

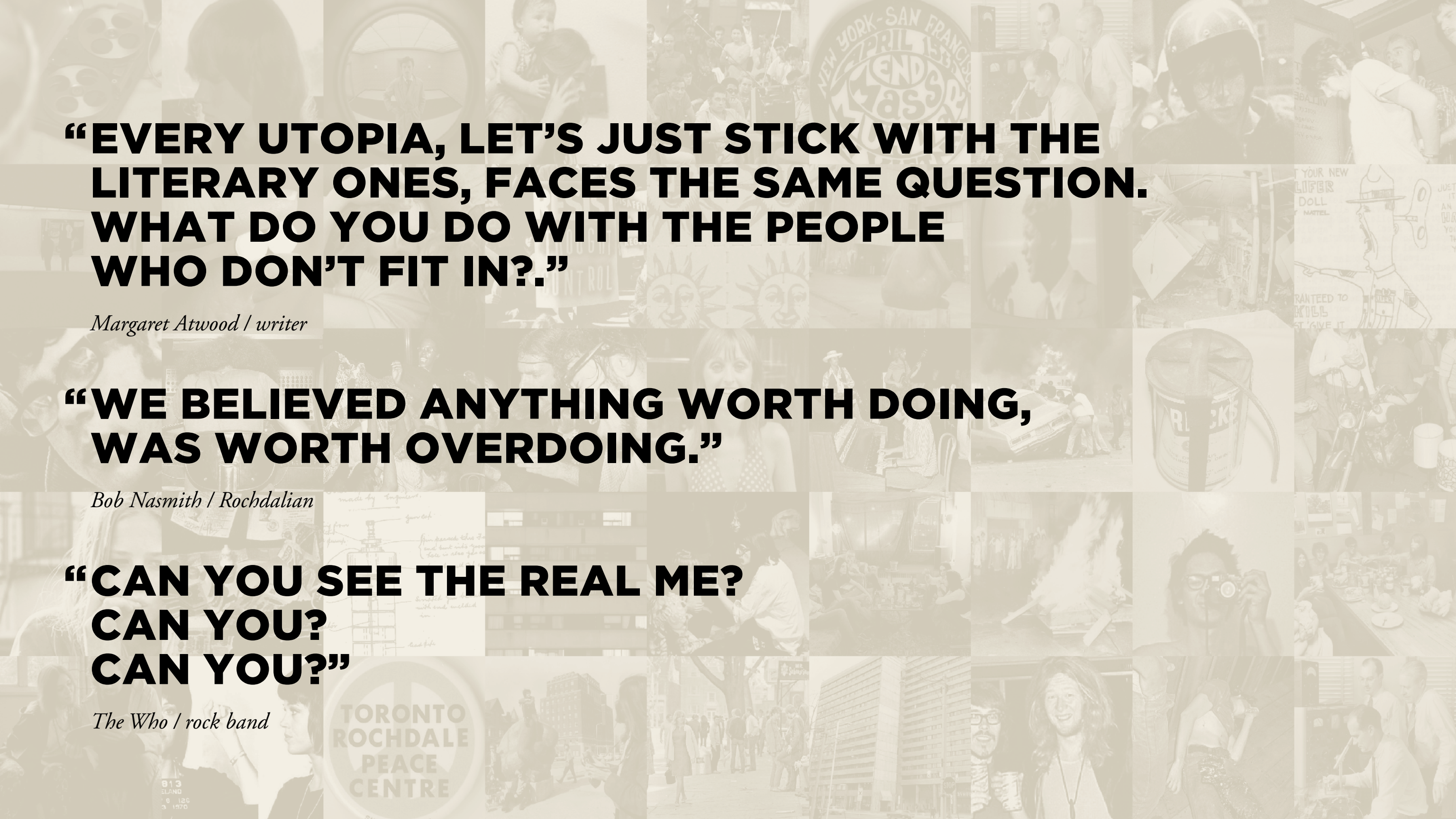
DIRECTED BY **RACHEL** AND **RICHARD LEITERMAN**

REVOLVER

The Fall and Rise of the Rochdale Project



My mother, Sally Mann
ROCHDALE COLLEGE ROOFTOP/AUGUST 1970



**“EVERY UTOPIA, LET’S JUST STICK WITH THE
LITERARY ONES, FACES THE SAME QUESTION.
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THE PEOPLE
WHO DON’T FIT IN?”**

Margaret Atwood / writer

**“WE BELIEVED ANYTHING WORTH DOING,
WAS WORTH OVERDOING.”**

Bob Nasmith / Rochdalian

**“CAN YOU SEE THE REAL ME?
CAN YOU?
CAN YOU?”**

The Who / rock band

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

A precise and cautious filmmaker journeys through the past, searching for the woman who may be her mother - last seen at the infamous '70's dream tower: Rochdale College.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

On New Years Day, 1970, my father, Richard Leiterman began a documentary film about a new experimental school and residence, Rochdale Collage.

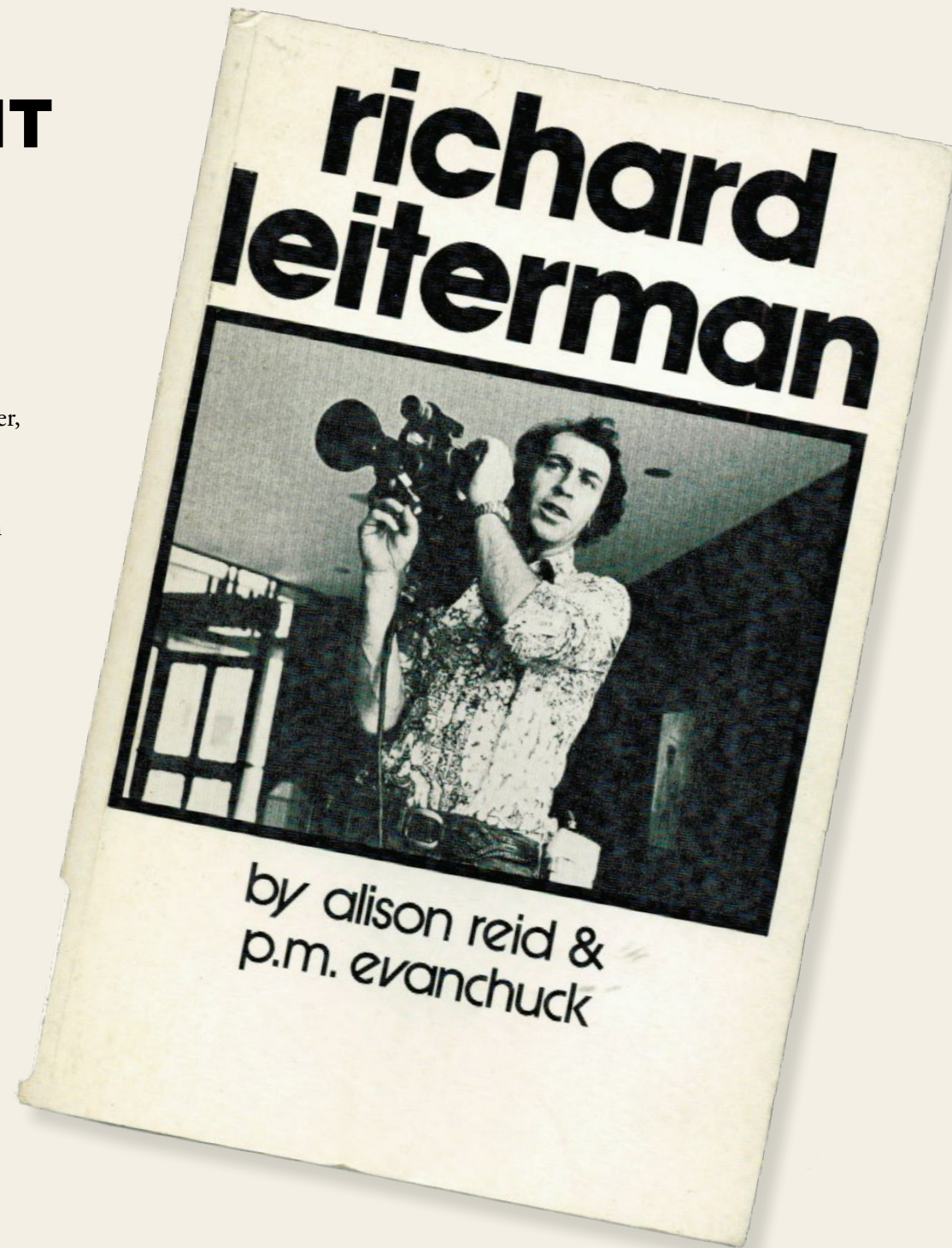
He shot there for ten months. It was in the 9th Floor Ashram/Commune, the focus of his doc, that he met Sally Mann, the woman who was to become his lover, his sound recordist and my mother.

Their intimate and creative partnership came to an end in November 1970 when Sally disappeared. She gave birth to me the following summer, and after a short reunion with my father, gave me up and disappeared forever.

My father abandoned the Rochdale Project. He never spoke of it again for the remainder of his life. In May 2020, 160,000 feet of 16mm motion picture negative was discovered in the basement of an old theatre, labeled "Revolver/Rochdale Project/camera/director/R. Leiterman" along with notebooks, sound recordings and photographs.

I have chosen to finish my father's movie and attempt to discover the truth about my mother.

— *Rachel Leiterman / director*
London, Winter 2023



THE VIBE-OLA

A 3 act structure in 90 minutes.

A comedic touch with moments of tension, suspense and heartbreak.

The visual fabric of the movie includes modern day interviews (colour), cinema verite documentary footage (B&W and colour), black & white photographs, super 8 home movies, archival footage from television news and entertainment.

From the edit suite in her tranquil Gulf Island studio, the filmmaker will frame this detective story with occasional addresses to the camera.



THE STORY

In the middle of Covid, director Rachel Leiterman (me) decides to finish her father's long thought lost documentary movie about Rochdale College.,

She discovers her mother, then 21, both in front of the camera and behind it.

Focused on the 9th Floor Ashram, Richard's cinema verite lens examines the day to day, the love affairs, the politics, the joy and the heartbreak during the passing of the seasons in 1970.

Director Rachel begins to uncover the secrets about her mother and sets out to reconnect with her. She does so in the most surprising way.



THE PLACE

It is New Year's Day 1970 and the world is on fire.

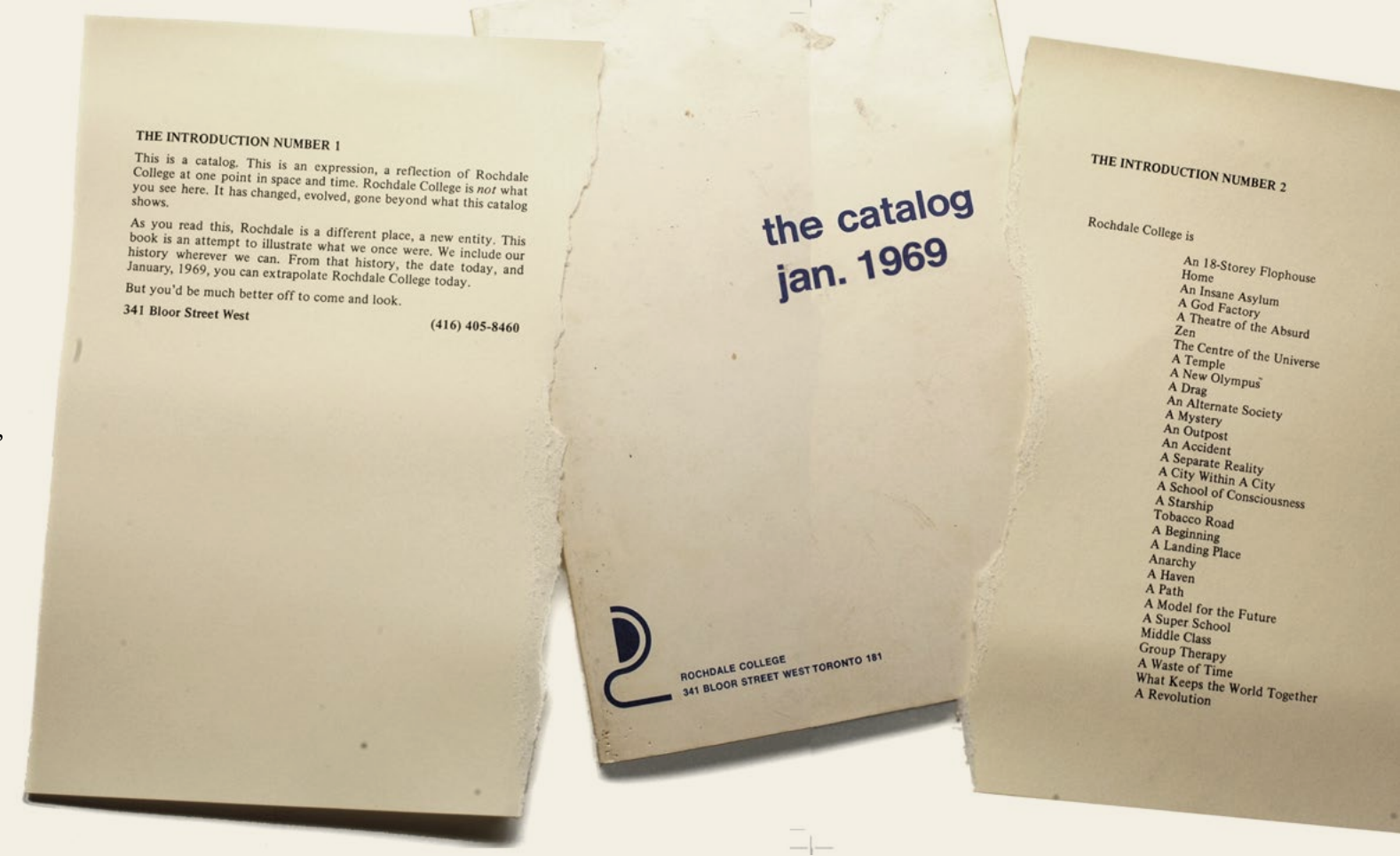
Nixon's in the White House and the students are in the streets, railing worldwide against a wave of racism, sexism and warmongering that has soured the early promise of the 60s. At the end of a decade that has seen the deaths of the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and thousands in Vietnam there is a growing and powerful sense of rage, which has become the only way to avoid despair.

Like our stormy present, there's the general feeling that the bad guys are winning.

Shut out and forgotten by the system, young people are starting to ask themselves how far they will go to stand up for what's right, a growing radical underground (populated by groups like the Weather Underground, Black Panthers and FLQ) evolving and resorting to bombings and other domestic terror to try to cut through the noise.

It's into this world that Rochdale College is born.

A free university, commune and nonstop counterculture party existing in plain sight in a downtown high rise, Rochdale is an unprecedented shock to the system of the conservative "Toronto the Good." Built as a university residence, Rochdale evolves into the revolution under one roof: a cultural lighthouse packed with freaks, intellectuals, draft dodgers, drug dealers, artists, bikers, young families and radicals all imagining worlds where anything is possible. Courses range from calligraphy to Freudian psychology to film studies, students encouraged to explore themselves in and out of class in an experimental free- form environment. There are no exams or set curriculum, but joke degrees can be bought for \$20. It's a ceaselessly creative place, famous musicians and icons like Angela Davis, Abbie Hoffman and Allen Ginsberg passing through as the students explore drugs, art, politics and sex with wild abandon.



In Rochdale, the education is the experience; the experience is the education.

However, the titanic amount of drugs moving through the college, as well as its status as a haven for American draft dodgers and underground political radicals makes it a juicy target for the Canadian and International authorities. Only months after its inception the RCMP are finding ways in, while the college's various dueling agendas (educational, social and criminal) threaten to tear it apart from within.

It's a dangerous, unwieldy and paranoid place. It's also so much fucking fun.



THE PEOPLE

The 9th Floor Ashram is shared by 8 people and a revolving door of short term lodgers.

SALLY MANN (21). Playful, mysterious...

DIANE “DI” GRANT (27). Tough. Sharp.

DOUG WHEELER (24). Good natured small time dealer. Beard.

LINDSAY KESLICK (20). Sweet. Smart.

PHIL BARTON (27). Handsome rich kind wanna be actor.

NELSON MCKENNA (46). British slightly frayed academic.

BEN COPELAND (19). Unhip, studious suburban kid...

LARS (20's). Swedish animal lover

BABY LOUIE (2)

ADULT LOUIE (50's)

SENIOR DIANE “DI” GRANT (80). Tough. Sharp.

AUTHUR CHU...(41). Handsome sound recordist

RICHARD LEITERMAN (45). Director/cinematographer. Always silent. Always rolling.

RACHEL LEITERMAN (50's). Director. Compassionate. Focused.

MODERN DAY INTERVIEWS WITH FORMER ROCHDALIANS

ALEX MCDONALD

BOB NASMITH

JIM GERRARD

PETER TURNER

NIKKI MORRISON

IAN ARGUE

PEGGY FREEMAN

BRIAN LUMLEY

JOCELYN ROUILLARD

JOHN WILSON

PAM BERTON

DELORES DIOS

LORNE GOULD

MIKE VANCE

CHRISSIE HYNDE

DAVID YOUNG

DENNIS LEE

REG HART

JAYNE EASTWOOD

ERIC PETERSON

FRANK BORG

DUKE REDBIRD

THE MUSIC

SONGS FROM:

The Archies
Black Sabbath
Moody Blues
Wilson Pickett
Miles Davis
Bruce Cockburn
The Guess Who
Syrinx
Kensington Market
Sonny Terry and Brownie McGee
Jackie Shane
Andy Kim
Pagliaro
Anne Murray
Alice Cooper
John Lennon
Gordon Lightfoot
The Carpenters
Sly and the a Family Stone
Fairport Convention
Concert for Bangladesh
Procol Harum
Cathy Young
The Checkmates
Ronnie Hawkins
John Lee Hooker
Joni Mitchell

SCORE FROM:

Jonathan Goldsmith



TELEVISION

CLIPS FROM:

Marcus Welby M.D.

Party Game

Gunsmoke

Uncle Bobby

Hawaii Five-O

Front Page Challenge

Bonanza

Chez Helene

Mod Squad

The Touble With Tracey

Flip Wilson

The Friendly Giant

Room 222

Front Page Challenge

Rowen & Martin's Laugh-In

Reach For the Top

All In the Family

Don Messer's Jubilee

Here Come The Seventies

HR Puffenstuff

Speed Racer

Tales of the Wizard of Oz



INSPIRATIONAL MOVIES

David Holtzman's Diary - *dir. Jim McBride*

Stories We Tell - *dir. Sarah Polley*

Rolling Thunder Review - *dir. Martin Scorsese*

A Married Couple - *dir. Allen King*

Dream Tower - *dir. Ron Mann*

Cineme Verite - *dir. Robert Pulcini, Shari Spinger Bergman*

Man With A Movie Camera - *dir. Dziga Vertov*

Super 8 movies - *dir. John Porter*

Reds - *dir. Warren Beatty*

Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice - *dir. Paul Mazursky*

BIOS

RACHEL LEITERMAN

Rachel Leiterman has over 20 years of experience in film and TV as an award winning First Assistant Director and most recently as a Director.

Her directing credits include Amazon's critically acclaimed *The Man in the High Castle*, NBC's *New Amsterdam* and Apple TV's upcoming *SWAGGER*.

As the daughter of acclaimed cinematographer Richard Leiterman, Rachel grew up on film sets, where her passion for photography, film and storytelling blossomed early.

Rachel's open nature, perceptive vision and understanding of story creates her to be a compelling director.

RICHARD LEITERMAN

Richard Leiterman was a lover of oceans, travel, playing, night blooming jasmine, adventure, the sky, jazz and people.

He was born in 1935, the youngest of five siblings in Kakabeka Falls - a small mining town in Northern Ontario. Later the family moved across the country to Vancouver BC.

After being kicked out of university Richard shipped his motorcycle to Europe where quite by accident he began his cinematography career.

In London he met up with his brother in law Alan King who gave him the opportunity to hold a camera and shoot documentaries.

With fierce determination and grace he captured what was really going on. After shooting numerous documentaries he made the transition into Feature Films and TV movies.

Richard's gypsy nature led his family to live on a sailboat in the Caribbean, a finca on Ibiza, a walled mansion in Malta, a Victorian house in London, summers camping in Morocco while keeping a base in Toronto.

During the last five years of his life Richard began a new chapter of teaching film at Sheridan College. He had always been a teacher of sorts, touching the lives of many aspiring filmmakers. He was a rock, a leader, totally committed and passionate with all he did. Above all Richard was a tremendous father. From a young age he taught me the importance that if 'mind, body and soul were connected' you were on the right track.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dream Tower: *Bob Mackowycz, Henry Miekiewicz*
From Some Place Else: *Ralph Osborne*
Rochdale: *Runaway College: David Sharpe*
Rochdale College: *Brian J. Grieveson*
Making The Scene: *Stuart Henderson*
Armies of The Night: *Norman Mailer*
Days of Rage: *Bryan Burrough*
Revenge of The Lawn: *Richard Braughtigan*
Richard Leiterman: *Alison Reid, P.M. Evanchuck*
The Daily: *various writers / Rochdale student newspaper*
Writing Gordon Lightfoot: The Man, the Music, and the World in 1972: *by Dave Bidini.*

THE SELECTED CREDITS

RACHEL LEITERMAN

As Director
The Man In The High Castle
Condor
Heartland
Motive

As 1st Assistant Director
Lost In Space
Battlestar Galatica
Hard Core Logo
The Love Crimes of Gillian Guess

RICHARD LEITERMAN

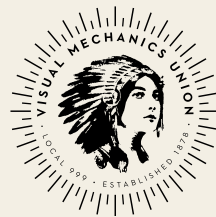
As Director of Photography
Sonny Rollins Beyond The Notes
My America Cousin
Surfacing
Wedding In White
Who Has Seen The Wind
Goin' Down The Road
A Married Couple
Will The Real Norman Mailer Please Stand Up



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REVOLVER

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