



WHAT IS
LOVE?

**A SEVEN EPISODE DOCUSERIES
BY JANE MARTIN**

**EPISODE 1
35 MINUTES | USA | 2020**

ALL INQUIRIES: contact@whatislovedoc.com

Website: www.whatislovedoc.com

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/369832749>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/whatislovedoc/>

We know the question but what is the answer? Love is a word we all use, but rarely stop and try to define. The series asks this question of people from all walks of life, ages, sexualities and cultures.

SYNOPSIS

Welcome to a meditation on love. *What Is Love?* is a short film (the first of a seven-episode docuseries) featuring over ninety characters. None of the interviewees are identified - although you will recognize some – and no one knew the questions in advance. Drawn from a broad demographic the interviewees each have their own eccentricities and appeal: humorous, touching, searching, surprising... their answers weave an intricate thread through our human experience. Everyone brings unique stories of love: love lost, love won – perspectives both personal and universal. They speak from the depths of years of experience, from the freshness of youth, from the battlegrounds and successes of love.

No point of view is taken but rather the exchange of differing perspectives invites viewers to define what they believe about this age-old question that is rarely, if ever, asked. *What is Love?* begins a dialogue that begs to be continued.



FEATURING

Actors Alec Baldwin, Mercedes Ruehl and Ron Guttman
Screenwriters John Mankiewicz and Lynda LaPlante

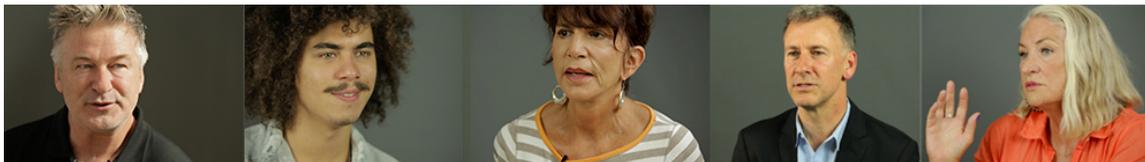
Authors Stephan Rechtschaffen (co-founder of Omega Institute) and
Blanche Weisen Cook
Yogis Rodney Yee and Colleen Saidman Yee
LGBTQ activist Edie Windsor

as well as artists, musicians, therapists, entrepreneurs, chefs, farmers, surfers,
shamans, spiritual teachers and the wisdom of youth.

THE STORY

In 2014 in a quest for understanding after one too many heartbreaks, the director Jane Martin embarked on her second documentary. She invited friends to be interviewed and then widened the circle. Six months later Alex Mankiewicz, of the Hollywood filmmaking family, joined the project and as shooting continued, they developed *What Is Love?* into a seven-episode docuseries in the editing room.

Overall 150 people generously agreed to be interviewed on camera, offering their innermost thoughts. They range in age from 3 to 95. Each of the seven episodes introduces new personalities while returning to ones the viewer comes to know and love.



CREDITS

DIRECTOR
CINEMATOGRAPHY
EDITORS
PHOTOGRAPHY
ADD'L CINEMATOGRAPHY
SOUND RECORDIST
CO-PRODUCERS

COLOR GRADING

JANE MARTIN
NATE BEST
JANE MARTIN & ALEX MANKIEWICZ
JANE MARTIN & ALEX MANKIEWICZ
DON LENZER & JANE MARTIN
NATE BEST
ROBERT SCHWARZ, SUE & DAVE
KLASSEN, DASHA EPSTEIN, ELLEN
PETERSON-LEWIS
JANE TOLMACHYOV – DUART MEDIA
SERVICES

AUDIO MIX

ERIC HARDING – DUART MEDIA
SERVICES

MUSIC

INDA EATON, THE SPARROWS LULLABY
BAND



THE STRUCTURE

Without knowing the topic in advance, the interviewees were initially asked “What is Love?” This was followed by a series of other questions. Each episode is now composed of two of these questions:

- Episode 1: What is love? / Is there a difference between being in love and love?
- Episode 2: Do you need to love yourself to love someone else? / Does fate play a role in love?
- Episode 3: Do you need to be vulnerable in relationship? / Does unconditional love exist?
- Episode 4: How has social media affected relationships? / How important is sex and lust in relationship?
- Episode 5: What is the most challenging part of loving someone? / Why do you think ‘what is love?’ was the most googled question for three years?
- Episode 6: Love & loss: when things fall apart what happens to love? / Final thoughts on love: why is love important?
- Episode 7: What is the secret to long-term relationship? / Bonus material (amusing out-takes)

These segments are broken up by creative graphics using images of love graffiti shot in different parts of the world.



The arc of the film moves from the personal to the universal.

THE STATUS

At this point in time the first episode is complete and has begun the festival circuit as a stand-alone documentary short or TV pilot. The six other episodes are in a rough-cut stage, ranging in length from 35 to 45 minutes. The almost four hour total can be broken down into episodes of various lengths depending on the platform. A few additional shoots are planned and Laurie Anderson has agreed to be interviewed.

BUDGET: our successful Kickstarter campaign received almost \$25,000, which covered a portion of production and editing costs. Another \$14,000 was raised for the color correction and audio mix of Episode I and festival applications. To bring the seven-episode series to an online platform we estimate Director/Producer/Editor fees and Post-Production costs to run approximately \$465,000 (budget available on request).

When the project was launched a feature documentary was visualized. However as the footage was edited, the richness of the material seemed increasingly to lend itself to a series. In this way, viewers can revisit particular topics that especially speak to them. This approach also allows for more flexibility and development of captivating ‘characters’ whom the viewer looks forward to revisiting. The pace of the edit remains brisk, but topics are explored in depth.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Director/Producer/Co-Editor: Jane Martin

Jane Martin is an award-winning film director and multi-media artist. After film studies at New York University, she worked extensively in the film and television industry in New York and Paris. This included various roles as director, cinematographer, editor and production manager with notables such as Al Pacino, Donald Sutherland, Steven Spielberg and Gregory Colbert. Her first documentary *Silent Sentries*, an ode to New York City, was broadcast primetime on four PBS stations nationally, including numerous times on PBS Channel 13 New York City. It also premiered at festivals in France, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Portugal and the United States.

Martin has made her home in East Hampton, New York for the last 15 years. She began production in 2014 on her second documentary *What Is Love?*.



Co-Editor: Alex Mankiewicz

Alex Mankiewicz has worked in the industry in many different capacities - from Art Department to Assistant Director - on both studio and independent productions in Paris, Los Angeles and New York; for entities as diverse as HBO and Merchant-Ivory. An illustrator specializing in graphic narrative - essentially drawn films - she spent years in the U.S. and Japan and is based in Australia.



Cinematographer: Nate Best

Nate Best is a Director of Photography from Montauk, NY. He studied filmmaking at Ithaca College and works on commercial (including Google and Samsung), fashion (including Prada, Tory Birch, Dior and Kenzo) as well as documentary and narrative films. He is currently based in New York and Los Angeles.



Composer: Inda Eaton

Inda Eaton is a singer/songwriter/storyteller best known for connecting to audiences with her poignant lyrics and epic storytelling. A globe-trotting performer and bandleader her unique sound has found favor with fans of rock, country, and acoustic music all over the world since she started touring with her first of nine albums in 1996. As an acoustic rock artist, Inda's style is often compared to a fusion of John Mellencamp and Melissa Etheridge. She currently resides in East Hampton, NY.



IS THIS TOPIC IMPORTANT?

Millions of people think so. Six months into production we discovered that *What is Love?* was the most Googled question of 2011, 2012 and 2014. It's something that so many of us wrestle with and want to understand. In a world of division and distraction this surprisingly rare question makes us stop and think and revisit our values and our common humanity.

The series offers something for all of us to relate to, to question, to discuss, to pass on. Moments that touch the very essence of our souls with humor, pathos, vulnerability, joy and occasional stunned silence.

When humanity recognizes the power of love it will be like discovering fire for the second time.

– Interviewee Stephan Rechtschaffen from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

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