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*the beat
goddess*

*A Feature Documentary
Directed by Melody C. Miller*

www.ruthweissfilm.com

ruth weiss, the beat goddess documentary

BY MELODY C. MILLER



In a life that has spanned 92 creative years, ruth weiss is one of the most influential writers of the Beat Generation who revolutionized and empowered the world of poetry.

Born to a Jewish family during the rise of Nazism, as a 10-year-old refugee, she escaped to the United States. ruth became a Jazz troubadour exemplifying the zeitgeist of Chicago, New Orleans, and San Francisco.



In the 1950s, she opened up and organized the first poetry readings in North Beach cafes and bars, giving a platform to many poets. The film further highlights ruth weiss' electrifying and intimate poetry with breathtaking images of exquisite modern dance, art, animation, and music to embody her oeuvre.

This film documents not only weiss' gift to humanity but archives significant historical moments in our world's social and literary movements.

As a contemporary of Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Jack Kerouac, she innovated poetry to jazz. Legend Herb Caen dubbed ruth weiss as "The Goddess of the Beat Generation" because of her contribution to the culture of North Beach and the Bay Area poetry scene.

AWARDS

The film premiered at the Asolo Art Film Festival in Italy, won Best Documentary at the Peekskill Film Festival, won Visionary Women In Film Award at the Santa Cruz Film Festival, Best Documentary at the Riverside International Film Festival, and is nominated for Best Documentary over a dozen other film festivals worldwide. ruth weiss was awarded the 2020 Maverick Spirit Award from the Cinequest Film Festival. This prestigious award is given to influential individuals who embody the independent and innovative mindset.





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TRT: 70 minutes

Produced, Directed, Shot, and Edited by Melody C. Miller

Executive Producer - Elisabeth P. Montgomery

Associate Producer - Jerry Heverly

Music - Stephen Spies

Sound Mixing and Design - Bill Jackson

Animation - Ketzi Rivera and Bijiao Liu

Co-Editor - Eric Francis Martin

Colorist - Jason Knutzen

In the film: ruth weiss, Daniel Nicoletta, Branda Knight, Jerry Cimino, Ida Nowakowska, Rent Romus, Dough O'Connor, Michael Shayne, Brennan Wall



ruth weiss, 92, passed of natural causes on July 31, 2020, in her home in the California redwoods. She had no surviving children or family so her work is what will continue her line.

With the desire for spreading love and a helping hand to poetic artists in her memory, Elisabeth Montgomery and Melody Miller founded a non-profit. The ruth weiss Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to create opportunities for poetic artists through our annual grant to support their work.

www.ruthweissfoundation.org





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