

GARDENING WITH SOUL

2013 / Dir: Jess Feast

Rated G / 100 min / New Zealand

Available now



“★★★★ Sister Loyola is an extraordinary character with quite the life story (and world views) to share... a sharp, endearing and insightful raconteur.”

- Leigh Paatsch, *Herald Sun*

“A superbly understated film that packs an enormous emotional punch... it’s difficult not to be touched by Sister Loyola’s infectious enthusiasm.”

- Catherine Brown, *Film Ink Magazine*

“What a film!...
I’ve never seen
anything so
warm-hearted or
inspiring in my
life... You will
not have a
better time at
the cinema this
year.”

- Graeme Tuckett, Radio
NZ National



After a long-running national release the heartwarming New Zealand documentary *Gardening With Soul* is now available for repertory screenings. Fuelled by word-of-mouth created by extensive grass-roots marketing among gardening and horticulture communities, church groups, the Catholic clergy and aged care homes, *Gardening With Soul* has proven itself to be ‘the little film that could’.

“Sister Loyola is one of the liveliest nonagenarians you could ever meet.

As the main gardener at the Home of Compassion in Island Bay, Wellington, her daily tasks include heavy lifting alongside vigorous spade and wheelbarrow work, which she sometimes performs on crutches. Loyola and the other Sisters of Compassion follow the vision of Mother Aubert to 'meet the needs of the oppressed and powerless in their communities'.

Filmmaker Jess Feast (*Cowboys and Communists*) has been following Sister Loyola over the last year, charting her journey through the seasons which included her 90th birthday. Through her garden, we begin to understand Loyola's commitment to nurture all living things, especially those which 'don't get a good start'. From her early work as a nurse with sick or stillborn babies, to her role as a nun raising children with disabilities, we see Loyola's incredible energy and faith in her God to carry her through the difficult times.

The lively, beautifully shot documentary (edited by Annie Collins) is filmed almost entirely in this small community on the southern coast of Wellington. With music by local musician David Long, and full of the sea- and garden-scapes that have informed Loyola's life, *Gardening with Soul* uncovers a local legend and her community for the wider world. It is a conceptual triumph for Feast. Any belief we might harbour that becoming a nun is avoiding the real world is turned firmly on its head as we witness this extraordinary soul steer a sharp course through all weathers, trying to shine love on everything she sees.”

- Jo Randerson, New Zealand International Film Festival

Hi Gloss Entertainment has *Gardening With Soul* available on DCP and eCinema now.

View the trailer [here](#).

EMAIL: simon@higlossentertainment.com.au
MOBILE: +61 438 563 783
PHYSICAL: Level 1, 110 Argyle St, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065, Australia
POST: PO Box 2765, Fitzroy, Victoria 3065, Australia
ACN: 157 919 894
ABN: 83 804 639 850