



"Informative and inspiring. Shows the love and humour you can still have."

> BRIAN CARER FOR 20 YEARS

"True to life. It shows the rollercoaster of emotions for both carers and carees."

JULIE CARER FOR 15 YEARS "Thought provoking. It highlights the strength and resilience of unpaid carers, who are a hidden army of under appreciated individuals."

LORRAINE CARER FOR 25 YEARS

"Captures the struggle to keep one's identity when caring for a loved one so beautifullly."

LESLEY
CARER FOR 5 YEARS

"Moving, real, relatable. It was inspiring to see love and laughter shared even when life is so difficult."

SUE CARER FOR 11 YEARS "Amazing. A powerful and true representation of being a carer. It was very emotive for me as carer for my mum with Alzheimer's."

GEORGIA CARER FOR 5 YEARS



## IT CAN BE HARD TO TALK,

BUT EVEN HARDER TO BE HEARD.





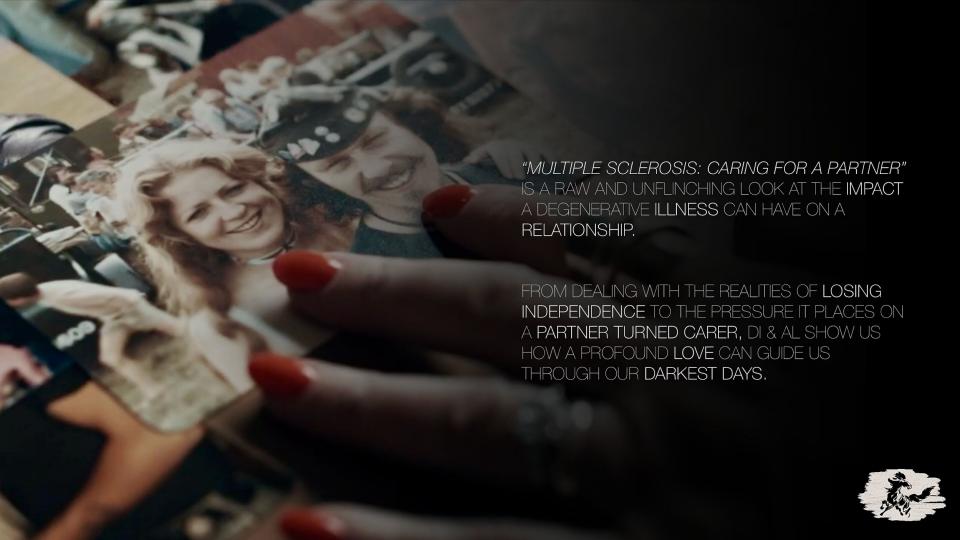




DI HAS BEEN AL'S **PRIMARY CARER** FOR THE LAST 11 **YEARS**.

MEETING THE CONSTANTLY EVOLVING
DEMANDS OF AL'S ILLNESS HAS LEFT DI
EXHAUSTED AS THEY BOTH WRESTLE WITH
FEELINGS OF ISOLATION, ANXIETY AND AN
UNCERTAINTY FOR THEIR FUTURE.





Creating a documentary about the challenges my mum faces while caring for my dad was a deeply personal but entirely necessary endeavor. Supporting my parents over the past 10 years has shown me that caregiving is often invisible, especially when it involves a close family member.

MS is a relentless disease, characterised by its unpredictability and the gradual decline in physical and cognitive functions. For my dad, this has meant a vital loss of independence. For my mum it has meant a complete shift from equal partner to full-time caregiver.

It is no surprise that although caregiving can be rewarding, it often has an extremely negative impact on the carer's mental and physical health, as well as their relationship with the person they care for.

However this aspect is often ignored by media depictions of carers in favour of creating an uplifting narrative of inclusivity and a positive depiction of disability. I fully understand that focussing on the negative aspects of disability can be reductive, but to ignore them sidelines the feelings of isolation and exclusion that carers and their loved ones experience.

This documentary is a tribute to my mum's daily sacrifices, her emotional resilience, and the physical toll it takes on her and all caregivers who devote their lives to the well-being of their loved ones.

It's a story of love, determination, and the quiet strength that often goes unnoticed. By sharing my parents' story, I hope to bring visibility to the challenges of caregiving and inspire a greater understanding and appreciation for those who shoulder this immense responsibility.

BEN CURTIS-HORSFALL DIRECTOR



No one ever asks to be an unpaid carer. It is **never a choice** to care for a loved one with debilitating illness, but yet so many shoulder the **responsibility in silence**.

In my role as manager of Carers IW, a charity that has supported unpaid carers on the Isle of Wight for over 30 years, I have seen many people struggle to express their own experiences. Caring, especially for a loved one, is often an isolating and emotionally intense journey. Many carers feel reluctant or unable to share their struggles, fearing judgement or simply not knowing how to articulate the complexities of their emotions.

Watching MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: CARING FOR A PARTNER, I was struck by how honest Di and Al were about their experiences. Hearing them speak about their situation with such vulnerability was incredibly brave.

It is raw and challenging to hear but it is a realistic depiction of what most unpaid carers experience at some point. I want to thank Di and Al for talking about the difficult and often hidden aspects of caregiving.

I believe this film has the potential to encourage caregivers to open up about their emotional burdens and seek the support they deserve, so I was very happy to help Ben connect with other carers so they may see their own struggles reflected in the film and hopefully gain a sense of comfort in the knowledge that they are not alone.

ELIZABETH MARTIN MANAGER, CARERS IW



62% OF UK ADULTS HAVE NO CHOICE ABOUT TAKING ON UNPAID CARING ROLES, THE EQUIVALENT OF 10 MILLION PEOPLE.

IT IS ESTIMATED THAT UNPAID CARERS SAVE THE UK ECONOMY **£162 BILLION A YEAR** - THE EQUIVALENT OF **A SECOND NHS**. YET MANY UNPAID CARERS FEEL THEIR ROLE IS FORGOTTEN AND INVISIBLE.

ACCORDING TO A YOUGOV POLL OF OVER 4,200 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, 73% SAID THERE SHOULD BE MORE SUPPORT FOR UNPAID CARERS FROM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT.

www.carersuk.org/press-releases/carers-week-2024-report-launches





BEN CURTIS-HORSFALL BIOGRAPHY

Ben is a versatile filmmaker based on the Isle of Wight. He recently attended Screenology in Bristol as a mature student, achieving a first class degree in filmmaking and gaining valuable experience on several student and independent productions. These include roles as online editor for local documentary 'I Am Judah' and first AD on Ghost Notes' music video 'Dive Into This'.

In 2023, Ben directed, shot and edited the short documentary 'Multiple Sclerosis: Caring For A Partner' which was nominated for Best Factual at the Royal Television Society student awards. Ben has also written and directed two upcoming short films - psychological horror 'The Body Is Watching Me' and satirical chiller 'The Decay', both set for release in 2025.

Ben is focussed on crafting stories that reflect the contradictions of human behaviour. He aspires to direct a feature length film for a major production company, and is currently building his body of work as a director.

