

## CPH:DOX 2007, Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival

TOP DOX

SALLY GROSS – THE PLEASURE OF STILLNESS

Director: Albert Maysles & Kristen Nutile

The documentary filmmaker Albert Maysles and the dancer Sally Gross have many things in common: they are both from New York, both are seen as pioneers in their respective fields - and both have more than 50 years' experience under their belts. Sally Gross discovered her dancing talent at an early age. And in the alternative sphere of the 1960s, she found the freedom to refine her way of expressing herself towards a minimalist, but highly personal style. As an acquaintance puts it in the film, she understood early on that dance is just as much about inertia, as it is about movement. In Albert Maysles's brand new portrait film, we meet her as she is rehearsing the piece 'The Pleasure of Stillness', that opened in March. Maysles, who is 80 years old, intimately follows his irresistibly likeable muse with a calm and observant style that he has shaped to perfection over the years. Maysles is something of a veteran within the genre of observational documentary, called 'direct cinema', where the filmmaker remains discreetly in the background for the benefit of his subject. With Gross's precise eye for her dancers' movements, we thus have the possibility to experience the same talent from two different perspectives - in a fascinating romance between dance and film.

-Mads B. Mikkelsen