

112 Weddings- in cinemas 13 June 2014



**PRESENTS**  
**A FILM BY DOUG BLOCK**

# **112 WEDDINGS**



**UK CINEMA RELEASE: 13 JUNE 2014**  
**RUNNING TIME: 90 MINUTES**

**Press Contact:**  
Yung Kha  
T. 020 7831 7252  
[yung@dogwoof.com](mailto:yung@dogwoof.com)

@112Weddings  
[facebook.com/112Weddings](https://facebook.com/112Weddings)  
[www.112weddingsmovie.com](http://www.112weddingsmovie.com)

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Over the past two decades, acclaimed documentary filmmaker Doug Block (*51 Birch Street*, *The Kids Grow Up*) has supported his career with a side business of videotaping weddings. Long curious about how their marriages have turned out, he tracks down and interviews some of the more memorable of his 112 wedding couples - with funny, insightful and deeply moving results.



## SHORT SYNOPSIS

For the past two decades, acclaimed documentary filmmaker Doug Block (*51 Birch Street*, *The Kids Grow Up*) has helped support himself by shooting weddings. Hired for his intimate documentary style, he found himself emotionally bonding with his wedding couples on their big day, only to send off their videos and never see them again. Many years and 112 weddings later, having long wondered what's become of their marriages, Block begins to track down some of his favorite couples. Juxtaposing rapturous wedding day flashbacks with remarkably candid present-day interviews, 112 WEDDINGS explores timeless themes of love and marital commitment.

@112Weddings  
facebook.com/112Weddings  
www.112weddingsmovie.com

## **LONG SYNOPSIS**

As a part-time wedding videographer hired for his intimate documentary style, filmmaker Doug Block frequently found himself standing feet away from two virtual strangers as they publicly pledged their everlasting love and fidelity to each other. He'd come away from the day with a strong sense of the couples and feeling an unusual bond, only to send them the videos a few weeks later... and never see them again.

Block long wondered what became of these couples with whom he shared such an emotional experience. Is married life what they thought it would be? Are they still together? How have they navigated the inevitable ups and downs of marriage over the long haul?

20 years and 112 weddings on, he begins to track down some of his more memorable couples to find out first-hand. 112 WEDDINGS juxtaposes rapturous wedding day flashbacks with remarkably candid present-day interviews to explore timeless themes of love and marital commitment.

## BIOS



### **DOUG BLOCK (Director, Producer)**

**Doug Block** is a New York-based documentary filmmaker who has won increasing international recognition as a master of the autobiographical film form. With a long body of highly acclaimed work as both director and producer, his films have won countless awards, screened in dozens of leading film festivals, and shown in theaters and broadcast on television throughout the world.

His most recent feature, *The Kids Grow Up* (Special Jury Prize, Silverdocs) was released theatrically by Shadow Distribution and broadcast on HBO on Fathers Day, 2011. His previous film, *51 Birch Street*, was named one of the Ten Best Films of 2006 by a number of leading critics, including A.O. Scott of the New York Times, and was selected as one of the outstanding documentaries of the year by the National Board of Review. Block also directed *The Heck With Hollywood!* (1991), the Emmy nominated *Home Page* (1999) and the multi award-winning short *The Children Next Door* (2012).

In addition to his own films, Block's credits as producer include: *Silverlake Life* (Sundance Grand Jury Prize, Peabody, Prix Italia), *Jupiter's Wife* (Sundance Special Jury Prize, Emmy), *A Walk Into the Sea: Danny Williams and the Warhol Factory* (top awards at Berlin and Tribeca), *The Edge of Dreaming* (POV) and *Resurrect Dead: The Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles* (Sundance Best Director Prize for Documentary).

Block is also the founder and co-host of The D-Word ([www.d-word.com](http://www.d-word.com)), which began as a pioneering blog for his film *Home Page*, and has evolved over the past 15 years into the web's leading network and discussion forum for documentary professionals worldwide.

@112Weddings  
[facebook.com/112Weddings](https://facebook.com/112Weddings)  
[www.112weddingsmovie.com](http://www.112weddingsmovie.com)

**LORI CHEATLE (Producer)**



LORI CHEATLE founded Hard Working Movies, an independent production company in Brooklyn, NY, to produce director-driven feature films that tell great stories and appeal to wide audiences. Subjects range from personal documentaries to pop culture to social issues. Lori's award-winning films have screened in theaters, museums and in top film festivals as well as on HBO, PBS, Showtime, The Sundance Channel, Channel 4 UK, the BBC, ZDF/Arte, NHK, Canal+, and have been seen in over 60 countries. Films she's produced include two previous documentaries directed by Doug Block- the critically acclaimed *51 Birch Street* and *The Kids Grow Up*; Amy Hardie's *The Edge of Dreaming*, *This Land Is Your Land (Whitney Biennial)*, *Dashiell Hammett. Detective Writer.* and many others. She recently completed the feature documentary *CAPTIVATED The Trials of Pamela Smart* (HBO, Sky Atlantic) directed by Jeremiah Zagar, which premiered at Sundance 2014.

**MAEVE O'BOYLE (Editor and Co-Writer)**

MAEVE O'BOYLE has worked as a documentary editor predominantly in New York City over the last 12 years. Some of her credits include the Emmy-nominated *Left of the Dial* (HBO), the documentary series *Carrier*, (PBS) and *Frontline: Heat* (2009 Banff World Television Award). She traversed the United States for Guardian Films UK, editing short web pieces on the 2008 US Election, after which she edited Doug Block's feature documentary *The Kids Grow Up in 2009*. She has worked on several Irish television series, including the short film *Needle Exchange*, (RTE, IFB, Best Short Documentary - Galway Film Fleadh) and *Voices from the Grave* (Best Documentary - Irish Film and Television Awards). Her recent work includes *Frontline: Six Billion Dollar Bet*, *Cell Tower Deaths* and *Money, Power and Wall Street*. She also recently finished a short film called *The Education of Mohammad Hussein* for HBO which was shortlisted for an Academy Award. She just completed *112 Weddings* for Doug Block and is currently editing a feature documentary entitled *Do I Sound Gay?*

**JON FOY (Original Music)**

Jon Foy is a self-taught multi-disciplined filmmaker who specializes in editing and composing. His debut documentary *Resurrect Dead: The Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles* won him the 2011 Sundance Directing Award. He currently resides in Brooklyn, NY.

**ELIZABETH J. THEIS (Associate Producer)**

ELIZABETH J THEIS first picked up a video camera while growing up in her suburban coastal town of Milford, CT. She received her BA in 2004 from Marlboro College, after directing the short documentary, *Public Axis: Media Democracy in a Time of War*. From 2004 – 2007 she instructed video production courses at Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School in New Haven, CT while also working with teenage filmmakers at the Yale University Saturday Seminar program. She moved to Brooklyn in 2009 to obtain her MA in media studies at The New School. She then directed the comedy short *Killing Time with Lizzie Boredom*, which has garnered a growing Internet following. She directs music videos for emerging bands when she can, and is currently working on an adaptation of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper*. She also works as an assistant editor, and her credits include *CAPTIVATED: The Trials of Pamela Smart*, *Approaching the Elephant* and the PBS series, *Art 21*.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

From the time I shot my very first wedding over 20 years ago, I knew that someday I would make a film like 112 Weddings.

As a documentary filmmaker, I found it unexpectedly thrilling to be a wedding videographer. We're always struggling to gain access to our subjects, and here I was being granted a front-row position as an ordinary couple experienced perhaps the most extraordinary day in their lives (and being paid well for it, no less!). To be able to observe and capture their actions and behavior and the intense emotions of the day at such close range was a rare privilege and utterly fascinating.

And then there was the curiosity factor. We all go to weddings, especially if we don't know the couple well, and enjoy speculating about whether or not they're "keepers." By the end of the wedding day, I felt I knew my couples quite well and had formed a genuine bond with many of them. So of course I wondered what would become of them, and what would become of their marriages.

The years passed by and, as I went about my business making a number of documentaries and raising a family, I kept filming more and more weddings. All the while thinking: someday I'll get to that wedding film. Knowing full well by then it would be a film far more about the mystery of marriage than weddings.

Perhaps it had something to do with reaching my own 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, but three years ago I decided it was finally time to move forward. The "casting" process was pretty instinctive, based largely on my affection for the couples and how they might play off of each other as a collection. It wasn't always easy to track them down but happily a large percentage agreed to be interviewed.

I had a lot of questions for them but at the core it all came down to two basic ones: What did you enter marriage thinking it would be? And what did it turn out to be? I felt there would be some dramatic and universal stories contained in those answers.

With this kind of documentary approach comes a great responsibility. Because of the nature of our relationship and the intimacy of my shooting style (I shot all of my weddings and all of the interviews for the film as a one-person crew), the couples opened up to me with a candor that stunned me at times, almost as if I were a therapist rather than a documentarian. Additionally, by shooting them side by side on a couch, their body language, facial expressions and pauses often spoke as eloquently as their words, and revealed more than they probably meant to. My enormously skillful editor Maeve O'Boyle and I tried our best to balance our goal of creating the most intense and dramatic storylines with a sense of fairness and respect for our couples' vulnerability.

While making the film I was continuing to shoot the occasional wedding, and it occurred to me that the experiences of a young couple in the months leading up to their wedding might make an interesting counterbalance to the seasoned and bittersweet perspectives of those looking back at their marriages of many years. By the time our couple, Heather and Sam, walk down the aisle at the end of 112 WEDDINGS, that classic ending to Hollywood movies will hopefully have a more nuanced and poignant resonance for viewers. As they've come to learn, happily-ever-after is complicated.

@112Weddings  
facebook.com/112Weddings  
www.112weddingsmovie.com

I would never claim 112 WEDDINGS is the definitive film on marriage. I'm a documentary filmmaker, not a social scientist. My intention was to simply to interweave 10 real-life love stories and see if it reveals a bigger picture view of love and long-term relationships. Certainly it's my hope that it comes together as an unusual and powerful look at the subject.

Ultimately, I think 112 WEDDINGS is also a film about time. It's about what time does to our looks, our beliefs, our expectations and our feelings about our partners. The one thing we know for certain when we marry is that life will throw all sorts of unexpected stuff at us and things will change. How we deal with it together as a couple is our ultimate barometer of success.

Some who are familiar with my previous three autobiographical documentaries (HOME PAGE, 51 BIRCH STREET, THE KIDS GROW UP) might wonder why I've not included any references to my own marriage in the film. It's not like I didn't give the matter lots of thought. In the end, I decided I had gone down that road before, and that it would be inauthentic to imply that I was exploring the subject of marriage in an attempt to somehow fix or save my own marriage.

In and of itself, 28 years of marriage hasn't made me any kind of marriage expert. But it *has* given me the wisdom to dedicate 112 WEDDINGS to my ever-lovely, ever-patient wife Marjorie, and to leave it at that.





**CREDITS:**

Written, Produced and Directed by  
DOUG BLOCK

Produced by  
LORI CHEATLE

Editor and Co-Writer  
MAEVE O'BOYLE

Original Music by  
JON FOY

Associate Producer  
ELIZABETH J THEIS

Cinematography by  
DOUG BLOCK

Copacetic Pictures  
Hard Working Movies



“As common as it is, marriage remains among the most mysterious of human experiences.”

**For further information about the film:**

Yung Kha 020 7831 7252  
[yung@dogwoof.com](mailto:yung@dogwoof.com)

@112Weddings  
[facebook.com/112Weddings](https://facebook.com/112Weddings)  
[www.112weddingsmovie.com](http://www.112weddingsmovie.com)

# The Wedding Couples



## RACHEL & PAUL - Wedding #32

Married 13 years; live in downtown Manhattan; two children

Paul is a musician, and at their outdoor wedding he serenaded Rachel with an original clarinet solo as she arrived for the ceremony. I got to know them better than most couples, so they were the first ones I approached to be interviewed for the film. Clearly, their lives are very much wrapped up in their two young children and, having had them at a relatively older age, it often leaves them exhausted. I had forgotten about their amusing habit of both speaking at the same time.



## JENN & AUGIE - Wedding #71

Married 8 years; live in Brooklyn, NY; one child

Jenn and Augie had one of the most upbeat, joyful weddings I've ever filmed. And while they still enjoy a jokey, playful dynamic, having a child, getting laid off from a job and living in a small apartment can put a strain on even the best of relationships. Before becoming parents, they say they rarely ever fought. But now...

*Augie: A friend of mine, his quote fit us perfectly. He says my wife and I agree 95% of the time. But that 5%, we're just at each other's throats.*



## OLIVIA & DENNIS - Wedding #49

Married 9 years; live in the East Village, NYC; one child

After their wedding, memorable for Olivia's hyperventilated walk down the aisle, they moved to a hut in Tulum, Mexico, where Olivia was a massage therapist and Dennis a scuba diving instructor. They moved back to NY when their daughter Lily was born. However, when Lily was 3, she was suddenly diagnosed with a brain tumor, and life for Olivia and Dennis has never been the same.

*Dennis: There's no real book on how to take care of a child who may be taken from you at any moment, and dealing with that fear. You're thrown into a living nightmare that never ends.*

In the past year, no longer able to afford living in New York City, they moved to Palm Beach, Florida. They happily report that Lily just turned 10 and "is kicking ass."



### **JODI & MICHAEL - Wedding #28**

Married 13 years; live in New Rochelle, NY; one child

They became close friends in college but, despite a deep attraction, Michael resisted dating Jodi for many years because he knew it would become serious, and he wasn't ready to settle down. When they finally married, the plan was to have many children, as they both came from large families. But ultimately "it wasn't in the cards" to have more than one child.

When it became clear at kindergarten age that their daughter had special needs, Jodi, despite having business and medical degrees, became a stay-at-home mom, which she handled stoically. Michael is a managing partner in a Manhattan private equity firm.

Since their interview, Jodi has become a yoga teacher.



### **JANET & DAVID - Wedding #83**

Married 7 years before divorcing; both live in Manhattan; one child

I don't think I've ever had a moment shooting weddings to compare to David showing me his anti-depressant collection. It's easy to be fooled by his outlandish personality and wicked, self-mocking sense of humor. He's also disarmingly candid, taking full responsibility for the failure of his marriage and the emotional havoc he caused. It's poignantly clear that, despite everything, he's still very much in love with Janet.

For her part, Janet chose not to be interviewed for the film. "I want to," she admitted by phone, "but I'm just too honest for my own good."



### **JANICE & ALEXANDER - Wedding #111**

Live in Newton, MA; 2 children

13 years ago, Janice and Alexander brought me upstate to film their elaborate, 3-day "partnership ceremony," which had all trappings of a wedding but for the very deliberate choice they made not to sign a wedding certificate.

*Alexander: When we went back in time to take a look at why the legal contract was created in the first place, the main reasons for it had a lot to do with ownership, right of lineage, and possession. They were economic equations, which didn't resonate with us.*

When I called to interview them for the film, my timing was fortuitous. With two daughters entering their teens, things had taken a more practical turn and they had decided to officially get married. This time it was only to be a small ceremony in their living room, and they laughed it off as no big deal. However, when the day arrived they couldn't help getting caught up in the emotion of the occasion.





### HEATHER & SAM - Wedding #112

Live in Brooklyn, NY; I've been hired to shoot their upcoming wedding in Heather's hometown of Helena, Montana.

After interviewing a number of married couples, I was eager to get the perspective of a couple about to get married. Happily for me, sweet, funny and articulate Heather and Sam turned out to be perfect for the role. Under a crisp Montana sky, the setting for their wedding was as picturesque as I've ever seen. And when they finally walked nervously down the aisle, it was impossible for me not to visit the experiences of the other couples on them, and think about what marriage might become for Heather and Sam in the years ahead.

A year after their wedding, Heather and Sam had a son, and they recently moved to Oakland, California.



### SUE & STEVE – Wedding #1

Married 19 years, currently getting divorced; live in Mamaroneck, NY; 3 children

Even if it hadn't been my first-ever wedding gig, Sue's exuberant personality made their wedding unforgettable. When I called all these years later to ask them to participate in the film she had just filed for divorce the day before, and was very emotional. I waited nearly 6 months to do the interview to give Sue the chance to gain more perspective on what happened. Naturally, I was eager to hear Steve's side of the story, as well, and very appreciative that he agreed to tell it on camera. That wasn't the case with every divorced couple I contacted, for sure.



### YOONHEE & TOM - Wedding #43

Married 11 years: live in Ridgewood, NJ; 2 children

They met on a plane and immediately began a whirlwind courtship. Yoonhee was finishing her masters degree in music and her father had a job lined up for her teaching college back in Korea. Instead, she made the biggest decision of her life by marrying Tom and remaining in the U.S.

Yoonhee and Tom struck me on their wedding day as an archetypal example of opposites attracting, and I was curious to learn how that would play out over the course of their marriage. Given the role destiny plays in Hollywood movies, I asked whether they felt it was fated for them to be on that particular plane on that particular day. Tom immediately laughed and said no, but the question clearly resonated for Yoonhee. She looked off into space with a dreamy expression.

*Yoonhee: Life can be funny. Life can be very funny because, I mean, why did it happen, you know?*



### DANIELLE & ADAM - Wedding # 90

Married 5 years; live in Millburn, NJ; one child

Danielle was one of the most radiant brides I've ever filmed, so it was particularly sad, 5 years later, to see her all but paralyzed by depression. It turned out it's something she's struggled with for many years, but her condition was exacerbated by taking hormonal treatments while trying to get pregnant.

I was particularly moved by Adam's unwavering devotion to Danielle. At one point, acknowledging that it's hard not to feel like he's taking care of two children, he turned to her and said:

*Adam: I personally feel like you're completely worth waiting for, for this to fix itself one day. And even if that's never, I still think that I wouldn't want to do this with anybody else, you know?*



### ANNA & ERICA

Wedding photographers and life partners for 4 years

I had the privilege of meeting Anna and Erica while we were all on a job shooting a same sex wedding, which was just months before they were to get married themselves. While we were on breaks, we wound up chatting quite a bit about marriage, and I felt their perspective as a gay couple would be valuable for the film.

In the course of revisiting so many wedding couples, and especially Janice and Alexander, I often wondered why signing a marriage contract makes such a difference in long-term relationships. So I asked Anna and Erica why that was so important to them, as opposed to simply living together.

*Anna: I totally hear our queer friends who just think marriage is not what we should be fighting for, it should be abolition of marriage. But I think you can't just deny the reality that that is how society is structured today and in order to have an equal place in that, I don't know, it makes sense to get married.*



### RABBI JONATHAN BLAKE

Head Rabbi, Westchester Reform Temple

I met Rabbi Blake while shooting a wedding during the time I made 51 BIRCH STREET, and was so impressed with his humor and wisdom (and youthful looks!) that I included him in the film. We have remained friends ever since. Having officiated at well over a hundred weddings and being married himself for over a decade, I thought, in addition to Anna and Erica, he could lend valuable insights on the subject of both weddings and marriage.

*Rabbi Blake: The wedding is day one, and it's the easiest day to make happy. You've just thrown a ton of money at it, and liquor. A marriage is hard to make happy because when you throw a ton of money and liquor at it, it often makes things worse.*