

A lost cufflink, a missed love, the crescent moon slipping past a window, the Titanic sliding toward disaster: **Strings** is an intimate vignette hinting at worlds of love and loss. And possibility.


**STRINGS** helps viewers young and old to think about interpersonal relationships — not only with those we know well, but with those we may pass by every day. This film suggests we take a second look at that familiar stranger.

Direction Wendy Tilby

Production David Verrall

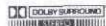


10 minutes 18 seconds C 0091 020

 This production uses no words and is suitable for viewing by the deaf and hard of hearing.

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# Strings

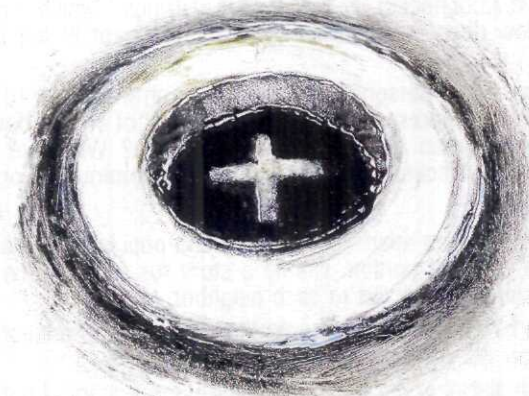


VHS

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# Strings

A film by Wendy Tilby



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# Strings

A science assignment that Wendy Tilby remembers from her childhood involved taking a yard-square wooden frame out into a field and putting it on the ground. The point was to examine everything - grass, insects, worms, soil - found within that frame.

Two decades later, in **Strings**, Wendy Tilby frames an anonymous urban apartment building and exposes the intricate world within.

At first glance, the occupants of 2B and 3B seem made for each other. Yet, when they meet in the slow-moving elevator, not a word is exchanged.

She builds model ships, he plays violin in a string quartet. Though strangers, they are intimately linked by the sounds which pass through the floor between them; she bathes to his music, he knows her footsteps above.

One day, fate - in the form of a leaking bath - contrives to bring this pair together. But in the close quarters of her steamy bathroom, a promising waltz of furtive glances and subtle gestures is, like the dream of the Titanic's maiden voyage, abruptly suspended.

Accomplished by a painstaking animation process that involves painting on glass and stop-action filming, **Strings** is a film as beautiful as it is haunting. It suggests we take a new look at the familiar strangers who populate our lives.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### For general viewers:

1. How do you interpret the subtle gestures between the elderly woman and man in this film? Does the film suggest a previous or future history?
2. We are all interconnected by the various "strings" which bind us together. How does the filmmaker use this concept in the film's imagery?
3. The subtlety of interpersonal relationships is an indication of how we, as humans, express ourselves in a variety of ways. How do the man and woman in this film communicate? What are they communicating? Discuss verbal vs. non-verbal communication.

### For younger viewers:

1. Draw a diagram of an apartment building and populate each apartment with a different person. Create a story for each person and how he or she is connected to each neighbor.
2. Who are the familiar strangers in your life? What is your relationship to them? How do you communicate with them?
3. Choose a familiar stranger in your life and write a story about him or her using the bits of information that you already know about his or her life.



Wendy Tilby was born in Edmonton in 1960. She studied filmmaking and animation at the Emily Carr College of Art and Design in Vancouver. A film she made there — **Tables of Content** — was honored internationally. Tilby now works as an animator for the National Film Board. **Strings** is her second film.

Story, Animation, Direction

**Wendy Tilby**

Music

**Chris Crilly**

Performed by

**Morency Quartet**

Sound Editing

**Les Halman**

**Don Ayer**

Recording

**Louis Hone**

Re-recording

**Hans Peter Strobl**

**Adrian Croll**

Editing Consultant

**Hannele Halm**

Optical Effects

**Susan Gourley**

**Jimmy Chin**

**Michael Cleary**

Producer

**David Verrall**

Executive Producers

**Douglas MacDonald**

**Barrie Angus McLean**

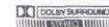
Produced by the National Film Board of Canada, English Program Animation Studio

Distributed by National Film Board of Canada

Color

10 minutes 18 seconds

Order number: C 0091 020 (film and video)



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