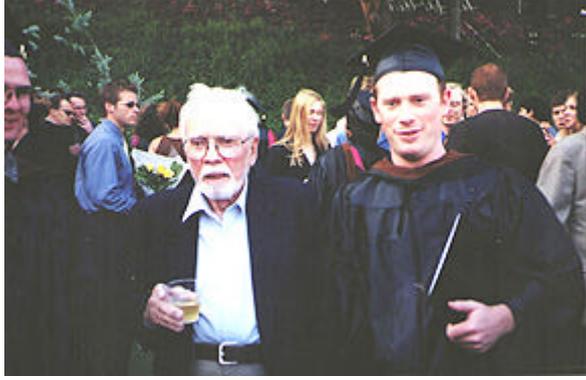


## The Man on Lincoln's Nose: A documentary about Robert Boyle

*Leah Lubin*

The long and winding road to submitting a documentary film for Academy Award consideration

It all began in 1989. My son Daniel (in high school) and I had important decisions to make. Daniel, born in Israel in 1974, his father a visiting scientist from America at the Weitzman Institute of Science. Me, an Israeli and British artist, all enjoying a good life at a renowned science institute. Daniel, American since eight days old, registered via the American Embassy in Tel-Aviv. We were recruited back to the States five years later and found ourselves settling into Mountain View. Soon after his father and I separated and divorced. In 1989, I decided to return to Israel and see if I could make it there again as a single mom and artist/art teacher.



Daniel, with three years of high school left, had a chance to relearn Hebrew and get ready and eventually go into the Israeli Army.

Daniel's reentry in Israeli life was a lot more successful than mine. I discovered that both financially and emotionally as a single mom and artist, it just wasn't possible for me.

After seven months I made my return to the USA, knowing that work as an art teacher was waiting for me in California. After graduating from high school, Daniel enrolled in what is known as a "Garin," a group that serves the Army while working on a kibbutz.

I was pleased with these arrangements, having been a volunteer on a kibbutz myself after the Six Day War at the age of seventeen.

An unusual situation happened to Daniel's Garin. Within six months, nine members had dropped out to serve in other units in the army, fracturing and making it fall apart. With Daniel's career in the army up for grabs, Daniel felt that he should go into a combat unit. Here was the issue: they needed my approval for this move. Due to the fact that both his parents were out of the country, they couldn't move him into a combat unit without written consent from a parent.

I couldn't and wouldn't agree. I knew he should be in the Israeli Army, but if I had a choice, it wouldn't be as a fighter. When the dust finally settled, new and more selective ideas finally came to the table. My son decided that he wanted to serve as a video photographer for the entertainment unit, an important morale building group that inspired and kept soldiers' and civilians' spirits up.

That is how he ended up serving his final three years. In 1997 he returned to the States, bringing experience as a video photographer, a resume of two short films, and a good referral letter from his general in the Army.

After a brief stay of six weeks with us in Skylonda, he packed his first car up and drove to Los Angeles. Not sure where to go next, he found out that he had arrived just in time for an interview at the prestigious American Film Institute.

Within a short period of time, an interview with the production design department head was set up. That's how they met, Robert Boyle nearly ninety years old and with over eighty movies under his belt. Legendary movies, such as *The Birds* and *The Thomas Crown Affair*, just to mention two.

Before I could catch my breath, my son was enrolled and studying at this amazing graduate school for film. A career as a professional filmmaker.

The second year at AFI brought Daniel good news: A scholarship from American Express Corporation of \$25,000 to pay for his tuition and help launch his first film.

Daniel's professional relationship with Robert Boyle developed from teacher to mentor and I was not surprised to hear that Daniel had chosen Robert Boyle as the subject of his first feature documentary, *The Man On Lincoln's Nose*. The title refers to the time when, as art director for Hitchcock's *North By Northwest*, Boyle was lowered down on ropes to photograph Mount Rushmore in preparation of creating the monument on a Hollywood soundstage.

To make this documentary, Daniel spent two-and-a-half years to get to this point. This point being that on October 3, 2000, he completed the documentary in time for Academy Award consideration.

Along the road Daniel pulled together a team of filmmakers with outstanding credits, including cinematographer Haskell Wexler, renowned for his work on *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, and editor Stephen Mark whose work includes *The X-Files* motion picture and the *Dark Angel* television series.

Besides Robert Boyle's film career, this film also features some of the finest artwork to come out of Hollywood. A wonderful moment in the film is when Harold Michelson, original illustrator for Hitchcock's *The Birds* recreated a scene from the film by drawing it in front of our eyes.

*The Man on Lincoln's Nose* premieres on October 20, 2000 at the Laemmle Theatre in Los Angeles.