

RECORD COLLECTOR

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Wild Combination: A Portrait Of Arthur Russell

★★★★

Plexi Film PLX 033

Loving, exciting tribute to prolific creator

Over the last few years the music, influence and overall importance of Arthur Russell has grown enormously. A cellist, gifted composer and natural lyricist, Russell's compositions span many genres and even created their very own. This fascinating documentary brings together the various paths both he and his music took, all soundtracked by rare and often unheard compositions.

Through candid interviews, rare and unseen archival performances, and Matt Wolf's gentle direction, we learn quickly about his odd musical beginnings, his path into strange pop, rock, disco and then his way out again into echo music and beyond. The

interviewees are all superb: close friend and collaborator Alan Ginsberg, Phillip Glass, David Toop and Arthur's partner Tom Lee all describe the sound and history of the man, with parents Chuck and Emily adding pathos and often unexpected humour to the proceedings.

It's a very touching journey from beginning to end, from Iowa to New York and back again, with a workaholic musician really like no other. Russell died in 1992 from AIDS and left over 1,000 reels, DATs and miscellaneous unreleased recordings behind. This is a man whose music we'll keep discovering for years to come, so get this, enjoy it and learn all about him right now. *Jonny Trunk*