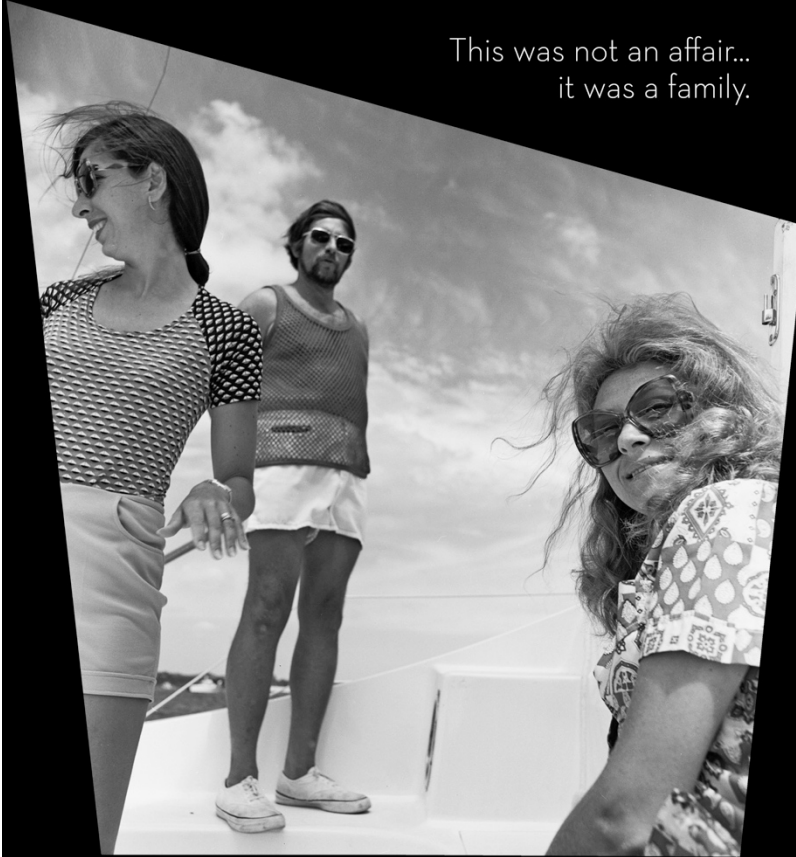


Quadrangle

This was not an affair...
it was a family.



the story of two couples, four children, and a 70's domestic living experiment



"Quadrangle"

A Documentary Short by Amy Grappell

TRT: 20:00

amygrappell@me.com

www.quadranglefilm.com

press contact: Alyssa Spiller • alyssa@pro4use.com • 512.383.5570

Synopsis

QUADRANGLE is an unconventional documentary about two “conventional” couples that swapped partners and lived in a group marriage in the early 1970s. Coming out of the era of free love, and struggling with the monotony of marriage and suburban life, these suburban middle class couples began swapping partners. This four-way affair became a kind of domestic living experiment when the two couples moved into one home, along with their children. While their individual marriages were failing, they found that together they were happy and thought they had discovered an alternative to divorce - a brave new world that would pave the way for how couples would live in the future. Instead it unraveled. Both couples divorced and married their foursome partners, but they could never truly separate because they were bound by the children they shared.

This film examines the story of the group marriage as told by one of the original couples in the present. They are forty years older and estranged, looking back in separate interviews that play simultaneously, cut together in split screen to overlap. A simulated conversation takes place as they recount their stories. Archival photos of the group, woven throughout, create a visual link between the story from the past and the characters in the present. Certain themes emerge: How do we grapple with marriage, monogamy, and desire? What happens when you challenge the boundaries of social convention? And what, if anything, did we learn from all that sixties-inspired experimentation?



Director Statement

In 1969, my family moved from Flatbush, Brooklyn, to the suburbs of Long Island, in pursuit of the American Dream. I was seven years old when my unhappily married, middle class parents met another couple at the beach club and embarked on a four-way love affair that would change all of our lives forever.

Impacted at a young age by this period, I have always felt the need to tell this story. While I am inspired by the spirit of the sixties, I am also compelled to ask what became of the social experiments of this era? Isn't it ironic that so many involved with the counter culture of the sixties (like my own parents) are now transformed, conservative professionals with traditional marriages and values? What became of the children who were raised in this time and exposed to these ideas?

Inspired by the discovery of evocative photographs, taken by my father at the height of my parents' polyamorous affair, and in an effort to come to terms with my own past, I decided to interview my parents. I felt it was important for them to tell their story. Though I interviewed them separately, I asked them both the same questions and allowed them to recount the details. The unfolding of my family story is told in an overlapping diptych-style video. While the split screen emphasizes the separation of the estranged couple, it also creates a sense of connected dialogue. This format highlights the parallels and intersections of shared memory and allows the characters to separately, connect to each other and the past, within the context of the present.

By focusing on the intimate story of one unconventional family, this film relates to all families exploring the constraints and possibilities of marriage and asks questions about the viability of both monogamy and alternative family structures. The film does not propose any answers and strives to remain objective. It explores two people in a certain time. It tells a story. It presents itself in such a way that viewers are left to draw their own conclusions.

Bios

Director / Producer - Amy Grappell

Amy Grappell was born in Brooklyn New York. Her documentary QUADRANGLE premiered at Sundance (2010) winning a Jury Prize and went on to win Best Short Film at SXSW, AFI, and Dallas International Film Festival before its NY premiere at New Directors / New Films. The film was licensed and broadcast on HBO where she spent the last three years in development, adapting QUADRANGLE for a scripted series. She returned to Sundance (2011) with a short documentary titled KIDS GREEN THE WORLD. Her feature documentary LIGHT FROM THE EAST premiered at SXSW (2005) and aired on PBS. One of the select writer/directors of Richard Linklater's SLACKER remake, Grappell is now developing a new narrative series and writing a screenplay based on another stranger-than-fiction true story about two feuding Jewish summer camps — one Communist and the other Socialist — on opposite sides of Sylvan Lake in upstate New York in 1947. She holds a BA in film and literature from New York University, is a graduate of the MFA acting program at The North Carolina School of the Arts and recipient of grants from Austin Film Society, National Endowment of the Arts, Texas Council for the Humanities, and the Trull Houndation.

Producer - Chris Krager

Chris is an architect, entrepreneur and longtime cinephile. He was the Co-producer of LIGHT FROM THE EAST a feature documentary by Grappell that premiered at SXSW and recently had its European premiere in London. Krager also served as a producer and creative consultant on her most recent documentary short film QUADRANGLE.

Co-Producer / Editor - Aaron Raff

Aaron Raff is a New York based Visual Effects Supervisor. His credits include MR. ROBOT, THE GET DOWN, and TRUE DETECTIVE. He has been nominated for two Creative Arts Emmys for his work on BOARDWALK EMPIRE and MILDRED PIERCE.

Cinematographer - Christian Moore

Originally from Austin TX, Moore got his BFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts in film and directed the narrative feature SHADY GROVE that premiered at SXSW before doing the international film festival circuit. He has directed and edited numerous music videos (Alexandra Escovedo, Los Lonely Boys) and documentaries before starting his own production company in Austin, Texas. Moore has worked as an editor on projects with Mike Judge, including MTV's, THE BEST OF BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD, and the pilot series, MONSIGNOR MARTINEZ. He coproduced and shot the documentary, LIGHT FROM THE EAST with director Amy Grappell, and he co-produced and shot the documentary, VIVA LES AMIS, with director Nancy Higgins. Christian is currently co-producing, and directing the HD feature documentary LET IT ROLL, which looks at the history of hot rods and custom cars in American culture.

Sound Mix - Eric Friend

Eric started working on films as a child in Michigan. He moved to Austin Texas in 1993 to attend the University of Texas Radio / Television / Film program and immediately began working for Richard Linklater's Detour Film productions. While at Detour, Eric met Tom Hammond of Soundcrafter, and worked with him editing Foley for feature films. He also met Mike Judge and began recording Mike's voice for BEAVIS AND BUTT-HEAD. 14 years later, Eric still works for Mike and records for the Emmy award winning TV show KING OF THE HILL. He also edits and mixes sound for documentaries and narratives films that have played at SXSW and the Los Angeles Film Festival.

Composer - Courtney Saunders

Courtney Saunders is a creative director, musician and filmmaker. She co-wrote and directed the short film CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN POETRY, (LA Film Independent 2008,) and the short FIRE SEASON (Palm Springs 2014.) Her work in fashion has been profiled in *The New York Times* and *Refinery 29*. Her music, recorded under the moniker Youth & Valor, has been featured in the short films FIRE SEASON and QUADRANGLE, and the feature films WINTER IN THE BLOOD and THE BALLAD OF JACK AND ROSE.

Credits:

Director: Amy Grappell

Producers: Amy Grappell & Chris Krager

Co-Producer / Editor: Aaron Raff

Sound Mix: Eric Friend

Photographs: Paul Grapell

Music: "Sad Little Happiness" by Courtney Saunders;

Performed by Sean Eden & Courtney Saunders

