



goodpitch
VANCOUVER

LOVE, THE LAST CHAPTER

GOOD PITCH VANCOUVER 2020

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 docsociety  Story Money Impact

THE PITCH



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Love, The Last Chapter

Dominique: My name is Dominique Keller. Last year, I lived for one month in a seniors' lodge. That's right – I packed my toothbrush, my underwear, my PJs, and my camera, and I moved into what we used to call an old folks' home. Some filmmakers choose to embed themselves in war zones or flood zones. Not me; I embedded at the Aspen Seniors facility.

And I went all in. I slept there, I ate three meals a day there, I played bingo, I went to pub nights where I drank my quota of two beers. I even did a sitting aerobics class. I made friends; I gained trust.

I did this because I am curious about what relationships look like in the last chapter of our lives. How do our relationships change as we age?

What I witnessed changed my life.

[Clip from film of two seniors, Dianne and Jim, dancing at a care facility. Jim is in a wheelchair. When Dianne becomes short of breath, she sits in Jim's lap and Jim continues to spin around in his chair.]

That is Dianne and Jim – they are a new romance at the lodge. You may find this moment beautiful, or you may be worried about their safety, about Jim's safety in the wheelchair, or even Dianne's safety with Jim. I know this couple well. Like all of our relationships, theirs is both loving... and complicated.

I show you that clip because up until recently at this lodge people in wheelchairs and walkers weren't allowed on the dance floor. It was only when Sandi, Silvera's lodge manager, who is sitting over there, said: "No. Let's be brave. Let them dance."

Seems like a small thing. But it is actually a huge thing. Why? Anne, another resident at the lodge, will tell you in her own words: "Aging is a series of losses: you lose your job, you lose your looks, you lose many of your friends, you lose your health. When all those things get taken from you, when you look in the mirror and don't recognize the face that is looking back at you, the last thing left – the thing we all fight for – it's really the only thing that matters – that thing is love."

Love is the most important thing. Love is the only thing.

THE PITCH



Everything else we are worrying about right now: concerns about our professional career, stuff we need to do today or tomorrow, the coworker who is driving you nuts. None of that matters. Forty years from now, as long as your basic needs are met, and you can pay for your meds. Love. It is going to be about love.

Let Dianne and Jim dance. Let them love.

That is why I am standing in front of you today. In the lodge, I witnessed a huge striving for love. And not just romantic love, friendship love, family love, self-love. I also witnessed huge barriers to that love.

Health barriers. Family barriers. Financial barriers. Institutional barriers. Government barriers. Together, let's remove those barriers. Together get the love to flow!

I want to get in my truck and drive across Canada with this film. How about we call it the Love Tour? Let's get this film out there in front of those who can make the most change: Health workers, families, seniors lodge managers, government. I want to get the seniors in the room and start a conversation.

To do that I need help. We need to create a post film discussion guide. I need gas, I need hotels. You want to pack me some snacks?

I also need promotional help and services. Website. Brochure printed. Signage. Social media.

If you are an expert, can you help me identify some policies that this film can be used as a tool for change? Let's talk. I need your expertise.

The love can flow right now right here.

Let's recognize this basic need, and give some more love to each other and to ourselves.

ON THE DAY



WHO WAS AT THE TABLE?



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International Society for Gerontechnology, Dr. Gloria Gutman

Screenings with high level gerontologists and geriatric specialists at Canadian Association of Gerontology Conference, International Association of Gerontology Conference in Argentina.

Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network, Sophie Yendole

Hosting a screening in Vancouver to network of about 80 families of aging parents of disabled children.

Cyber-Seniors / RevealMax, Luke Zukowski

Will share with their extensive connections in the community and industry across North America.

Human Right Lawyer, Jessi Dhanju

"We have a chance to challenge stigma, to redefine norms, and to bridge the gaps. There are prenups that can be drafted later in life. I have a network of lawyers and we want to give time to draft some of these agreements to put forward. Not just to 'legalize' but to create dialogue on what this means."

West End Seniors' Network, Anthony Kupferschmidt

"We are all older adults in training, and need to be creating environments we want to live in." Pledged to hosting screenings with members and alliance of senior centres in BC to create dialogue and destigmatize the sexual health of adults.

Association of Community Response Networks, Sherry Baker

"If we can appreciate how important love is, at all stages of our lives, than we can build safer communities." Recommend the film within their network of 232 communities and incorporate messaging into their communication.

Options for Sexual Health, Michelle Fortin

Use this as a lever to remind young people that sexual health is experienced across a lifetime. Develop curriculum to be used with high school students. Provide a return flight within Canada.

Canadian Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse, Benedicte Schoepflin

Connect with screenings at provincial, territorial and national networks and within 553 member organization, along with international members, and help host and hold a webinar (or a series of them) that will address areas of aging - health, consent and other parts of sexual and healthy aging.

AUDIENCE MICROPHONE



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SELECTED AUDIENCE & REMOTE PLEDGES

Highbury Foundation, Ashley Sangha

\$2,500 and make an introduction to owner of Chalmers Lodge.

CBC Docs and documentary Channel, Sandra Kleinfeld

Connect with acquisitions team for channels and CBC Gem.

Canadian Centre for Elder Law, Sara Pon

Create a podcast episode about the film.

RevealMax, Juliana Koo

Collaborate with Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse to offer a webinar or series about how people get scammed and how to protect and identify ourselves from fraud.

Performer's Art Lodge Vancouver, Tom Adair

Host a screening at their theatre and connect to their networks.

International Federation on Ageing, Dr. Jane Barratt

Screening at IFA Global Conference in November 2020.

FASTSIGNS Vancouver, Paul LeBlanc

\$1,000 towards signage.

UBC Allard School of Law, Margot Young

Organize a workshop, possibly pro bono research assistants, and will work with Jessi Dhanju.

Individual pledges

- Donation of \$5,000 to help with distribution and pledged to bring leaders from Amica to help with film.
- Two \$1,000 donations.
- Two \$500 donations.
- Donation of \$250 gas card and a box of healthy snacks.
- Access to Cool.World platform.

SFU Gerontology Research Centre, Theodore Cosco

Incorporate film into graduate and undergraduate courses and offer help from grad students in the department.

Carers New South Wales (Australia), Elena Katrakis

To promote and share the film with our community of caregivers at conferences and incorporate in our training.

ON THE DAY



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THE FILM TEAM

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STORY MONEY IMPACT

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Doc Society is the founding organization of Good Pitch.

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