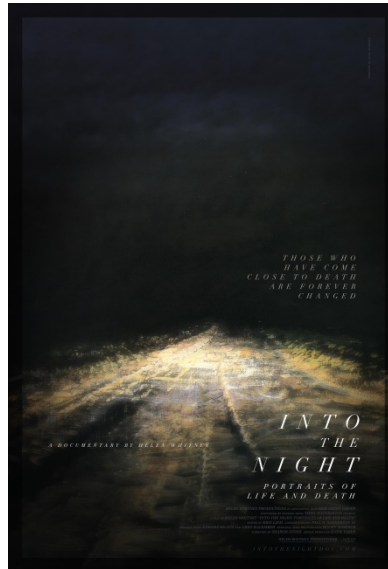


**"Into the Night: Portraits of Life and Death" will premiere at the 24th Annual Austin Film Festival Oct 26th - Nov 2, 2017**



How do we live with death in our eye? With defiant rage as Dylan Thomas exhorts us? With gentle acceptance? Or, more commonly, with denial? What is our story and will it sustain us when facing our own demise?

"Into the Night: Portraits of Life and Death," features nine men and women of uncommon eloquence and intelligence grappling with these questions. For them, death is no longer an abstraction, far off into the future. They come from all walks of life, all ages, the dying and the healthy, believers and skeptics, some recognizable, some obscure. They have been shocked into mortality and are forever changed.

Their dramatic stories challenge, unsettle, and also inspire.

Oscar-nominated, Emmy, Peabody and DuPont award-winning film producer, Helen Whitney, will present her two-hour feature documentary, "Into The Night: Portraits of Life and Death" at the **State Theatre, 719 Congress Ave, Austin, 78701** on **Monday, October 30th at 6:30pm**. Q & A will follow. Whitney will be joined by [Rocky Schenck](#), a formerly Austin-based photographer whose work is featured in the film. The film is narrated by Oscar-nominated, award-winning actress Sharon Stone.

#### **Among the stories:**

- the astrophysicist who finds comfort in the stars after the death of his brother.
- the historian whose near-death experience shapes her life and her fearless attitude towards her impending death.
- the cryonicist and futurist who finds meaning in the struggle against death itself.
- the Black Baptist minister who loses faith after the death of his sons and must find it again.

- the novelist, a dedicated environmentalist, who finds his narrative of comfort in the natural world.
- the Mayo Clinic heart surgeon who, at the end of his twelve-year battle with prostate cancer, discovers that love, not legacy or accomplishment, is the story that sustains him.
- the young mortician with a huge internet following, finds solace facing death close up and embracing the rituals of the alternative burial movement, even creating her own Death Salons.

"Into The Night" taps into a significant emerging movement, driven in part by the Baby Boomer generation as they now start to face the reality that, "death comes to us all...death is the roar underneath everything." There is a hunger for greater openness and deeper discussion about death and dying. Unlike many programs whose subject is the terrible state of health care for the aging, or the question of choice over the manner and time of our death, this film explores a different landscape, an interior one. "Into the Night" invites us inside rare and intimate conversations: the ones we yearn to have, but too often turn away from, until it is too late.

"Into The Night" provokes us to have these conversations. Now.

*"Into the Night is a miraculous and courageous film that is so deep and true that it should be required viewing for all mortal beings."* Irvin D. Yalom, existential psychiatrist and author of *Staring at the Sun*

## **Helen Whitney**

Helen Whitney has worked as a producer, director and writer for documentaries and feature films since 1976. Her documentaries have ranged over a wide variety of subjects, among them: youth gangs, presidential candidates, the mentally ill, a Trappist Monastery, Pope John Paul II, the class structure of Great Britain, Mormons, homosexuality, and the photographer Richard Avedon. Whitney maintains a passionate personal interest in the religious journey. Her 90-minute ABC News Closeup documentary, "The Monastery," about the Cistercians in Spencer, Mass., left her searching for other projects about spiritual life. This passion was also evident in FRONTLINE's "John Paul II: The Millennial Pope," a film for which she and her team conducted more than 500 pre-interviews in six countries. Following the Sept. 11 attacks, she produced "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero," a two-hour documentary that examined how religious belief -- and unbelief -- of Americans was challenged and altered by the spiritual aftershocks of 9/11. Whitney's documentaries and features have received many honors, including an Emmy Award, a Peabody Award, an Oscar nomination, the Humanitas Award and the prestigious duPont-Columbia University Award. She was also chosen to be the William Belden Noble Lecturer in 2012 at Harvard University.

## **Rocky Schenck**

Schenck has been loitering in the motion picture, musical, literary, theatrical and fine art worlds for decades. As a writer, director and photographer, he's collaborated with a wildly diverse list of artists, including Adele, Nick Cave, P.J. Harvey, Ray Bradbury, Willie Nelson, Nicole Kidman, etc., and has directed over 150 short films. His fine art photographs are included in prestigious

museums and private collections around the world, dozens of books, and have been utilized as sets in several operas.

We can provide a Vimeo Link for review coverage under embargo until the film premieres and for interviews. Helen Whitney and Rocky Schenck available for interviews for a limited time during the festival.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/235057785>

Website: [IntotheNightDoc.com](http://IntotheNightDoc.com)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/intotheynightdoc/>

Twitter [@intotheynightdoc](https://twitter.com/intotheynightdoc)

Instagram [@intotheynightdoc](https://www.instagram.com/intotheynightdoc)

“Into the Night: Portraits of Life and Death” is dedicated to Whitney’s long-time collaborator, the legendary editor Ted Winterburn, who died in the middle of the production and whose last interview concludes the film.

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