation. I talked about my future at the Columbus College of Art and Design, and how my Christmas went. We were talking so amazingly openly, I just had to tell her that she has always been my favorite teacher. I watched her blush and told her how much I enjoyed her comforting, empathetic hugs. Then she gave me a warm hug right there in the middle of the hallway. I – we - were both touched deeply. I said something truthful and kind. She said, "Thanks" repeatedly with an unforgettable smile. We said, "Goodbye" and we went our separate ways. I was ecstatic.

2-16-95: My mom called me into my room to tell me that Mrs. Guggenbiller, my favorite and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, told her that she was almost moved to tears when I told her how much I appreciate her. I quietly replied to my mom that "I meant it".

8-1-02: Once we got back to Ft. Recovery, I called up my old 3<sup>rd</sup> grade school teacher, Connie Guggenbiller aka Mrs. Guggenbiller. So Nathan and I journeyed three miles over to her house to visit her for an hour. We hadn't seen each other for eight years (since my high school graduation party) and I explained what I had done with my life in that time. She seemed rather happy and pleased with what I have done with myself. I managed to express myself confidently, courteously, and humorously with her. I wanted to let her know in person how much she's meant to me for most of my life. Nathan told me as we were leaving their driveway that I "was a very nice person to have visited her and her husband – especially at 10 p.m. I'm glad I thought about calling her up. IT was the least I could do. She was an absolutely great teacher. She was my favorite teacher throughout my childhood years. I only wish all my teachers were as warm, caring, and thoughtful as she was.

### **-Ron Saks**

12-16-02: Today I had my third consecutive party to go to for the CCAD faculty. This one was much more casual and informal – the way I prefer them. I'm still just realizing that the semester is over tomorrow. While walking over to the party with Ron, he confessed to me (for the second time this year) that he really appreciated having me on the staff in Media Studies. "Have I told you this week how glad I am that you're here?" were his exact words. I have to admit that Ron is really a great guy. He goes out of his way to make you feel appreciated. And that's someone you really want to work with.

3-7-11: Ron talked with me when he was leaving for the day this late afternoon and complimented me once again on how much hard work I've put into archiving the student work together for the accreditation process, as well as

with reshaping the curriculum. "I want you to know that it's not going unnoticed." That made me feel a bit better. Ron's very good at being a personable human being. It's absolutely one of his greatest strengths. He gives off a positive, healthy vibe. And that's pretty rare for bosses.

#### **-A Tribute to My Friends**

8-29-98: A dream I had about my mother's funeral provoked me to remember seeing friends and classmates of mine from high school come to the mom's viewing at the funeral home. I've never been so lost and vulnerable emotionally. Mom's death was the definitive insanity for me. When they arrived, either together or by themselves, I felt the comfort of being alive with a real sense of their friendship. I needed comforting, and I got it without asking. As a reaction I immediately sent Joe a letter.

For so long I felt alone, never quite relating to people, especially my hometown friends. They never understood my artistic or creative views. So I ended up withdrawing from them and into my own fantasy world. During the funeral I realized that I had forgotten a quality that they had but never had a chance to show - *compassion*.

#### **-Joe Pleiman: A Living Tribute to an Old Friend**

12-23-98: I've got friends who are better friends than me. Joe decided to spend time with his friends, including me, during his break rather than all his time with his girlfriend. *He's impressive*. I do have other artistic obligations that he doesn't have - I have to keep working in order to stay creative. Yet, he can give up his time. And he did for me. And I really appreciated that. He's a real hero, this friend of mine.

6-21-05: "Joe and I were very good friends when we were in junior high and high school together. We usually hung out on weekends, had lunch together, cruised around our small town, and watched movies. He was a necessary friend that I dearly needed to help me get through those difficult school days when you felt like such an outcast and reject. I was essential to have a friend. Joe filled that spot. Yet I knew that we wouldn't always be close. I knew that the months after graduation I'd leave Coldwater forever behind me and I'd be off to art school and wherever my future took me. We kept in contact, but the lack of close proximity drew us apart. I made new friends and worked hard for a life that would take me far beyond a small town lifestyle that had always kept me so suppressed. Looking back now, I know that I had someone who helped me through it all that allowed me to get where I am today. Without a Joe Pleiman, I wouldn't be alive today. I needed a friend. I got a friend. So I say in the most heterosexual way possible, I love you... and thank you. Congratulations on your wedding day."

#### **-Justin Jason**

7-18-97: Tonight, a different art school acquaintance and fellow computer animation classmate, Justin Jason, revealed to me his emotions, thoughts about religion, and his radically imaginative perception of the world... because he believed I was "worthy". His enthusiasm in pursuing his ideas was... *exhilarating*. I've been so lonely this summer. Finding an artistic kindred spirit in Justin has been quite a revelation and a blessing.

10-19-97: I experienced a *Day* with my classmate and friend Justin Jason. I felt like I grew up along the way because I had found someone who I could talk to who shared similar ideas and concepts about life. We traveled to Hocking Hills and hiked along the cliffs. Once the exhilaration of being in nature waned and my body felt wildly exhausted, I felt a dire longing to be *home*. Yet the sincerity of our conversation and feelings allowed me to reject most of my exhaustion.

We later talked at his place - a museum of "The Far Side", Salvador Dali, astrology, "Calvin and Hobbes", his girlfriend's clothes, Star Wars, pet cats, vanilla scented candles, Giger, sexuality, and van Gogh. For the first time, I felt like I had met some of the characters from Pump Up The Volume that I had always wanted to be acquainted with. I felt more comfortable talking and being with only one person. It was so much easier to think and feel - for the silence offered thoughts instead of constant conversation and noise, especially in this environment of free feelings and creative sensations.

11-1-97: Justin and I went out to reshoot for Motion Picture class since our film didn't properly load into the camera during the entire time we spent out filming. Thankfully, the experience of collaborating and spending time with Justin is a pleasure. We were out looking and filming textural patterns that were made by nature, and then double exposing them with human-made textural patterns. It was about finding the little things that 99% of other artists and tourists wouldn't notice. (Like how the incurve of a cave was reflected in a unique rippling of water nearby a natural waterfall.) We were both common artistic spirits, both in love with nature, Dali, experimentation, and the fantasy of it all.

1-26-02 : "Living is my favorite pass-time. Knowing great people like you is my other favorite pass-time. It's great when I can combine the two - they're synergistic. I'll catch you later." -Justin Jason.

5-1-02: I called back Justin Jason at his "ranch" in Columbus. I value our friendship very deeply. Especially after living alone in Ft. Lauderdale, I've realized that friends are hard to find, hard to have, hard to

keep. I will never do anything to harm our friendship. He knows my cautionary views on pot and alcohol.

#### **-Mike Foliatt**

2-9-04: After sitting and listening through this morning's visiting artist from Film Roman ("The Simpsons"), I unexpectedly met one of my old classmates, Mike Foliatt, in the computer lab. He was one of my closest classmates when I was a student at CCAD whose distinctively stylized video work stood him apart from all of my other Media Studies classmates. Actually, it was Mike and Justin Jason who really turned me onto being experimental with what can be done with video artwork, for which I confessed aloud to Mike as we had lunch together. He was impressed by how much work I've been doing. "You've been *busy*," he laughed out of disbelief. I often forget how much work I've produced through the years. I take it for granted that I've been working like a steam engine (to borrow a line that Kirk Douglas says as Vincent van Gogh in Lust For Life). From 1997 to 2004, I've produced enough work for fifty years!!

#### **-Matt Plotecher**

5-13-02: I finally called up old CCAD classmate, friend, and comrade in arms, Matt Plotecher, and left a message. He called me back an hour later and we talked for over an hour. How bittersweet to re-discover old art school friends. We got caught up on our lives since we graduated. I learned from him that he had moved out to L.A. and looked for a job in the industry. He wanted desperately to work as an animator for Disney. He ended up with a night custodian job at Disneyland. I related to him on an emotional and artistic level. So it wasn't fun to inform him of my "accomplishments" like winning mediocre Telly Awards and other awards. Matt confessed that he couldn't take the "dishonesty" of Hollywood anymore. He was also collecting his own supply of rejection letters. We agreed about being discouraged with moving to a new area and not having friends to hang out with. Matt reminded me of an artist who never managed to prove or fulfill himself creatively. He is the me who was directionless after graduation from CCAD. We both made plans to go to grad school. He is the good-natured, good-humored voice of despair and disappointment in life. He's experienced real hard failures in ways I've only glanced at briefly. He's been living the non-creative life in bad parts of town without money to support himself. He fascinates me because he is me in a way. Only I managed to go. Perhaps I should give myself the credit for having taken the risk of actually making the move and going ahead with my ambitions instead of sitting on them. Matt still wants to go to grad school one day. I hope he does.

2-21-04: My friend Matt Plotecher sent out an email to everyone he knows requesting songs that made us think of him. Oh, this was too much fun for me to do. I had a field day with this one... Some are joke, some are perhaps for real:

Bob Dylan's "Just Like A Woman": "Nobody feels any pain... tonight as I stand inside the rain".  
"Tears of rage, tears of grief... Why must I always be the thief? Come to me now, you know, we're so alone, and life is brief." Bob Dylan on "Tears of Rage".  
"But you and I, we've been through that, and this is not our fate. So let us not talk falsely now, the hour is getting late." - "All Along the Watchtower" by Bob Dylan.  
Common sense about life: "You don't need a weather man to know which way the wind blows."  
"Subterranean Homesick Blues" by Bob Dylan.  
"I can be cruel... I don't know why..." -Tori Amos on "Cruel".  
"...Gotta be a sacrifice." "iiee" by Tori Amos.  
"Manic depression is a *frustrating mess!*" -"Manic Depression" by Jimi Hendrix.  
"This is the strangest life I've ever known." -"Waiting For The Sun" by The Doors.  
"It's like the perfect day to lock yourself inside." "Static" by Beck.  
Beethoven's "9th Symphony".  
"Had to listen had no choice. I did not believe the information. I just had to trust imagination. My heart going boom boom boom." -"Solsbury Hill" by Peter Gabriel".  
"The place where I come from is a small town. They think so small, they use small words - but not me. I'm smarter than that. - I worked it out. I've been stretching my mouth to let those big words come right out. I've had enough, I'm getting out... to the city, the big big city. I'll be a big noise with all the big boys..." -"Big Time" by Peter Gabriel.  
"Get alive with the dreamer's dream." -"Steam" by Peter Gabriel. Sounds like a public service announcement for society to start *feeling* from experiencing a visionary artist's work.  
Eminem's "Lose Yourself": "Look, if you had one shot, or one opportunity to seize everything you ever wanted-One moment... would you capture it or just let it slip?... You better lose yourself in the music, the moment, you own it, you better never let it go. You only get one shot, do not miss your chance to blow. This opportunity comes once in a lifetime, yo!"  
"Children are innocent. A teenager's fucked up in the head. Adults are even more fucked up and elderlies are like children. Will there be another race to come along and take over for us? Maybe Martians could do better than we've done. We'll make great pets!" -"Pets" by Porno for Pyros.

"Reality used to be a friend of mine." –"Set Adrift on Memory Bliss" by P.M. Dawn.

"There's colors on the street... Red, white and blue. People shufflin' their feet, people sleepin' in their shoes. But there's a warnin' sign on the road ahead. There's a lot of people sayin' we'd be better off dead. Don't feel like Satan, but I am to them. So I try to forget it, any way I can. Keep on rockin' in the free world." "Rockin' in the Free World" by Neil Young.

#### **-Kalpa**

10-14-03: I talked to my old CCAD classmate Kalpa last night for the first time since '98. He mentioned he was working at Pizza Hut delivery. He was working at AMC theaters before that. He's taking web design classes in order to get better freelance jobs. This is *madness* to me. Kalpa was one of the most enthusiastic, hard-working animation students I knew back when I was in class with him. He was also one of the nicest people I've ever known. It breaks my heart to find out that he hasn't gotten a better job yet with his artistic talent. I know that he doesn't have the financial support that I've had to be able to go to grad school to be able to teach. I do feel some guilt for my success. I didn't exactly find it fun to inform him that I've now got a condo and a full-time teaching job at CCAD, and he's working at Pizza Hut full-time. We both had similar talents. I'd even admit he was a better technical artist than I was. He had *potential*. Realizing this fills me up with immense humility.

#### **-Ryan Treptow**

3-1-04: And so I (belatedly) ventured over to Ryan's place this evening so we could go out for dinner and hang out. Once Ryan and I got a bit more loosened up on wine, we started to *really* talk – personal talk about "happiness", relationships, love, ambitions, dust to dust, and the speed of life once one has grown older. It was about *communicating* and *addressing* aspects about our lives that normally we wouldn't discuss around most people. That's what friends are for. What started off as a vanity parade became something intelligent, sincere, and real. By engaging ourselves in such conversation, I received quite the healthy and hearty reality check. I questioned who I was, what I was doing, and what I've been holding back from doing. It was like playing Russian Roulette with each other where we'd put a shotgun up to each other's personalities and press the trigger with a question about our deepest self (selves).

#### **-Caleb Strauss**

7-17-02: *Hey Caleb, I don't mean to get sentimental, but I will this one time on you. I was reflecting on my life at this point and felt I should say "thank you" to you. I was watching one of my favorite movies, Say Anything, last week on DVD and one line stuck with me. It was when the Diane Court character (played by Ione Skye) was at a graduation party and a girl from her class came up to her. She exclaimed to Diane: "If it wasn't for Diane Court, I probably wouldn't have gotten into Cornell because you made me study twice as hard. Thanks". In a way, you were the one who "pushed" me to work harder than I've probably ever worked to get ahead in Computer Animation. If I noticed you were working, seven days a week, I had to work eight days a week then. Anyways, I feel that you had some odd part in how I've gotten where I am in my life. So put it there, bud. Eric*

#### **-Thomas Edison**

Thomas Edison: Biography: "What would Thomas Edison do with computers today?"... Blue Moods... As a child Edison was easily bored and learning disabled. Yet he was also very smart, constantly curious, and surrounded by books... He loved inventing more than his family. He spent less time with his family than most would.

"Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." -Thomas Edison.

"Not only will atomic power be released, but someday we will harness the rise and fall of the tides and imprison the rays of the sun." –Thomas Alva Edison.

#### **-Albert Einstein**

Words that I live by: "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." –Albert Einstein.

"I wish I had had more fun." –Albert Einstein at the end of his life.

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." -Albert Einstein.

#### **-Howard Hughes**

The Aviator: Howard Hughes: "It's the largest private air force in the world"... "We're not like everyone else. Too many acute angles. Too many eccentricities"... "What were you doing? You were like a different person in there!"... "It's a regular boob buffet"... "It's been a grand adventure. But it couldn't possibly have last. We're too alike, you and I."

#### **-Mahatma Gandhi**

Gandhi: “Then this must be fought. We are children of God like anybody else!”... Here as a man of darker skin complexion who was publicly humiliated and beaten. He stood up for what he believed in and spoke out with peaceful means without fighting back. Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. both reminded me of myself when I was growing up in school where I was also humiliated and teased in public – but I never fought back. I knew the power of determination. My non-violent protest was to show that I was still standing even after they tortured me with scornful words... “What’s the matter with me?”... “They may torture my body, break my bones, even kill me. Then they will have my dead body –not my obedience!”... He was arrested for “disturbing the peace” by practicing peace... “I want to embarrass all those who treat us as slaves”... Use Gandhi’s *active* resistance in a junior high and high school setting. Dozens of the nerds, geeks, outcast, queers, and social misfits in each grade will lay down before the bullies who try to torment them. It’ll be resistance through peaceful means of confusing them by acknowledging their harassment as cruel and inhuman punishment. This scene steals from this movie, but it is effective in any setting where injustice occurs. “I want to change their minds, not kill them for weaknesses that we all possess”... Mahatma means “great soul”... “You must humiliate us in order to control us”... Such wisdom: “We are achieving peaceful, nonviolent non-corporation until you leave”... Renewing marriage vows: “You are my best friend”... “We will provoke them until they resist. We are in control. They are not. That is the strength of civil resistance”... “Don’t hit back! No violence!”... Gandhi is really a spiritual cousin to Pump Up the Volume. Get the message out to the despairing masses and they’ll follow and spread the word. They’re like religious movies – cinematic bibles... Take the beatings over and over – and let the world witness it... Giving up on married life for his mission in life... Fasting to death until the fighting and madness has stopped.

“Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it.” –Gandhi.

### **-Martin Luther King Jr.**

“Everybody wants a long life. Longevity has its place. But I don’t care about that now. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land!” –Passage spoken by Martin Luther King Jr.

### **-Thomas Jefferson**

Thomas Jefferson: A Film by Ken Burns: "He is the greatest enigma of major figures in American history"... "He was a reluctant politician"... "He remained a puzzle even to those who knew him best"... "Stories of the frontier"... "He realized that human beings had the ability to do remarkable good"... "British America"... "He is a shy man. He has a slight speech impediment. And he has a high, weak voice and is not given to asserting himself in any way"... "He's much more comfortable crafting language in private where he has control"... "He was suffering privately. His second daughter had died at 17 months old"... "The owner and the owned"... "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"... "Proclaiming American independence"... "They had just lost a baby. He was frantic to go back home to see Martha"... "America postpones the issue of slavery. And Jefferson is right in the middle of this national paradox ('that all men are created equal')"... "She had given birth to six children in ten years, and lost three of them"... "This was the real Thomas Jefferson. He loved deeply, he felt deeply"... "His wife died and he didn't leave the house for six weeks. For a man who loved control, this was the one time he lost control"... "Whites were better than blacks, who can't write poetry or music"... "Within this Jeffersonian optimism, there could exist this racist dark side"... "The general prey of the rich on the poor"... "Then his youngest child, 3 years old, died"... "He was a lonely widower"... "There was an urgency in his heart that took him by surprise"... "The following dialogue took place in my head and my heart"... "He reasserted his head for the rest of his life"... "Too much of his life was lived in pain"... "The head absorbed the heart"... "Hamilton's followers were called Federalists. Jefferson's followers were called Democratic Republicans"... "Washington tried desperately to steer a middle course between his two favorite lieutenants"... "Politics had become everything I hate"... "He emphatically said 'yes!' to life"... "Monticello is a metaphor for Jefferson's soul"... "A farmer-scientist"... "Many believed that the American Experiment was failing"... "We are all Republicans. We are all Federalists"... "He came to power in what is called the Second American Revolution"... "He was actually a very moderate president"... "The Louisiana Purchase. It was the greatest land deal in history. It was the making moment of U.S. history. It was unprecedented for a country to buy an empire"... "Sally Hemings remains the notorious mystery of Jefferson's sexual life"... "By 1808, he was anguished and exhausted"... "A sign of political genius was knowing when to stop"... "The flowers have their short reign of transcendence and beauty"... The letter correspondences between Thomas Jefferson and John Adams: "They noticed qualities in each other that were missing in themselves"... "I prefer the dreams of the future than the history of the past"... "What is the use of grief?"... "I cannot live without books"... The simultaneous deaths 50 years to the day of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson"... "The power of words. Ideas matter"... "My work is done."

“The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots.” –Thomas Jefferson.

### **-Barack Obama**

Barack Obama: Bio Channel Presents: He read an article about skin whitening that really upset him... “He felt the first stirrings of loneliness”... “He dabbled in alcohol and drugs”... “He didn’t go out much. He wanted to read and absorb as much as he could”... “He realized that he wanted to help people”... “I think seniority is important. But I think that vision, imagination, and hard work is more important”... “He learned a lot from the loss”... “After his messy parents’

life, he wanted a life of order for his own family life.”

### **-Harvey Milk**

The Times of Harvey Milk: “At first, Harvey showed no signs that he’d make history”... “The Mayor of Castro Street”... “Break down the gay stereotypes”... “I was afraid somebody was going to take a shot at him. He said it could happen at any time, at any place. And I’m just not going to worry about it”... They wanted to have a ban on gays becoming state teachers... “How dare you about your business in a casual way? Don’t you know the course of history has been changed!”... “GAY POWER. HARVEY MILK LIVES”... “I was troubled”... “The Twinkie Defense: junk food made Dan White extra depressed.” So basically, you can be as depressed and “disturbed” as you want to be, kill prominent elected officials, and only have to serve eight years in jail. Wow. There’s our surreal judicial system. And if a black man had committed this crime for the same “junk food depression” reasons, he’d get the chair!!!... “The jury’s decision is violent. We are reacting with anger because we are angry!”... “Some people still believe that if you kill a gay, you’re doing a service to society”... Dan White only served five years in prison for killing the mayor of San Francisco and supervisor Harvey Milk. He received no psychiatric treatment while in prison... “If you were born gay, one of your options was suicide.” Harvey Milk gave gays hope of what else they could make of their life. “Without hope, like is not worth living. You’ve gotta give ‘em hope.”

Milk: “I need a change”... “My fellow degenerates”... “If homosexuals want their rights, so would prostitutes and thieves”... “I do believe that homosexuality should be illegal”... “I don’t know if I’ve got another one in me”... “Sir... I think I’m going to kill myself”... “There is nothing ‘wrong’ with you”... “You are not ‘sick’, you are not wrong, and God does not hate you”... “There’s going to be a riot!”... This is a good film to show to gay teenagers to see that there are other people out there just like them and that they are not “an abomination of God” as some “normal majority” dare to believe... “We *must* fight!”... “We’ve gotta give ‘em hope!”... “Never fit in!”... “Now you’re a bit like us. An outsider”... “Do you know of any homosexuals?”... “If their families don’t truly love them for who they are, maybe they should lose their families”... “You can do better.” – “When I come home, I don’t have to talk politics. I don’t have to talk intelligently. I don’t even have to talk at all”... “This is our *lives* that we are fighting for!”... “I teach Spanish – not sex!”... Homosexuals were being made to feel so “wrong” for being themselves that many of them were attempting suicide... “You’re looking more and more out of touch”... “You can’t *humiliate* me. You can’t *demean* me”... “Without hope, life is not worth living”... “If a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door.”

### **-Joan of Arc**

The Passion of Joan of Arc, considered to be one of the greatest motion pictures ever filmed, awed me with its close-ups of the characters emotions. Joan's face of desperation seized attention and empathy. She was the sacrifice.

### **-Rocky Dennis/ Mask**

Mask: The inspiring tale of Rocky Dennis, a red-haired teenage “Elephant Man” in California... “Don’t worry, Mr. Principle. I look weird, but otherwise I’m real normal”... There’s a lot to Rocky that I identify in myself. He (and his mother) deals with his condition by using a great, warm sense of humor. He gets horrible headaches. He collects baseball cards. He’s heavily teased and “made fun of” at school. He’s got a sense of humor, but he’s the only one who gets the cleverness of the joke. Even if he has a deformed face, he’s still got a big heart. It’s unbelievably touching to see Rocky smile and beam. That brings hope and happiness in this world... “But I *am* different.” – “Yeah, and you’re more beautiful on the inside than most people”... “Hey kid! Why don’t you take off your mask!”... “All you care about is getting loaded and laid!”... “WHY BE NORMAL?”... How does it feel to watch your friends get girlfriends and you’re stuck with yourself watching from the sidelines. This movie gives you that perspective from the sensitive eyes of an outsider. You can’t get girls to actually *like* you when your face is inflated and deformed... “You’ve got to get a better attitude on life. When something bad happens to you, think of something good as well”... Sentimental Harley Davidson bikers... “My parents are so protective of me”... “We are gorgeous people”... He falls in love with a blind young, sweet, innocent, beautiful girl with long blonde hair blind who won’t judge him on just his looks... “I want to kiss you, but my parents are watching”... “Every time I call for Diane, her mother always tells me she’s not there. Do you think that’s weird?”... “I’ve been meaning to tell you for a year.” His big dream of going to Europe and riding a Harley across the continent is abandoned when his closest peer tells him he’s moving back to Michigan to live with his father. Rocky’s dream is crushed along with him... “I’ll take my mask off if you take your mask off, you son-of-a-bitch!”... His heartbreak is hardest to watch because he needs and deserves the most love. What he doesn’t need is more loneliness... “Why haven’t you called me?”... “We may not be able to run away, but we can run away in our minds. We can remember the good times we had together... We’ll always be together even when we can’t be together.”

Mask: While experiencing this movie about a physically deformed, gentle red-haired teen, I noticed how hypnotic my sympathy had become for him. My emotions confronted their emotional pinnacle - prominent thanks to this incredibly touching character. Sensitivity evolved into empathy when he realized that girls didn’t like him because of his facial disfiguration, but they still thought he was a funny, nice guy. But you can read it in his face that that’s not going to be enough to get a girl. I wondered if it took a lacking of beauty to be able to love one’s friends, and oneself. He managed to meet another girl, Diana (Laura Dern) (who looked and acted shockingly like one of my girlfriend, just with blond hair), who was blind and could accept his love and friendship without the repulsion of physical beauty. I wished - as I

grew in emotional empathy - that I could be his friend since we shared similar troubles, pains, and dreams. How I envied his exposing the repressed disgust he had with those who felt repulsed by him. I loved this character, this man. He was a role model of keeping oneself positive even under crippling circumstances.

### **-Nostradamus**

“Secrets of the Unknown: Nostradamus”: As a child I was always more interested in the unknown than the know. The legends of Bigfoot, UFOs, sea serpents, Yetis, pyramids, ghosts, the Bermuda Triangle, and other mysterious foundations on our earth captivated my sense of wonder, terror, and amazement. I adored the fact that seemed like fiction. Within all these mysteries was the prophecies of Nostradamus. Within his words was the initial spark that ignited my imagination... Some people grew up with the cloud of the Cold War and the threat of nuclear war over them. I grew up with the prophet cloud of Nostradamus. We were supposed to have a great war that would eliminate most of civilization at the end of the twentieth century – Armageddon in 1999. What was there to live for? Or was he just trying to scare us into shape so we wouldn’t have war? So growing up in the 80s and 90s was harder than it seemed with Nostradamus’ incredibly correct foresight. Off and on throughout the years, I had been obsessed with the power of his prophecies. I wanted to crack his cryptic code and avoid a disaster. It was sort of my own private mission... “He had the ability to push his subconscious forward in time – and maybe that gift lies dormant inside us all.”

Nostradamus: Prophecies written in coded and confused sentences.

The Man Who Saw Tomorrow: Master of my fate, I viewed this movie about *Nostradamus*. With Orson Welles narrating with his foreboding voice, the filmmakers actually dared to dramatize his future prophecies of the third anti-Christ and nuclear holocaust. The result was dated, incorrect, hilarious, and bizarrely scary since Nostradamus' previous predictions were so chillingly accurate. I wonder if Nostradamus predicted that his prophecies -- would be made into so many "provocative" documentaries?

### **-Christopher Columbus**

1492: Conquest of Paradise: “There was a time when the new world didn’t exist”... “Beyond that... infinity”... “I want to travel all over the seas. I want to get behind the weather”... “The distance is unknown. It is said to be *infinite*”... “Why should I believe in you?” -“May I speak frankly?”... “God has abandoned us. This voyage is cursed!”... A tribe of bald Indians... “I think we have returned to Eden”... “We are mistaken as gods”... “This land intoxicates my senses and my soul”... “Nature is their God. It’s as if God and nature are one. They see him in the leaf, in the stone, in the shell”... “Don’t you think that to rise so high in so short a time is a dangerous occupation?”... “You’re not sorry. You chose the life you lead for yourself”... “You’re a dreamer!”... Christopher Columbus wanted to search out what was not found. How can any dreamer not empathize with this man?... “If any of our names are to be remembered, it is because of *his*.”

### **-John Muir**

The National Parks: America’s Best Idea:

“The Scripture of Nature (1851-1890)”: “Where nature can give heal to body’s mind and soul”... “Nature’s sublime wonderlands”... “A mountain so massive it makes its own weather”... “A labyrinth of caves”... “Cathedrals of stone”... “Arctic dreamscapes”... “The greatest collection of geysers in the world”... “Geographies of memory and hope”... “In a sense, we’re going home”... “National Parks are one of the best ideas America has ever had”... “People look into the National Parks and see a reflection of their own dreams”... “I found my eyes full of tears of emotion”... “Dream about the possibilities of life”... “It’s a shared experience of going to these places”... “Upon seeing Yosemite for the first time: ‘I have seen the power and glory of the supreme being. I have seen His handiwork. Its testimony is in those rocks’... “Yosemite means those who should be feared – killers”... “For most, the scenic reward was worth the hardship of getting there”... “Looking at the massive cathedral rocks”... “One visitor started quoting the Bible: ‘Now let me die... for I am happy’”... “A new heaven and a new Earth”... “Eden”... “This country, America, is Eden”... “God can be found more easily in nature than in the works of man”... “Little oases of wildness in the desert of our civilization”... “Going back to wild nature is restorative. It’s a way of escaping the corruptions of urban, civilized life. Of finding an innocence within ourselves and returning”... “Go to the mountaintop and see God”... “Europeans visiting America in the 1860’s ridiculed Americans as a backwards nation that didn’t have the majestic wonders Europe had. They thought that American had overly commercialized Niagara Falls”... The nation preserves large areas of land under federal protection from private ownership”... “We discovered this garden of Eden”... “A gathering of life and a gathering of spirit”... John Muir: “Keeping a journal that he would keep for the rest of his life”... “The Big Tree Room”... “He said he wanted to hear the song of the waterfall”... “He celebrated trees”... “He saw spirituality in granite”... “He had this wonderful sense of ecstasy, of being born new every day within this wilds of rock”... “It was all part of his unconditional surrender to nature”... “He contemplated the life of a raindrop”... “A God that revealed Himself *through* nature”... “If Yosemite was a temple, he would become its high priest”... “I want to baptize all of my followers in the beauty of God’s mountains”... “John Muir, the man who seemed to talk to flowers and rocks was seen as an eccentric”... “The National Park Idea”... “Who publishes the sheet music of the winds?... Who reports the works and ways of the clouds?”... “To spread his gospel of nature”... “Colter’s Hell (Yellowstone)”... “Reports started leaking out about this magical place – Yellowstone”... “A place where mud is boiling”... “Newspapers refused to print stories about Yellowstone because they thought it sounded like fiction”... “The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone”...

“They gave name to the other geysers as well: The Castle, The Beehive, The Giant”... “They came across more curiosities, of unimaginable strangeness and beauty”... “I realized I was lost”... “Alone in an unexplored wilderness”... “Wasting away from exhaustion and hunger, Everts began seeing apparitions”... “Yellowstone would be the first National Park in the history of the world”... “Yellowstone National Park was huge. 2 million acres of mountainous terrain”... “We had at last reached Wonderland”... “A great breathing place for the national lungs”... “To preach nature like an apostle”... Glacier Bay, Alaska... “Muir was weaning away everything that had compelled him in his life: the mountains, the glaciers, the wilderness”... “When Muir came back to Yosemite, he was shocked by the gaudy sights he witnessed”... “His cathedral had been turned into a carnival. This was not what he had envisioned it into becoming”... “A grand landscape garden”... John Muir had once described himself as an unknown nobody”... “People are realizing that going to the mountains is going home. That wildness is a necessity. Mountain parks and reservations are useful, not only as fountains of timber, but as fountains of life.” –John Muir.

“The Last Refuge (1890-1915)”: I could watch this miniseries all day long. It’s so pleasurable... “Roosevelt loved to kill. He loved to kill a quadruped”... “To build up his health and character”... A buffalo running through the Badlands... “Our National Parks are an idea”... “Our vast wilderness is being destroyed in the name of progress”... “These wonders are to be preserved for our children, and our children’s children”... “How essential natural beauty is”... “They came across an ancient city on the side of a plateau – Mesa Verde”... “His enthusiasm increased almost beyond his control”... The new religion: nature worship... “Nothing will be left but black stump monuments”... “Roosevelt had Yellowstone practically to himself”... “FOR THE BENEFIT AND ENJOYMENT OF THE PEOPLE”... “*I’ve arrived*”... “Leave it as it is. The ages have been at work on it. Man can only mar it”... “People loved to hear John Muir preach his deeply held gospel that that salvation could be found through immersion in the natural world”... “Time alone with the trees”... “This has been the grandest day of my life!”... “She was having a transcendent experience”... “National Parks are a symbol of democracy”... Crater Lake in Oregon has the clearest waters in the world... Devil’s Tower was the first National Monument... “National Parks represent the wildness inside of us. A place where we can be lonely, where we can experience solitude. A place of refuge, of sanctuary”... “Nothing dollarable is safe”... They want to dam Yosemite National Park after the 1906 earthquake of San Francisco... “I wonder if leaves feel lonely when they see their neighbors fall on”... “There must be a place for human beings to satisfy their souls”... “I got as close as I could to the heart of the world”... Special Features: “We shoot at dawn and dusk since those are the best times for light”... “God is our lighting director”... “He brings his special eye to everything that we do”... “Overwhelmed by the beauty of it.”

#### **-Fredrick Nietzsche**

“That which does not kill us makes us stronger.” –Fredrick Nietzsche.

#### **-Jean-Paul Sartre**

Notes from *Introducing Sartre*: “Salvation through art”... He wanted to lead a revolt against society... “There is no God with a world of so much excess”... “We are afraid of our freedom”... “Human life was fundamentally absurd”... Self-Visions... Make up a private myth about ourselves... “Even though we have no choice but to play a role, we should do so with a conscious enthusiasm that may even give us a degree of authenticity”... “He goes off to commit joint suicide with his father”... “The discovery of the reality”... “For the Existentialist, such exclusion from normality could be nothing but a good thing. It would have formed the natural and desirable apprenticeship for anyone who wished to write about the human condition as it really was”... “What I would have liked to be is not a lonely and fatherless child who grew up to be a great writer and a famous philosopher.” What would really have made him happy would have been to be a member of a large and vigorous family, kept in order by a father of granitic solidity, and compelled from his earliest years to learn to mix with his natural equals in the normal rough and tumble of the primary school and of children’s games”... “The decision to write is a result of failure. ‘I turned to literature because I had no friends of my own age, no father to give me a sense of security, and nothing else to do.’”

#### **-Napoleon Bonaparte**

“Life is a burden to me. Nothing gives me any pleasure. I find only sadness in everything around me. It is very difficult because the ways of those with whom I live, and probably always shall live, are as different from mine as moonlight is from sunlight.” –Napoleon Bonaparte at seventeen.

#### **-Jackie Robinson**

Baseball - A Film by Ken Burns: "Inning 6: The National Pastime: 1940 to 1950": Blacks to the National Baseball Commissioner: "If we can stop bullets, why can't we stop balls"..."We will integrate baseball"..."Only Brooklyn decided to add black baseball players"..."The Negroes will make us superstars for years to come... They are the greatest untapped reservoir in baseball"..."Jackie Robinson was pelted by rocks as a child by white school children"..."My skin is against me"..."Robinson played and excelled in basketball, football, and baseball... "He had so much determination"..."Jackie had a temper. He was told not to retaliate when jeered and harassed"..."Do you really think niggers are human beings?"..."Robinson later confessed that he was as nervous as the devil"..."The pressure and the abuse were unrelenting"..."As the season progressed, he was wracked by stomach pain and on the verge of a nervous breakdown. But in the face of all the abuse, Robinson only played better"..."He began to pull people onto his side by

his performance"... "Robinson, we are going to kill you"... "Hey nigger, go back to the cotton fields"... "He wouldn't fight back. He had a higher mission. The goal was more important to him."

### **-Muhammad Ali**

When We Were Kings: "I murdered a stone!"

a.k.a. Cassius Clay: To a professional boxer artist, the ring is his canvas... Muhammad Ali: what a fascinating individual to watch!... "He kept sketches to represent his state of mind"... "*Where are the colored angels in the Bible?*"

Ali: "Can I be your motivator?"... "All the women know I'm the champ!"... Jesus as a metamorphic Jesus. He doesn't have to be a blond haired, blue-eyed Savior. He can be a she, an Africa-American, an Oriental, a redhead, a Jew, a Muslim, a child, even a bear... "I ain't got to be what nobody else want me to be... and I ain't afraid to be what I wanna be... think how I wanna think"... He is the sacrifice. He tries and he tries... "I will always respect you."

### **-Mike Tyson**

Tyson: "I think that's why people like me become more aggressive and assertive in life because they don't want to be humiliated in that fashion anymore"... "I boxed to release the tension"... "You have a chance to change your life"... "I became a disciplinarian"... "I never had to worry about being bullied again"... "I deal with a huge inferiority complex"... "Sex was very intriguing to me"... "I wanted to decimate him so people knew I was a real fighter"... "My job was to hurt people"... "Once I'm in the ring, I'm a god. No one can beat me"... "I was too immature to be married"... "He could not control his temper"... So when I got married and wasn't the best husband, his wife (Robin Givens) told the press about how hard their marriage is. And he was deeply, *deeply* humiliated... "I was emotionally unstable"... "We were just kids"... "I want to dominate her sexually"... "I wanted to devour her!"... "I want to ravish her completely"... "I lost my belief in myself"... "It took a lot of confidence out of me from that rape conviction. It still bothers me to this day"... "It's the only sanity that I know"... "I had no faith in my government"... "I had a tremendous amount of sexual activity"... "I was totally insane at that moment. I didn't care anymore"... "I did it for the payday"... "I'm not ferocious or an animal anymore"... "I became an addict because of depression"... "Nothing fulfilled that big hole in my life"... "What I did in the past is history. What I'm going to do in the future is a mystery."

### **-Malcolm X**

Malcolm X: Spike Lee used his filmmaking skill as a weapon for expression and understanding, which left me with respect for his movie and myself: "I'm not white and I don't put out. So why would you want to call me, Malcolm?" -asked a black Catholic girl to Malcolm... "You get used to this life and it puts you to sleep. You stop thinking and acting for yourself"... "Take **care** of your body"... Is God black? Jesus? His Apostles?... "Some of you are still in prison - prisons of your mind".

Malcolm X (1972): "We were so hungry we were crazy. We had to steal food"... The amazing quality that Malcolm X had was the fire and passion in his voice when he spoke. He spoke from the truth and facts of hard life that the black population has had to endure in this United States of America. I am not African-American, but it does not fully matter. I can appreciate and respect what he says and stands for because it is righteous and powerful. He is the prophet of hitting you with the truth. Someone finally had to... "Freedom is something you have to do for yourself"... "I live like a man who has already died. I have no fear whatsoever"... I'm probably a dead man already"... Malcolm X College.

Malcolm X: "Don't con me!"... "I read and study. A man must respect his body and his mind"... "God is black"... A movie to open ones eyes... "You don't even know who you are. You're nothing"... "How do we know that Jesus wasn't black? Jesus was not a pale face"... "Don't be shocked when I say that I was in prison. Some of you are still in prison - the prison of your mind"... "No, I'm *not satisfied*"... "They send drugs, alcohol, and prostitution down here to pacify us!"... "What's wrong with you? Are you so committed that you can't even face the truth?"... They were harassed with crank calls that broke them down psychologically. "The phone keeps ringing. I'm going crazy every time the phone rings."

### **-Alfred Kinsey**

Kinsey: A time when society at large was under the "fact" that masturbation would make you go blind or insane... "The woods and fields became my new place of worship"... "What a disappointment you turned out to be"... "I think I really fell in love with you tonight"... Twenty years of work on two books on gall wasps that nobody cares about... The father's demons get transferred to the son and then to his son... "Human beings are bigger, slightly more complicated gall wasps"... "I'm just not enough for you"... "Why are some cows oversexed?"... "Why do some men need thirty orgasms a week?"... "I guess we'd grown bored sexually a long time ago without even realizing it"... "You would like to stick with the normal. You don't want to *shake people up*"... "*Am I normal?*"... "I've had sex with 17 of my cousins. I've had sex with 22 different species of animals. I've had sex with over 5,000 different partners"... "As long as you don't hurt anybody"... Researching sex was a therapeutic way of solving a nation's sexual confusion and anxieties. Knowledge and information can heal millions and allow people to not feel so uncomfortable about their own sexual feelings that may seem "perverted" by cultural standards, but are really quite normal. Some people even felt so

alienated and persecuted by their true inner feelings that they were suicidal. "Things have gotten much better. After I read your book, I realized that many other women were in the same situation. I found the courage inside to tell my friend about my feelings for her. And to my great surprise, the feeling was mutual. You saved my life, sir."

### **-Timothy Treadwell**

Grizzly Man: A documentary on the life, mission, passion, and death of Timothy Treadwell: He wanted to leave the human race and become one with the grizzlies... He and his girlfriend were killed and eaten by a grizzly. All they found of his body was his head with backbone attached, his hand with a wristwatch, and that was about it. The rest had been eaten... "He definitely lived on the end"... "The bear was full of people. It was full of clothing"... "He captured such glorious improvised moments that union-driven studio crews could never dream of"... "Living in a world of bears is a simpler world, and that is why some people desire to be part of that world"... "The camera became his only companion that he communicated his inner being, demons, and exhilarations. His work started to take on the quality of a confessional"... He was a recovering alcoholic whose life was saved by the wild landscape and the animals within it. "Thank you God for giving me a life. I had no life. I have a life now with these animals. Thank you!"... The miracle is animals"... "It is so weird to realize how alone you are"... "*If I show weakness, I'm dead. They will take me out, they will decapitate me, they will chop me up into bits and pieces -- I'm dead. So far, I persevere. I persevere*"... "This landscape in turmoil was like a metaphor for his soul"... "He was looking for a different persona"... "He was a kindred spirit"... "I couldn't take the anti-depressant medication any more. I can't have the middle grounds. I have to have the highs and lows. It's part of who I am. It's part of my personality. He definitely had a dark side to him"... He has a sentimental, childlike view of nature and how precious it is. Yet he also encounters that there are predators in the "perfection" of nature as well... People invading upon his own Eden... The bears were his saviors.

### **-Hooters Girls**

Sorry, guilty pleasure.

### **-Betty Page**

The Notorious Betty Page: "Her pictures captured the fantasies of a nation"... "Do you have anything that's a little bit different?"... Betty Page in Bondage... The innocent, nice girl Betty Page... "Every guy in town wants to date that girl"... "I'm going to marry that gal"... "Clothes, pose, and expression"... "Some people think I'm funny for spending so much time alone"... "We get a lot of requests for women in high heel stiletto shoes and boots"... "I pose for pictures and it seems to make people happy. That can't be all that bad, can it?"... "It's just costumes. We're just dressing up. There's no harm in it"... "Betty Page: The Pin-Up Queen of the Universe"... "She encapsulated the paradox of having such a joyful, happy face while being tied up. The reason she's still so popular now is that she had an innocence, exuberance, sweetness, and happiness to her"... "She never achieved her dream of being a movie star."

### **-Siskel & Ebert**

7-21-08: I was watching some uncensored clips from "Siskel & Ebert" from 1987 that were up on youtube and I was astonished by how antagonistic those two men were to each other. In this clip, they're cursing like crazy at one another while doing a TV promo spot. It really shows their hidden side of how bitter they were to one another. Yet that was why their show was so successful - their *anti*-chemistry! If they got along all the time and agreed on everything, there would be no show and no drama. And part of their bickering towards each other was what made the show hilarious at times as well! And they were outcasts to boot! One was overweight, the other was bald. They were, in essence, a perfect couple.

### **-Maya Lin**

Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision: I watch lots of movies to find a clearer understanding of who I am as an artist and individual. I found strength and myself in Maya Lin... "What is the purpose of a memorial (or of art)? Only when you finally accept the pain and the death that you can come away and overcome it. You have to accept and admit with honesty that this pain has occurred - for the experience to be cathartic and be healed. Death is, in the end, a personal and private matter. This area is meant for personal reflection and private reckoning"... "I grew up surrounded by woods and really loved that landscape, that privacy (Ohio)"... "There's something about the fast pace of living in New York City that nourishes my ability to work"... A depressed man in a wooden cage" float in a holiday parade.

### **-Robert W. Kearns**

Flash of Genius: "Are you going to quit teaching?"... "I just want to do something important"... "There's a big difference between a good idea and a good product"... "There's a lot of unsuccessful talent running around out there"... "It's another thing, too. Luck, timing"... "I'm sort of an amateur's idea person myself"... "I know I embarrass you." -"I don't like you like this"... "*It doesn't matter*"... This is about more than *money*"... "I'm really glad you're doing this. If you don't fight, none of us will stand a chance"... "I heard everything you said last week. I'm trying to change"... "I

have work to do and you're keeping me from it"... "I told you not to get your hopes up about mom"... They went from offering him \$300,000 to \$1 million to \$30 million! "This is insane!"... "I'm an inventor - a contributor to society."

### **-Michael Eisner**

Notes from *The Disney Touch* by Ron Grover: The Movies Studios are basically big banks that produce movies they think will make them money. Once I understood that, it all made sense. Why make a risky, weird movie? You want to make money. That's what it's all about. Just like a bank does. They are not in this for the art or the creativity. Not in the least... Wildly prolific line: "The problem was that Eisner seemed to have other ideas. 'As soon as everyone starts writing books about how great you are, that's when things start to fall apart'... "Worse than the bleak figures was the haunting reality that the creative spark that had once symbolized Walt Disney Productions had long since died"... "By today's corporate standards, Walt Disney should have failed"... "Young Walt Disney's first business venture ended in bankruptcy in 1923"... "Despite the disappointment Disney dreamed on"... "For \$5 million, the company purchased a total of nearly 28,000 acres outside the tiny rural town of Orlando"... "He planned not only hotels and restaurants but an entire city of the future. The Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow (EPCOT) was to be a complete and self-contained city, with its own schools, apartments, and shopping facilities"... "Once its founder was no longer around to plot the future, Walt Disney Productions became a prisoner of its past"... "Teenagers flocked to see *Jaws* and *Animal House*, not Disney's dimwitted comedies starring Don Knotts and Tim Conway"... "But Eisner, who had worked with Barry Diller at both ABC and Paramount Pictures, was tired of operating in Diller's shadow"... "Eisner had other offers. Diller still wanted him at Fox"... "Walt Disney had been a personal hero for Michael Eisner. But going to Disney, Eisner decided, would have to be on his own terms"... "At Denison University, a small liberal arts college in Granville, Ohio, he enrolled as a pre-medical student"... "Eisner used many of the same storytelling techniques that he had practiced for Saturday morning cartoons - the importance of story line, character development, and conflict"... "Paramount believed that for a movie to be successful it needed the right story line. The story lines could be embarrassingly simple - the underdog makes good, such as *Bad News Bears* or *Flashdance*, or a fish out of water, like *Beverly Hills Cop*. But the movies sold tickets, and lots of them"... "In many ways, the new Disney chief told the group, Disney was a company ready to be exploited"... "The trick in this business is to find the next Steven Spielberg or George Lucas"... "Disney had also mismanaged its hotel business"... "Disney's pay scale, in contrast, was abysmal"... "Eisner and Katzenberg brought the Paramount work ethic to Disney"... "Kids are becoming grown-up quicker. What would appeal to the eight- or nine-year-olds in the 60s and 70s was now appealing to the six-year-olds"... "Midler had nowhere else to go, and so she signed with Disney for \$600,000 with a small share of the profits"... "Eisner and Wells were not afraid to throw Mickey and Donald into the hard sell"... "The two Disney executives were still aggressively pursuing Hollywood's downtrodden, untested, and over-the-hill"... "As they had at Paramount, Eisner and Katzenberg bared their knuckles to keep costs under control. The studio refused to make films with costly special effects or lavish battle scenes. Travel was kept to a minimum, and whenever possible, filming was done in and around Los Angeles. Many of the scenes were interiors that could be safely tucked into Disney's studio, where outside interferences could be minimized"... "I don't like the language either, but you have to keep creative people"... "The Scorsese film, however, turned out to be too dark and moody for the general audience. The \$52 million in ticket sales that *The Color of Money* generated hardly classified it as a failure, but it fell far short of Eisner's blockbuster expectations"... "The movie also featured a sound track from A&M Records with 1960s hits that enhanced its allure to the yuppie audiences that Disney had targeted"... "By the time Michael Eisner and Frank Wells arrived on the scene, licensing had grown into a major business. More than \$2 billion a year was coming in from products based on everything from G.I. Joe to the Transformers. Disney enjoyed a solid niche, but toys based on movies like *Star Wars* and *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial* were capturing the imagination of America's young"... "Roger Rabbit eventually became an amalgamation of rabbits from old Disney, Warner, and MGM cartoons"... "Behind his back, his animators worried that 54-year-old Roy Disney was nothing more than Walt's 'Idiot Nephew,' a person born into money and position who had little aptitude for business. Roy Disney knew about the snickering behind his back"... "Neither of the new Disney executives knew anything about Roy's ability to pick winning film projects"... "Jeffrey Katzenberg, on the other hand, knew how to pick winning projects"... "Much of Disney's success in exploiting its ancillary businesses was simply good fortune. The markets for videocassettes were booming, kids were returning to syndicated programming, and more than half the country had signed onto cable television"... "One way to lure free-spending teenagers would be to make EPCOT Center a little spicier, or at least more fun"... "Many of Walt Disney's other classics were adaptations of European fables"... "As Eisner made the announcement, the Communists pelted the Disney executives with eggs and ketchup"... "Disney could have used the Muppets to enhance its other properties"... "Increasingly, studios were spending \$50 million and more in hopes of achieving box office success. Smaller, less wealthy companies, were doomed to continue to fail"... "Creativity was the soul of the Walt Disney Company, but the legal department was its heart"... "*Airplane* and *Ruthless People* were substantial hits, and we wanted an increase. They were doing great, their stock was up, and we wanted to participate."

### **-Steve Jobs**

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition... Stay

hungry. Stay foolish.” -Steve Jobs.

#### **-Robert W. Kearns**

Flash of Genius: Robert W. Kearns... "Are you going to quit teaching?"... "I just want to do something important"... "There's a big difference between a good idea and a good product"... "There's a lot of unsuccessful talent running around out there"... "It's another thing, too. Luck, timing"... "I'm sort of an amateur's idea person myself"... "I know I embarrass you." -"I don't like you like this"... "*It doesn't matter*... This is about more than *money*"... "I'm really glad you're doing this. If you don't fight, none of us will stand a chance"... "I heard everything you said last week. I'm trying to change"... "I have work to do and you're keeping me from it"... "I told you not to get your hopes up about mom"... Ford went from offering him a settlement of \$300,000, then to \$1 million, then finally to \$30 million over fifteen years later! Yet what he wanted most was for Ford to say publicly that they lied and stole his invention. He wouldn't accept their money and eventually took them to court and won... "This is insane!"... "I'm an inventor - a contributor to society."

#### **-Richard O'Barry**

The Cove: "I wish we could have done this film legally"... Richard O'Barry, dolphin expert and activist... "It's like driving into 'The Twilight Zone'. It seemed like a town that loved dolphins and whales"... "This dolphin slaughter"... In a hidden cove near the Japanese coastal village of Taiji, sonar is used to confuse dolphins and lead them into a cul-de-sac where they're trapped and killed... "We need to know the truth"... "I never planned on being an activist. It's just that one thing leads to another"... "I could have made millions from running a swim with the dolphins center... "Handled with infinite care"... "It's the stress that kills dolphins. They're very sensitive to sound"... It is an accident of evolution that dolphins seem to be smiling, the film informs us. They just happen to look that way. Their hearing is incredibly more acute than a human's, and the sounds of loudspeakers and recorded music, rebounding off the walls of their enclosures, can cause them anxiety and pain... The depression of a dolphin. The suicide of "Flipper"... "I was going to free every captive dolphin I could"... "I spent 10 years building up this dolphin entertainment industry, and spent the last 25 years trying to tear it down"... "At the Whale Museum, you can watch the dolphin show and eat dolphin at the same time"... "Rewarding the fishermen for their bad behavior"... "You can get \$150,000 for a live-show dolphin"... "Dolphins are whales. Size doesn't matter"... "No change will come from the government. All social change comes from the passion of individuals"... Surfing with dolphins... "The way to stop the slaughter in the cove is to expose it"... "Don't Take Photos!"... "He was intentionally provoking me. They want you to hit them or do something to get you out of here. To get us arrested and get it on video"... "It's terrible to imagine that this horror happens in one of the world's most beautiful places"... "People were watching the rocks. What if the rocks watched back?"... Hiding High Def cameras in fake rocks... They assembled their own "Ocean's 11" team, including free divers, Mandy-Rae Cruickshank and Kirk Krack. In their wetsuits and mermaid-like tail, they appear like humanoid dolphins... Watch a baby dolphin be slaughtered... They bully the activists by videotaping them and taking their photos constantly. They also get into their faces... "The general population doesn't know about what is going on out here"... "The fishermen say that this is their tradition, this is our culture. You don't understand. You eat cows. Well, we eat dolphins. But that's the big lie. How can it be their tradition if most of the Japanese people don't even know about it"... "The Japanese people don't know they're eating dolphin because the dolphin meat is heavily laced with mercury, the most toxic, non-radioactive element on Earth"... "The fishermen who are eating the dolphin are poisoning themselves. But they're also poisoning the people they're selling the dolphin meat to!"... Minamata Disease... "Children were starting to be born deformed. It happened once. It's going to happen again"... "The symptoms to Mercury poisoning are memory lost, loss of eyesight, loss of hearing. It happens over time." So basically, people go stupid over time!... "He doesn't want to know if he's poisoning others"... "They can torture you, legally, while you're being held in prison"... "You wanted to capture something that will make people *change*"... "He established that these animals were singing"... "A new generation has to take over from here"... "Pray for the departed souls of whales"... "There is something visceral about being in the water with an animal like this. I'm connecting with an intelligent being"... "Dolphins are self-aware as humans are self-aware"... "That's an eerie sound"... It's all about spin. "The fishermen said they don't slaughter dolphins for money - it's about 'pest control'. The Japanese government believes whales and dolphins eat up too many fish in the ocean and harm the fishing industry. The truth is men are causing the systematic decline of fish in the ocean"... "Japan has had enough of the West telling them what to do, when to do it, and how to do it"... "You're either an activist or an *inactivist*"... "Mandy, you're good to go!"... The harpooning of helpless dolphins. The waters go red. It's one giant killing field... "What was the right thing to do?"... "I was as ignorant for as long as I could be"... "I have to see this end in my lifetime"... Timelapse video of tens of thousands of Japanese people passing by an activist with a monitor strapped to his chest showing the slaughter of dolphins in Japan. Yet eventually, a few stop to notice... "A sample of the Deputy of Fisheries' hair tested positive for mercury poisoning"... "*We can be heroes.*"

#### **-Dr. Jack Kevorkian**

You Don't Know Jack: The mission of Jack Kevorkian: he realized that he could help people who are dying to ease their pain: by creating a device to commit suicide (euthanasia) humanely... "It'll be your own area of specialty"...

"Doctor is also a death profession"... "My Mercy-tron Machine will ease your suffering and give you your death"... "It's inhumane. You don't let them wither away. You inject them so they can die peacefully"... "Now you're America's quack!"... "How cares what people think?! It's what she *feels!*"... "She goes through the terror of being... lost"..."Death with dignity"... Die peacefully in a park... "Thank you"... "The doctor should do what is best for the patient"..."He kills a woman and calls it compassion"... "They call him 'Dr. Death'"... "Self-termination is a basic human right and everyone should have it"..."I want to die"..."When you have no quality of life left... no more"..."There is a religious dogma that thinks that God wills us to suffer"..."When a doctor gives you a pill, he's 'playing God'"... "We're here to prevent a suicide!"... "This is not the world I want to raise my three boys in. It's not a world I recognize"..."You're clinically depressed. We can't help you with your suicide"..."Life is God's Choice!"... "You are worse than an abortionist!"-"Oh shut up, you witch!"... "I have a religion, lady. And his name is Bach"..."Suicide is the ultimate sin"..."To save on paper. Dr. Kevorkian is incredibly cheap"..."Here's the truth, Mr. Thompson"..."For Christmas, I asked him what he wanted. He wanted to die"..."An art opening of Dr. Jack Kevorkian..."I... want... to... end this"..."I will not eat in jail! You are *assisting* in my suicide!"..."I want Tom to be free. I've watched him suffer for too long"..."Kill Jack! Kill Jack!"..."When they pass a law that is immoral, you must disobey it"..."Mercy Clinic"..."I've got the cancer. Pancreatic"..."It's a 'Common Law' to not believe in the Bible"..."Those videotapes are our golden ticket"..."I think the biggest mistake of my life was not getting married"..."Could you have loved?"..."God missed his chance to take me. I'll go to him instead"..."Imagine a toothache in every bone in her body. That was what was happening to her"..."It's my decision"..."I'm all alone and I'm running out of time"..."You had purpose, Jack"..."I'm not a fanatic. I'm a zealot. I'm fighting for me"..."It's a game. If I lose, I win"..."I don't care what happens to me. And I'm not afraid because I'm right"..."Take all that pain, suffering, and sympathy out of the courtroom"..."Jack Kevorkian is one of the most audacious serial killers this country has ever known"..."I would rather be dead than to lose my integrity"..."It was a service, a medical service that was being done"..."I see the emotion. I understand it. But it's not relevant"..."You can consider yourself stopped."

### **-Temple Grandin**

Temple Grandin: "I'm not like other people"... "I think in pictures, and I connect them!"... Grandin's various idiosyncrasies (such as talking, too loud, too fast, and too much)... Her more abstract talents, especially the extraordinary visual acuity that enables her to remember virtually everything she's ever seen... Every sound is louder than it should be... "Something's gonna set her off"..."She's hyper-sensitive..."I'm not stupid!"..."Your child is clearly autistic. She's an infantile schizophrenic. I recommend institutionalization"..."Fading to white for a memory flashback... She memorizes everything she reads. "I just looked at it!"..."I made a machine that can hug! Do you want a hug?! It feels really good!"..."But you don't want to be touched by people?"-"No!"..."F for freak!"..."She talks too fast. She talks repetitively. The children make fun of her. Then she goes into a panic attack. And then they make fun of that, too"..."I think she's terrific!"..."I know you've been through a lot"..."At some point, she's going to hit life head on"..."Trust me, we know how different she is. Different, but not less"..."This girl has an amazing mind!"..."She thinks in pictures"..."Language and Algebra are just gibberish to her"..."She's an amazing *visual* thinker"..."Weirdo!"..."You have a very special mind. You see the world in ways that others can't. It's quite an advantage. You know something, if you weren't such a goof and developed this talent, you could easily go on to college"..."You're quieter in your Squeeze Machine"..."I see your voice"..."You have sounds and I have pictures"..."When I was younger, I closed myself off to people"..."You will never walk alone!"..."Where did it go? Horse heaven?"..."You've been published!"... Good people but they have no way of empathizing"..."I hate parties! There are too many people and no one listens to me!"..."People make me feel bad!"..."This is a masterpiece"..."You killed them because of your stupidity!"..."Nature is cruel - but we don't have to be!"..."I don't want my thoughts to die with me. I want to have done something"..."I still want my life to have meaning"..."Most autistic people are very sensitive to sounds and colors. Over-simulation hurts!"..."I'm not cured. I'll always be autistic"..."People worked hard that I was engaged. People knew I was different, but not less! I had a gift. I could see details that other people were blind to. My mother pushed me to become self-sufficient"..."I went to boarding school and college. Those things were difficult, but they helped me open doors to new worlds"..."High functioning sect of Autism and creativity.

### **-Lewis & Clark**

Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery: "We expect to make great discoveries"..."They would be getting a first glimpse into a then-young nation"..."They were the first Americans to witness the Rocky Mountains. The first to cross the Continental Divide"..."After encountering wonders beyond belief"..."It would be the greatest adventure of their lives"..."The other, brilliant, but troubled"..."The Corps of Discovery"..."It's America's story"..."The future was always West. Hope and possibility. It's about what could be. It's about potential and hope"..."A Northwest Passage: a water route to the Pacific"..."Thomas Jefferson noted 'depressions of the mind' in Lewis"..."The Louisiana Purchase for \$15 million from France. "For just 3 cents an acre, Jefferson more than doubled the size of his country. It was the greatest land deal in history"..."No one knew for certain what Jefferson had just bought"..."They had no idea of what to expect"..."They were instructed to record all of their daily experiences so they knew what was there"..."The melancholy streaks that befell his family. He certainly was a man who could fall into deep depressions. And yet he had a will power and an energy to overcome those depressions. There were blank entries in his journal that

suggested he was suffering from severe manic depression. It took tremendous will power to overcome those depressions and continue to act"... America in its virginity, where there are no people or noise yet. It is a beautiful, precious place... The Garden of Eden... "As they furthered northwest, they noticed the landscape changing. The landscape seemed to go on forever"... "The Great Plains: They had never seen anything like it in their lives. They couldn't believe what they were seeing"... What makes this such a great documentary is in how it captures this sense of awe of discovering new territory and all of its inhabitants, including animals they'd never seen before. It's like going to a zoo with a 4-year-old who has never seen animals before. Such awe and magic!!... "This scenery already rich with rich, pleasing, and beautiful"... "This was paradise!"... Encountering the dangerous Lakota Indian tribe in South Dakota... "The scarcity of timber"... "They had never seen a black man before"... "The Bird Woman"... "Sacajawea was given the rattlesnake potion"... "They're about to go into the *real* unknown"... "They pushed further west on the river than any white man had gone before"... "To hear a woman's laugh around the campfire bolsters the men's spirits"... "She rescued the journals of Lewis and Clark"... This documentary has the feeling and magic of "Dances with Wolves". It's that wonderful sense of freedom, adventure, and discovery of the Old West before it was poisoned with progress. This movie is so romantic as well. Clark names an especially beautiful river they just discovered after a young woman he knew back in Virginia he one day wished to make his wife... "They'd meet a huge bear like they'd never seen before It was the Grizzly"... "Will this river ever have an end to it?"... "They were unprepared for its wild beauty"... "A most romantic appearance"... Montana and the White Cliffs... "We passed by some very curious cliffs, like the ruins of an ancient city"... "These scenes of enchantment seemed like they would never end"... "The grandest sight I ever beheld"... "Then he found another waterfall, then another, then another"... "Off in the distance, they could see mountains that were much larger than what they had ever seen in Virginia"... "Nothing seemed to be going right"... "The Northwest Passage"... "He was reaching the Continental Divide - The Northwest Passage"... "The dream ended of an all-water route. The geography of reality and the geography of hope were clashing at that point"... "If it snows, they're done. They're going to die. They desperately needed to find horses. The survival of them all depended on it"... Written by Dayton Duncan... The analogy of Lewis and Clark with the space race. "In many respects, the expedition was like going to the moon"... "Instead they were confronted by endless mountains"... "It was her long lost brother"... Camp Fortunate... "And then his thoughts turned inwards"... "At the age of 31, he asked if he had done enough"... "He had found something dark and moody to write about"... "Party and horses greatly fatigued"... "They ate their candles. They ate anything. They were starving"... "Not knowing where your next meal is to be found"... "Once again, a woman came to their aid"... "For the first time, the current was with them"... "They entered the Gorge of the Columbia and once again entered into an entirely different world"... "There's waterfalls everywhere"... "You start to smell salt air. The anticipation must have been unbearable"... "Cape Disappointment, for we couldn't find any vessels to trade with"... "Rainy and Wet. Disagreeable weather. They were always wet"... "It was discovery after discovery after discovery"... "They wished before anything to get their journals back to Jefferson even if they did not"... "And they knew they were going to be heroes... if they could get back"... "There is a different mood on the journey back: they're irritable. Lewis is short-tempered"... "Speeding home with the current"... "As the adventure faded into memory"... "Auction and Negro Sales"... "Lewis was soon overwhelmed by the problems in his life. He courted several women. But none would marry him"... "Lewis disintegrated. He fell apart at the seams"... "He went into an introspection"... A documentary of gentle time-based still-lives... Lewis shot himself. He killed himself... "They opened up the geographies of the imagination"... "They found the American future. They went from coast to coast"... "They worked as a team"... I think what really stuck me about this documentary and the National Parks documentary was the underlying subtext of grown men battling depression - yet finding redemption, healing, and solace in nature and exploration. Those are qualities that I found deeply moving and empathetic.

#### **-Joseph Merrick/ John Merrick/ The Elephant Man**

I experienced the pain and anguish of David Lynch's The Elephant Man, a morally devastating tale of who was the real freak of nature - John or his intimidators? I even found viewing the emotionally painful sequences to be much crueler to watch than John's disfigurement.

The Elephant Man: The doctor didn't laugh, he cried. "I pray to God that he is an idiot"... John Merrick: "I've never been treated so well from such a beautiful woman"... His voice was so frail and trembling, yet so immaculately humble - always trying to be the kindest person he can possibly be. As he felt his body dying, he took his own life. Earlier that night, he was given a standing ovation, which was the kindest reception this world has ever given him. To watch John Merrick try to live and be thankful for the kindness around him was profoundly emotional.

The Elephant Man: He smells. He has red-hair. He's the world's greatest freak. "He doesn't belong here"... "I was afraid to talk"... "I'm not used to being treated so well by a beautiful woman"... "I've tried so hard to be good"... "We never hurt him. Just having a laugh, that's all"... To all the beautiful freaks... "Nothing will die."

#### **-Will Rogers**

"Everything is changing. People are taking their comedians seriously and the politicians as a joke." -Will Rogers, American humorist, who died in 1935.

### **-J. Robert Oppenheimer**

The Day After Trinity: J. Robert Oppenheimer... "There is a weight on me that few men have had to bear"... "You may wonder why men of a kind heart and humanistic feelings would go and work on a weapon of mass destruction"... "He had a very sharp tongue"... "Oppenheimer was a Jew with friends and relatives in Nazi Germany"... "To save Western Civilization"... "It was feared that Nazi scientists were already building an atomic bomb in 1939 when Albert Einstein informed President Roosevelt that such a thing was even possible"... "I was caught up in that patriotic fever"... "The bomb project had a sudden urgency"... "The dream somehow got hold of him"... "He wanted to learn the deep secrets of nature"... To work on the bomb in the middle of nowhere in New Mexico... "Los Alamos was a boom town"... "It was a time when the whole country was pulling together for a cause that was just"... "He was the conductor of this orchestra"... "He was intellectually superior to us"... "It was the most expensive scientific project in the history of the world"... Oppenheimer's leftist background... "It was a new and strange world"... "What was going on in Los Alamos?" So they spread false rumors... "American intelligence had learned that the German atomic bomb effort had failed"... Suddenly, V-E Day happened"... "What we were doing was morally wrong"... "This horrible thing to come"... "He had a partnership with the U.S. Army and was given unlimited amounts of money"... "In a sense it was a Faustian bargain"... "Trinity Site: where they tested the first atomic bomb"... "This experimental detonation"... "I had no conception of what an atomic bomb was, the violence and strength of it"... "It would help win the war"... "There was a secret arrangement with the governor of New Mexico to evacuate the state in case there was a catastrophe"... "There had been some speculation that it might be possible to explode the atmosphere, in which the world disappears"... "To build a bomb in order to create a better world"... Since Truman didn't share the information about the atomic bomb with Stalin, this began the Cold War... "The sun was rising in the wrong direction"... "A violently-colored bowl rolled up"... "Japan was in ruins, most of her major cities destroyed"... "They had to use it. They felt this was in our own defense"... "Americans braced themselves for a bloody invasion of the Japanese mainland"... "To win the more quickly"... "When the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, my first initial thought was 'Thank God it wasn't a dud'"... "What have we done? What have we done?"... "100,000 died instantly in Hiroshima, 40,000 injured, 20,000 missing"... "We were no more guilty than anyone else who built weapons to win the war"... "Father of the Atomic Bomb"... Senator McCarthy made sure that Oppenheimer lost all security clearance because of his left-wing politics. McCarthy labeled him a Communist... "It killed him spiritually. It destroyed him"... "What's your thought about halting the spread of nuclear weapons." "It's twenty years too late. It should have been done the day after Trinity"... "Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds"... Narrated by Paul Frees... A tragic hero.

### **-John Kerry**

Going Upriver: The Long War of John Kerry: Who wants to give up their life to save face for the U.S. of A.?... "Our collective anguish"... "Hey! Listen Up, America!"... "We committed war crimes."

### **-Anonymous**

"An artist's legacy endures through is art." –Anonymous.

### **-Jack Rebney/ "Winnebago Man"**

Winnebago Man: "I don't want to talk about me!"... "I was immediately mesmerized. Who was this guy?"... "The worst day of this guy's life"... "His unrestrained anger was strangely liberating"... "Where was Jack? Was he aware that he's become a new kind of celebrity?"... "The Star Wars kid ended up in a mental institution because of the humiliation he got"... "Viral videos are very phenomenal"... "Fuck. Not even funny anymore"... Examining the psychological effect on viral video stars... Humans get joy from seeing others humiliated... "It erases the whole illusion"... "It's funny if you don't know him"... "Found Footage Festival"... "I can't make my mind work!"... "I think he was overwhelmed"... "Part of me felt bad for Jack Rebney"... "All of my searches were dead ends"... "I nervously called him back"... "He lives on top of a mountain in northern California"... "I guess I am a hermit"... "I have everything that I'm interested in. I have my books, a computer, a telephone to call my friends"... "There's a considerable amount of humor to it"... "Live alone in the woods"... "He enjoys being on camera again"... "He keeps reaching out to me"... "He wants to get his concerns out in the world"... He's still got a lot of rage inside... "He's always wanted an audience. But he also wants to be completely isolated"... "He didn't want to deal with the outside world"... "There was a time in my life where I hit rock bottom"... "Reclaim his reputation"... Searching for a story and a purpose... "It's the god damn fucking wilds!"... An angry old man... Nervous laughter... "I want you to use your notoriety"... "I don't need an audience"... "I have no interest in this youtube!"... The return and revenge of a viral video "star"... "This is nonsense!"... "Are you happy with me making this documentary about you?"... "He's got to open up to the camera"... Maybe there's a reason why he lives alone and is divorced... "What do I want from Jack?"... "He adores the sound of wind chimes"... "Fuck you, Buddha!"... "I hope he's still bitter"... "Can you give me any reason at all why I should smile?"... "It's a modern day freak show"... "The world's angriest RV salesman"... A psychological examination of the age of the viral video star... "Every time I'm angry, I watch this clip and it makes me happy." Viral videos as a strange form of catharsis... "I thought he was a kind soul"... "He's everybody's angry grandpa"... "That's the human condition right there"... "We don't say what we truly feel"... "I say exactly what I have on my mind"... "His unrestrained self"... "Do you believe any of that shit."

**-Philippe Petit**

Man on Wire: “He could no longer continue living without conquering these towers”... A tightrope walker over Notre Dame Cathedral... “There was a real madness in his eyes, a real rage”... “If I die, what a beautiful way to die, in the exercise of your passion”... “We are on top of the world”... It’s like they’re planning a terrorist attack!... “I loved to climb... to get away from something”... “Walking in thin air”... “He was so excessive, so creative”... “I must be cast away on the desert island of my dreams”... “Would I be charged with assisted suicide? With manslaughter?”... “He draws you into your world”... “It was like he was walking on a cloud”... “The beauty of it was that there was no why”... “Life is to be lived on the edge of life. You have to exercise rebellion”... “You have to live your life on a tightrope.”