

Wild Combination: A Portrait of Arthur Russell

★★★★★

Cert: Exempt (£17.99)



Matt Wolf's absorbing and often poignant profile of Arthur Russell – who died in 1992 aged 40 – is a treat for both fans and neophytes alike. Born in rural Iowa, the hugely influential musician, composer and producer left home for a Californian Buddhist commune when he was still a teen, but it was in '70s NYC that Russell made his mark, working across country-folk, experimental pop, avant-garde minimalism and – perhaps most famously – disco. Via rare archival footage, interviews with Russell's family, friends and collaborators (Philip Glass and Allen Ginsberg included), Wolf builds up a warmly appreciative portrait of this obsessively creative, wayward genius; Russell's haunting avant-pop compositions are the icing on the cake. *Sharon O'Connell*

Extras Includes archival performance footage and Ginsberg reciting a mantra at Russell's funeral.