

# THE DISAPPEARANCE OF JOHN ASHBY

**DIRECTOR**

Neal Livingston

**DURATION**

15:43

**YEAR**

1990

**ORIGINAL LANGUAGE**

English

**CATEGORY**

Documentary

**DESCRIPTION**

Photographer John Ashby lived and worked on Cape Breton Island in eastern Nova Scotia. Struggling to keep ahead, photography had taken a back seat to house building. Just when Ashby had created a successful construction business he abruptly disappeared to New York City. His friends and neighbours began immediately to speculate on his whereabouts and the cause of his disappearance. Was it work...or a woman? Meanwhile, we catch up with John Ashby on the streets of New York City, musing on life, his past and his future. Though the mystery is never completely resolved, the film uses humour to explore the serious side of contemporary life in rural Atlantic Canada, where leaving ones' community because of the harshness of life has become the norm.

**SOUND**

Stereo

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

"In *The Disappearance of John Ashby* Livingston, in cinematic pursuit of a local character who has disappeared, retraces the steps of the absent subject to create a mystery without a murder and one of the more engaging documentaries in recent Canadian filmmaking."

Festival of Festivals, *Black River Productions Ltd.*, Septembre 1992, [<http://www.blackriver.ns.ca/john-ashby.html>] (Consulted on september 15th 2009)

**KEYWORDS**

Flight, Freedom, Journey, Portrait, ?tas-Unis

**THEMES**

Art and culture

Identity

Environment

Family