

STAFF PICK

CUTIE AND THE BOXER

DOCUMENTARY BY ZACHARY HEINZERLING

Cutie and the Boxer follows the turbulent relationship of Ushio and Noriko Shinohara, married artists from Japan who live in New York City. Ushio, 80 years old, sculpts motorcycles out of found objects and cardboard, and explosively punches canvases with paint-soaked boxing gloves. When Noriko, 20 years Ushio's junior, first met him at age 19, she was love-struck by his wild energy. Yet, this same dynamism inspiring his art results in their constant struggles. Ushio is solely concerned with art, calling it the "demon that drags you along that cannot be stopped." But Noriko feels taken for granted and resents being pigeon-holed

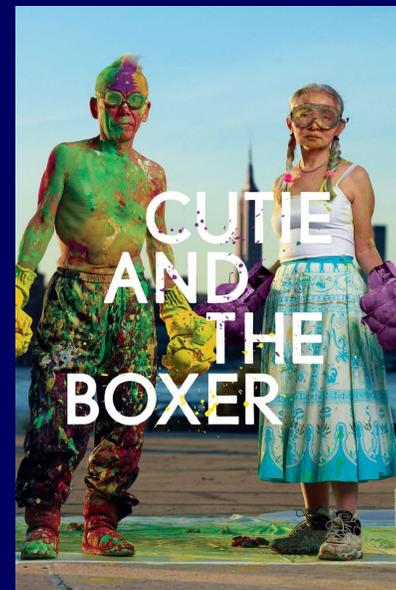
as Ushio's mere assistant, a painful reminder of her sacrifices as the single force keeping everything together. This frustration channels into Noriko's own artwork as she begins to reclaim her identity as an artist. Her narrative large-scale painting features "Cutie", an idealistic young woman learning to stand up for herself, and "Bullie", the brash and curly-haired stand-in for Ushio. Their relationship, which she calls "two flowers in a pot fighting over nutrients" culminates in their joint exhibition titled "Love is a ROAR" where Noriko's voice confidently emerges on its own.

— Daniel, Library Staff
December, 2020

ABOUT DIRECTOR

Zachary Heinzerling won Best Director Award (U.S. Documentary) at Sundance for *Cutie and the Boxer*, and was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the Academy Awards. His other credits include HBO's Emmy Award-winning films *Breaking the Huddle*, *Assault in the Ring*, and *Lombardi*.

— from epochfilms.com



Title: *Cutie and the Boxer*
Director: Zachary Heinzerling

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