

Angels and Saints – Eros and Awe

A film about wholeness and uniting body & spirit



THE FILM

Co-producers, Vic Compher and Rodney Whittenberg, have been inspired to make “*Angels and Saints—Eros and Awe*” by their respective personal and spiritual journeys. And they have found with the success of their last film [CAREgivers](#) that the arts in many forms often have the ability to entertain, educate and contribute to the healing of trauma and pain in the world.

While “*Angels and Saints—Eros and Awe*” may seem to be a film about gender identity and sexuality --and it is—it is more essentially about psychological, emotional, and spiritual wholeness, namely, the sacred and sensual connection of our bodies and the natural world that western religion has historically demonized and maligned. It is a film about people whom we call our “Angels and Saints” or our “modern messengers”, who have found a path to being their whole selves in body, mind, and spirit.

Angels and Saints—Eros and Awe addresses the psychic pain and damage that institutional religions and American culture in general have inflicted by teaching that “the Spirit is good” but the “body is evil”. Whether identifying as heterosexual, nonbinary, gay, lesbian, trans or “OtherWise”, our modern messengers share with us their creative, grounded lives, their wisdom and their many ways of healing this brokenness, as well as how they have moved beyond the constraining, stereotypic “boxes” in which society has placed most people. A recurring theme in this process of *integration and wholeness* is the restorative role of the arts, including dance, music, poetry and a love of nature—all of which find a richly expressive place in the film.

WEB, TRAILER, FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE

- [Angels and Saints-Eros and Awe Website](#)
- [Our Facebook page](#)
- [Our You Tube Channel](#)

CO-PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR – VIC COMPHER

Vic is a filmmaker, licensed clinical social worker, workshop trainer, and author. His last film was *“Portraits of Professional CAREgivers: Their Passion. Their Pain”* which addresses secondary trauma and staff resilience. This documentary has been broadcast widely on American Public Television, and it continues to be screened at many public and professional venues around the country, including various national and regional conferences, and many workshops. [CAREgivers](#) was nominated for a regional Emmy for outstanding documentary in 2018.

CO-PRODUCER, CAMERA, COMPOSER, EDITOR – RODNEY WHITTENBERG

Rodney is an Emmy Award winning modern “renaissance man.” His interests and professional endeavors are broad ranging from full-length film production to music composition. He is fascinated in discovering what makes things tick and how to creatively intersect with them, whether it is the inner vision of his clients or new ways to use the latest technical advances. http://www.melodyvision.com/about_us.html

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Biographies and Background

VIC COMPHER, DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER



After many years as a clinical social worker in the areas of child welfare, geriatric counseling, and hospice work, Vic began his “encore career” as a filmmaker, directing and producing a trilogy of short documentaries about positive aging, titled: *“Treasures of the Elders,”* *“Peace of the Elders,”* and *“I Cannot be Silent”*. All of Vic’s documentaries are story-driven, dramatic, personal accounts of real people’s lives, frequently acknowledging the impacts of personal or societal trauma upon individuals or their caregivers. His films encourage audiences to engage in deep discussions about the healing of social issues that have too long been in the shadows. These conversations often occur during post screening audience discussions, in workshops that Vic has designed and led, in many staff training settings or university classrooms.

In addition, Vic’s fourth film *CAREgivers* is inspiring a potential movement for [national policy](#) that will call upon OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the US) to declare secondary trauma as an “occupational hazard” and to require standards for mitigation.

RODNEY WHITTENBERG, PRODUCER AND COMPOSER



Rodney Whittenberg's varied and rich background includes a depth of experience in musical composition, recording, sound-mix and the scoring of films. He is also an experienced videographer and film editor, owns and manages his own production studio, Melodyvision, and he is a sought after teacher of filmmaking at a number of Philadelphia colleges. In the past 2 years, Rodney worked on films as either producer and/or director that have received over 30 awards at national and international film festivals; including the film [Beethoven to Beijing](#) which was nominated for the Ken Burns award. Rodney directed the shoots of the Philadelphia and Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra performances.

Rodney has been involved in the Philadelphia music and filmmaking realm for more than 20 years. He has worked on numerous projects involving real life situations and personal issues. More info at www.melodyvision.com

People often ask, who is this film for? Here is our answer.



Mental and Physical Health and Wellbeing Professionals

You are working with clients that are seeking emotional and physical wholeness:

Health care, medical and mental health professionals, doctors, nurses, therapists, clinical social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, sex educators, and others who are concerned about the role of sexual trauma or disturbing messages about

sex which have impacted their clients' psycho-sexual-spiritual development—and who seek healing and wholeness for them...such professional helpers who may also be serving individual clients and / or their families who are struggling with gender identity and sexual orientation issues.



Spirituality and Mindfulness Leaders

You are part of a progressive spiritual community or theological studies department and lead conversations and / or teach about wholeness, sexuality, or gender identity:

- Sex-positive educators, clergy, religious and lay leaders, seminarians, professors
- Workshop leaders as well as instructors and members of mindfulness and spiritual communities.



The General Public

You are on a quest to find peace, balance, and greater love of self, to care for your body, to create more joy in your life and to share it with those around you:

- Anyone *at all in the public* who is concerned about how messages of body-shaming, guilt and fear have contributed to unhealthy mental and emotional health and who seek wholeness in their lives and in society
- People questioning and/or affirming sexuality and gender identity
- Family and friends seeking greater understanding for those who have come out to them.

The film is seamlessly divided into three sections and told through personal stories.

These sections are:

1. The history of western religion as it relates to the split between body and spirit.
2. Trauma and the impact of body-shaming, guilt, and fear on our wellbeing.
3. Healing through the arts, movement, nature, community, therapy, and connection.

While you can watch the film in any setting, it is best if viewed with a group, as the film is the perfect primer or springboard for the sometimes-difficult discussions about sex, the body, and the spirit.

We hope you will not only enjoy the film but are opened up, challenged, encouraged, and pushed further along the path to healing, loving, and wholeness.

Our producers and interviewees have been [featured](#) on a growing number of podcasts and in articles and welcome new opportunities to share the messages of love and acceptance highlighted in the film.

FILM FESTIVALS, INTERVIEWS AND MEDIA

International Film Festivals and Awards <https://www.angelsandsaints-erosandawe.com/>

The producers and some of the speakers from the film have been interviewed on these podcasts:

- [Vox Novus](#)
- [How the Hell Did I Get Here From There?](#)

- [The Leftscape](#)
- [My Perfect Failure](#)
- [Your Boomalicious Life](#)
- [Do Joy!](#)
- [Blainesworld](#)
- [Soulfire Wisdom](#)
- [Steve Sorla Podcast](#)

Articles

- [“Entering the Realm of Angels and Saints: Eros and Awe” Good Men Project](#)
- [“Renaissance Rabbi” Good Men Project](#)

What are people saying about “Angels and Saints – Eros and Awe”:

“An eye-opening film with interesting speakers and lots of food for thought. It reinforces an enlightened sex-positive perspective, and we recommend it.” -Rod Love Schichtel, Membership

Director, Easton Mountain Retreat Center

“The film featured a diverse panel of teachers who offered a lot of useful insight about the connection between sexuality and spirituality, and the intersection of gender expression and orientation.” -Freddy Freeman, Marketing Director, Easton Mountain Retreat Center.

*“An educational and supportive video that gives permission for pleasure to all people.” -Dr. Beverly Whipple, sexuality educator and author of international best seller, *The G Spot and Other Discoveries About Human Sexuality*.*

“I found the film very touching. As a psychotherapist, I am often confronted by the shaming of those who do not conform to religious norms of sexuality. Sex can become sacred when we remove the shame.” -Jean Phillips, LCSW

“Great Idea for a film and wonderful creativity in putting it all together.” -Bob Groves, Public Health, and Social Service Administrator, retired

“The dance and poetry were woven in seamlessly enhancing its impact! “-Lavonne France, Chemist and Project Manager, retired

“Angels and Saints is a beautifully crafted, powerful, brave, and significant film. It is a gift to all of humanity by reminding us how sexuality is such an integral part of our wholeness. The discussions in the film, from religious and spiritual leaders, demonstrate the strong connection between sexuality and spirituality and how they both can actually enhance each other. The beautiful visuals and dance movements poignantly underscore the ideas and concepts. Angels and Saints supports and encourages us to be our authentic selves despite other influences that might work against that transformative goal.”- Donald M. Friedman, M.D., Medical School Instructor

“Wonderful film. Very diverse voices, and terrific interplay of words and animation...really liked the range of image-making!” - Lance Laver, Architect and Project Manager, retired