

Uncle Roy



PRODUCED BY PICKETT PICTURES LLC AND EMERGENCE PICTURES LLC
DIRECTED BY KERI PICKETT, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KERI PICKETT, EDITED BY DAWN MIKKELSON ORIGINAL MUSIC BY ME-LEE HAY
ADDITIONAL CINEMATOGRAPHY SHIHO FUKADA, MARK BROWN AND DAWN MIKKELSON
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As 93-year-old Roy Blakey faces life-threatening dementia, his niece races to preserve his legacy – as a figure skater, ice show archivist, and gay photographer whose male nudes etched their way into history – all before his final curtain call.

RUN TIME: 86:44

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION:
UNITED STATES

TECH SPECS:
1920 X 1080
STEREO

SYNOPSIS

Built on nine decades of professional and personal archives, UNCLE ROY follows the extraordinary life of globe-traveling-skater turned photographer Roy Blakey through the lens of his neice, award-winning documentary filmmaker Keri Pickett.

Born in Oklahoma in 1930, Roy dreamed of performing on ice. He began collecting figure skating programs and photographs, a collection that expanded over his lifetime to 44,000 items, including posters, costumes, and so much more. This love of figure skating also led Roy to a career in theatrical skating, performing globally with Holiday on Ice before becoming a photographer in New York.

Roy's photography captured iconic figures, including queer icons, while his work in male nudes pushed boundaries in art and publishing.

Growing up, Keri didn't know her mysterious uncle Roy until she followed him to New York City to pursue her dream of becoming a professional photographer. As their lives converge, a friendship begins. So when a medical crisis brings Keri to Minneapolis, Roy



follows and they open a photography studio together. A deeply private person, Roy's book "HE" (1972) was unknown to Keri until she found a box tied up in rope, sparking her curiosity. After learning that her uncle is considered a "forefather of gay photography", she helps him reintroduce his portraits of a generation largely lost to AIDS.

Over the next three decades, their relationship deepens and Keri realizes that his photography and world's largest archive of theatrical figure skating, need a home. As Roy slips into dementia, Keri struggles to care for him and her efforts to preserve his legacy become more urgent.

This heartfelt documentary is a tribute to dreams, family, and the importance of preserving history.

Uncle Roy

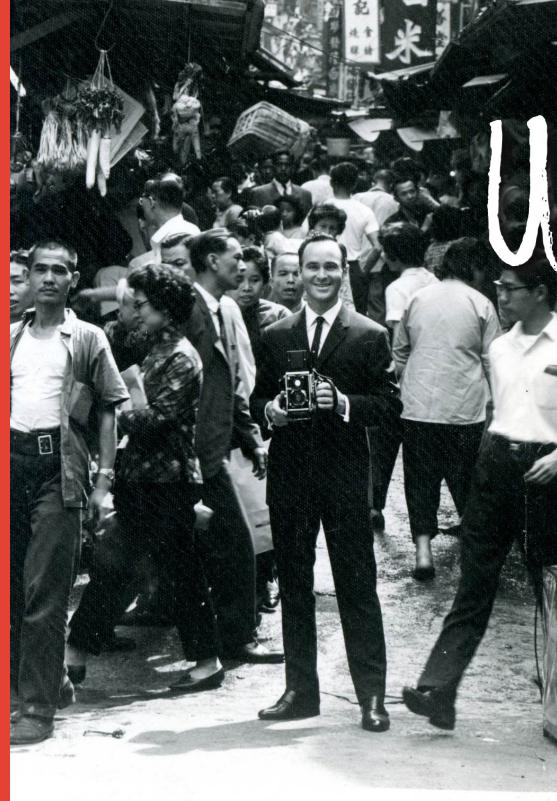
FROM THE DIRECTOR - KERI PICKETT

UNCLE ROY is my fourth feature-length documentary. Roy Blakey inspired me in countless ways. As a photographer, filmmaker, and independent artist, I learned how to see the world by watching Roy Blakey. "If you can see it, you can be it" was not just a belief – it was a way of living. The film belongs to a lineage of intimate, first-person American independent documentaries – *Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter* (1994), *Last Flight Home* (2022), and *A Photographic Memory* (2024) – works that place family, memory, and care at the emotional center of cinema.

Roy directly inspired my first feature, *The Fabulous Ice Age* (2014, Netflix), a film about a century of dancing on ice and one man's quest to save its history. I initially hoped that chronicling a century of ice shows, performers, and their entrepreneurs with Roy's archive would be enough to secure a permanent home for his collection. When that didn't happen, I kept filming.



Keri Pickett and Roy Blakey in
Golden Valley, Minnesota in 1965



Uncle Roy

Roy Blakey, Tokyo, 1964

His lens captured iconic figures of his time, such as Debbie Allen, Shirley MacLaine, and Kay Ballard, as well as the gender-bending brilliance of Divine, Jackie Curtis, and Candy Darling – images that reveal both his artistry and the freedom he found through the camera. My work also documented the cultural icons of my time, but our styles were quite different.

The urgency of the preserving Roy's legacy deepened as hallucinatory dementia entered our lives and I became his 24/7 caregiver. Focusing on elder care and the end of life are subjects I've explored throughout my career, but with *UNCLE ROY* I reveal my heart in a way I have never done. This film intimately documents the beautiful last years of our life together.



"Speaks to the greater resilience of LGBTQ+ people; we won't go without a fight, or without leaving our mark on this earth." - Jane Haskell, SAGE

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROY BLAKEY

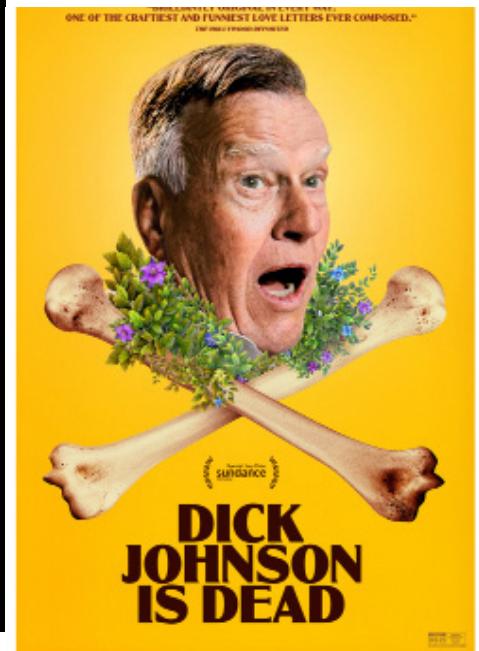
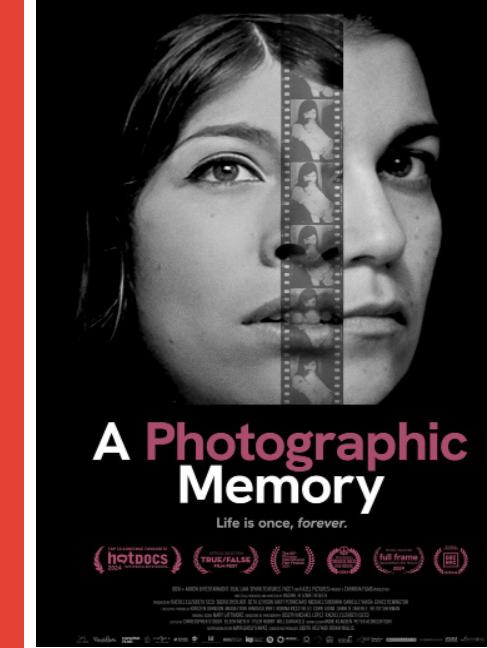
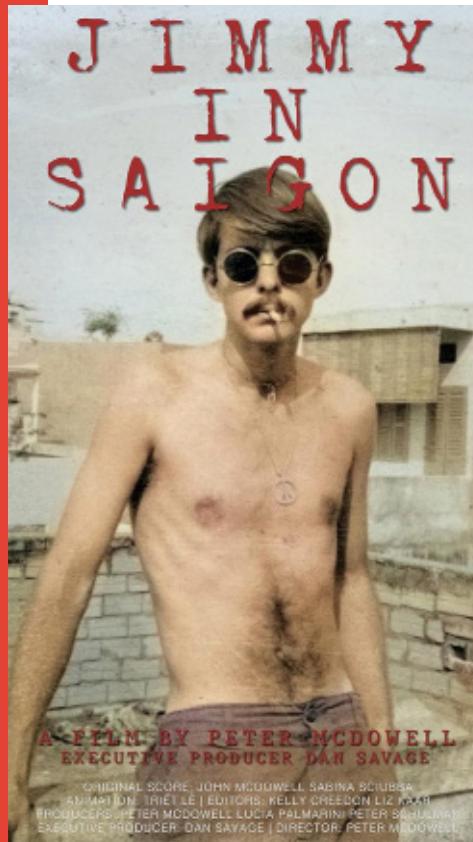
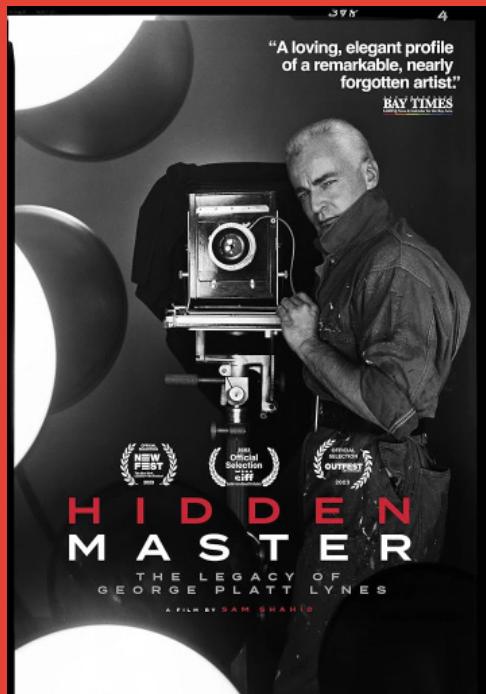
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CREATIVE & MARKET SNAPSHOT

UNCLE ROY takes inspiration from a powerful slate of award-winning feature documentaries and intimate personal stories on LGBTQ+ history, caregiving, photography, and related themes. These films have found great success at top-tier festivals, with awards and nominations, and in sales and distribution.

1. **A Photographic Memory (2024)** Director: Rachel Elizabeth Seed
2. **Jimmy in Saigon (2022)** Director: Peter McDowell
3. **Dick Johnson is Dead (2020)** Director: Kirsten Johnson
4. **Last Flight Home (2022)** Director: Ondi Timoner
5. **Hidden Master: The Legacy of George Platt Lynes (2023)** Director: Sam Shahid

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OCTOBER 2 | NETFLIX



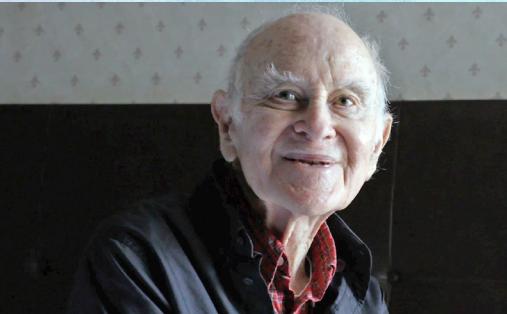
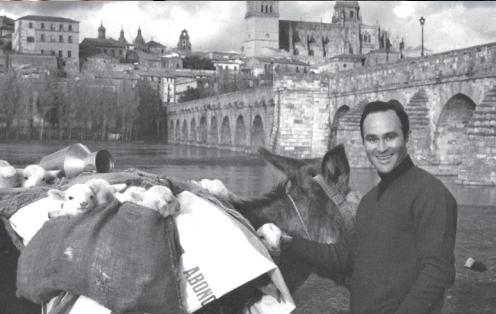
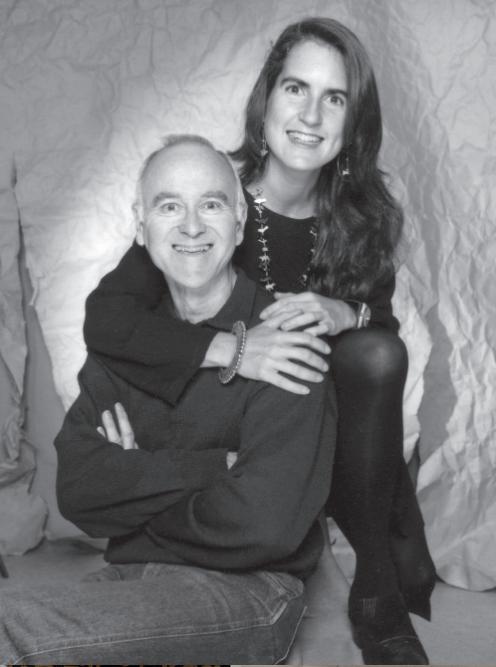
ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

What began as a deeply personal effort to preserve the legacy of a beloved uncle ultimately revealed itself as something larger: a call to protect the histories of underrepresented communities at a moment when those stories are once again under threat. At a moment when the current administration is actively defunding and erasing queer histories, the release of Uncle Roy is an act of resistance.

UNCLE ROY is a universal story about love, family, community and the role of photography and collecting to create memory and meaning. Much as her uncle passed the torch of his photographic artistry to Keri during his quest that will resonate with audiences far and wide, especially those who are interested in the history of lifetime, as her mentor, so she looks to bequeath his impeccable artistry to subsequent generations.

By lifting up the life and work of a gay artist whose contributions might otherwise have been lost, the film stands alongside the historians, archivists, and caregivers working to ensure that these stories – and the communities they represent – are not forgotten.

Uncle Roy



CREW

Director/Producer/DP - Keri Pickett

Producer/Editor - Dawn Mikkelsen

Original Music - Me-Lee Hay

Co-Executive Producers

- B.J. French
- Charles W. Leslie & Rocco Lofaro Buonpane

Contributing Producers

- Nicholas Green & Carolina Castillo Larrea
- UpMobility Foundation

Additional Funding by - Bhatt Family Fund

Additional Cinematography

- Daniel C. Baker
- Mark Brown
- Shiho Fukada
- Dawn Mikkelsen
- Keegan Xavi

Consulting Producer - Marc Smolowitz

Consulting Editor - Doug Blush





Uncle Roy

Keri Pickett

Producer/Director/Director of Photography

hAward-winning artist, producer, director, cinematographer. Pickett's documentary films FINDING HER BEAT (2022), FIRST DAUGHTER AND THE BLACK SNAKE (2017) and THE FABULOUS ICE AGE (2013) have won multiple awards. Select feature documentary screenings include: Mill Valley Film Festival, Napa Valley Film Festival, Heartland Film Festival, DOC NYC, Dance on Camera, Pocahontas Reframed Film Festival and American Indian Film Festival. Broadcast and streaming include: APT (American Public Television), PBS, Amazon Prime and Netflix. A well known photographer, Pickett has published multiple photography books, with photographs displayed in international and national museums and have appeared in Life, Time, People, Stern, and Geo magazines. Pickett has been awarded fellowships from the Bush Foundation, McKnight, Jerome, and Target Foundations, and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as serving as Envoy for the 2023/2024 American Film Diplomacy Program (US State Department & USC School of Cinematic Arts).



Dawn Mikkelson

Producer/Editor/Additional Cinematography

2023/2024 American Film Diplomacy Program (US State Department & USC School of Cinematic Arts) Envoy and finalist of the Project Greenlight Digital Studios and Seed&Spark Untold Story Crowdfunding Rally, Mikkelson has Produced/Directed seven award-winning independent feature documentaries, MINNESOTA MEAN (2023), FINDING HER BEAT (2022), RISKING LIGHT (2018), THE RED TAIL (2009), GREEN GREEN WATER (2007), THIS OBEDIENCE (2003), and TREADING WATER: A DOCUMENTARY (1999), character-driven films highlighting power and joy in the margins, as well as branded content for Nonprofit, NGO, and Governmental partners including the European Union, the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, and the Center for Victims of Torture.



Marc Smolowitz

Consulting Producer

Multi-award-winning director, producer, executive producer, and consulting producer who has been significantly involved in over 50 successful independent films. The combined footprint of his works has touched 250+ film festivals & markets on 5 continents, yielding substantial worldwide sales to theatrical, television, and VOD outlets, notable box office receipts, and numerous awards and nominations. His credits include films that have screened at top-tier festivals such as Sundance, Berlin, Venice, Tribeca, Locarno, SXSW, Chicago, Palm Springs, SFFILM, AFI DOCS, IDFA, DOC NYC, CPH: DOX, Tokyo, Sydney, Melbourne, Viennale, Jerusalem, among others.

In 2009, Marc founded 13th Gen, a San Francisco-based boutique entertainment company that works with a dynamic range of independent film partners globally to oversee the financing, production, post-production, marketing, sales, and distribution efforts of a vibrant portfolio of films and filmmakers. With talent development as its focus, the company is typically involved in some 10-15 projects concurrently and has successfully advanced Marc's career-long commitment to powerful social issue filmmaking across all genres. In 2016, he received one of the prestigious Gotham Fellowships to attend the Cannes Film Festival's Producers Network marking him as one of the USA's most influential independent film producers. Learn more about Marc and 13th Gen here: <https://www.13thgenfilm.com/>



Doug Blush

Consulting Editor

Doug Blush is an award-winning director, producer, editor, cinematographer and co-owner of Los Angeles-based MadPix Films. His credits include, as editor, the Oscar and ACE Eddie Award winning *20 Feet from Stardom* (2013), as executive producer, the Oscar winning *Period. End of Sentence.* (2018) and, as consulting producer and editor, the Oscar winning *Icarus* (2017). Other credits include *The Hunting Ground* (2015) (editor and associate producer), *The Invisible War* (2012) (editor and associate producer), *Skid Row Marathon* (2017) (producer), *Wordplay* (2006) (editor), *Superheroes* (2011) (editor and executive producer), and over 100 feature and television documentary projects.

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Me-Lee Hay

Original Music

Composer for Pickett and Mikkelsen's film *FINDING HER BEAT* (2022), Hay composes for film, TV, dance and theatre. A Malaysian born Chinese-Australian, Hay has had works shown across many platforms including Netflix, Australian commercial TV channels to international platforms such as UKTV distribution and 360 degree dome planetariums. Off screen Hay has been commissioned by leading arts companies of Australia such as Sydney Dance Company's PPY & Sydney Theatre Company. Me-Lee is a graduate of the Australian Film Television & Radio School (AFTRS), is an Associate Composer Representative of the Australian Music Centre and the Vice President of the Australian Guild of Screen Composers. She is published by Gaga music.



Shiho Fukada

Additional Cinematography

Emmy-nominated filmmaker, cinematographer, and photojournalist based in Los Angeles. She collaborated with Pickett and Mikkelsen in their film *FINDING HER BEAT* (2022). Fukada started her career as a news photographer in New York and has a decade of experience shooting and producing stories nationally and internationally. She currently pursues underreported stories both in video and photography. She has a degree in English literature from Sophia University in Japan and received a diploma in Multimedia Journalism from Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines. Her work has been featured in numerous publications including The New York Times, Time, Stern, New Yorker, Le Monde, CNN, and MSNBC, among others.



Carly Zuckweiler

Re-Recording Mixer

Audio engineer for Pickett and Mikkelsen's film *FINDING HER BEAT* (2022), based in Korea. Zuckweiler has worked on a wide variety of projects ranging from music to independent films to post-production. They have worked with The Staves, Bon Iver, Mouse on Mars, Hiss Golden Messenger, Phoebe Bridgers, Christian Lee Hutson, Cap Alan, Cadence & The Wolf, Target, Xcel Energy, Toro, Subaru, State Farm, and more.



Mark Brown

Additional Cinematographer

Brown has worked for two decades as a photojournalist and marketing/advertising photographer and video producer. His first documentary, "Sermon of the Serpent" (2014), screened at film festivals across the country and abroad. It won best short documentary at the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival. Brown has made several other short documentaries, including "Gaelynn Lea: The Songs We Sing" (2018), about Duluth musician and disability rights advocate Gaelynn Lea. "The Fishing Hat Bandit" (2024) is his first feature-length documentary.

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THANK YOU

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