

# ESCAPING HISTORY

**DIRECTOR**

Stewart Applegath

**DURATION**

0:40

**YEAR**

1992

**ORIGINAL LANGUAGE**

English

**CATEGORY**

Documentary

**DESCRIPTION**

Ostensibly embarking upon a portrait of a "modern-day Abraham Lincoln", *Escaping History* traces the development of a relationship between the videomaker and his subject. As the story unfolds, it veers from the objective to the highly personal. The tape relates the story of Mel Glasser, a recovering schizophrenic who, having adopted the persona of Abraham Lincoln, has made considerable progress in the last twenty years. The tape refuses to romanticize Mel's condition ; he speaks frankly with intelligence and humour, and takes Applegath on a special journey.

**IMAGE FORMAT**

4:3

**SOUND**

Mono

**KEYWORDS**

Respect, Mental illness, Pleasure, Madness, Lucidity, Humanism

**THEMES**

Art and culture  
Identity  
Health  
Private life  
History  
Society