



**Critical Acclaim For
P.O.V.'s "BRIGHT LEAVES"
By Ross McElwee**

Named One of the Top Ten Best Films of 2004 by:
***The New York Times, Entertainment Weekly, Village Voice, New York Observer,
San Francisco Chronicle*** and others

"A reflective, wise, often hilarious movie. . . . *Bright Leaves* leaves you feeling invigorated by the boundless curiosity, humor and high spirits of its creator."
- **Stephen Holden, *The New York Times***

"Cigarettes are still a rich subject for drama, and once in a while the movies are up to the task. *Bright Leaves* is a fascinating diary-documentary."
- **Richard Corliss, *Time Magazine***

"Quietly captivating. . . . a beautiful, wistful meditation on fate, family, filmmaking, and the terrible legacy of tobacco itself."
- **O, *the Oprah Magazine***

"Many try to imitate but none can duplicate the documentary poetry of Ross McElwee."
- **Lisa Schwarzbaum, *Entertainment Weekly***

"McElwee's work has an unusual emotional complexity. He . . . makes his personal story relevant and entertaining, using family history to provide a revelatory look at the legacy of tobacco."
- ***The New Yorker***

"Witty, thoughtful, illuminating. . . . A rewarding personal documentary."
- **Todd McCarthy, *Variety***

"Deeply personal, morally alert, and highly entertaining."
- ***Christian Science Monitor***

"Sweet, thoughtful and often hilarious."
- ***The Financial Times, London***

"His best since *Sherman's March*."
- **Phillip Lopate, *Film Comment***

"Entertaining and thoughtful."
- ***Film Journal International***

"Idiosyncratic, funny and genuine, *Bright Leaves* is a little gem."
- **Allan Hunter, *Screen Daily***

"A work of thoughtfulness, warmth and unbiting irony."
- **Stuart Klawans, *The Nation***

"Both personal and honest. Nary a whitewash brush in sight. . . . but it is 180 degrees from those by in-your-face filmmakers with axes to grind."
- **Jean Prescott, *Knight-Ridder Newspapers***

“Invariably fascinating, maddeningly self-involved and whimsically profound. . . . McElwee has a knack for finding interview subjects who are as eccentric and articulate as himself.”
- **Kevin McDonough, *United Feature Syndicate***

“Perhaps his best film. . . . raw and lovely.”
- **Peter Rainer, *New York Magazine***

“A fascinating journey deep into his family’s past...clearly a quest worth undertaking.”
- **Jack Mathews, *New York Daily News***

“A sampling of gentle insight and poetic retrospection quietly at odds with the exploitative culture around it.”
- **Michael Atkinson, *The Village Voice***

“Ross McElwee shows just how far subtlety can go with his latest charming effort.”
- **Lou Lumenick, *New York Post***

“Hugely engrossing.”
- **AM New York**

“Yet another of documentarian Ross McElwee’s droll, irresistible, multilayered, multifaceted journeys through the beguiling yet contradictory land of his youth.”
- **Kevin Thomas, *Los Angeles Times***

“*Bright Leaves* is not a documentary about anything in particular. That’s its charm. It’s a meandering visit by a curious man with a quiet sense of humor . . .”
- **Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun-Times***

“Brilliantly amusing . . . just sings along.”
- **The Washington Post**

“McElwee shows us the many ways that the past is always present – and how the present impinges on the future. Long after the closing credits, his film reverberates.”
- **Carrie Rickey, *The Philadelphia Inquirer***

“Bright Leaves takes on a sizable foe – in this case, big tobacco – but with such grace and wit that his message never seems medicinal.”
- **Carla Meyer, *San Francisco Chronicle***

“Hearing Ross McElwee’s voice at the beginning of a movie is like getting a phone call from an old friend.”
- **Ty Burr, *The Boston Globe***

“Extremely impressive . . . wry, touching, deeply humane road journey.”
- **Gerald Peary, *The Boston Phoenix***

“A witty and sometimes touching tale of film, family . . . and lung cancer.”
- **Bob Longino, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution***

Ross McElwee . . . has spent almost 20 years chronicling his own life in a way that makes us think about ours. . . . To see his work at its best, delve into “Bright Leaves.”
- **Lawrence Toppman, *Charlotte Observer***

"[An] absorbing, one-of-a-kind film. . . . Set the VCR if you must, but don't miss this gem."
- **Aaron Barnhart, *Kansas City Star***

"A truly wonderful, original and spirit-raising movie."
- **Martin Knelman, *Toronto Star***

"One of his funniest and most satisfying films."
- **Jason Anderson, *Toronto Eye Weekly***

"Smartly entertaining. . . . McElwee takes us in so many pleasing, unexpected directions."
- ***IndieWire***

"Like a dialogue with an old friend . . . incorporating not only journalistic truths, but also personal insights and philosophy, unique regional textures, and unexposed pockets of humanity."
- **Scott Tobias, *The Onion***

"Extraordinary. . . . blends nostalgia, economics, and personal reactions to new information at a perfect pitch that allows for laughter and deeply felt affection."
- **Rachel Gordon, *Filmcritic.com***

"Smart, ethically rich, innovative, and well-done."
- ***Spirituality and Health***