

LIFE 2.0

Andrew Lauren Productions and PalmStar Entertainment Present
A film by Jason Spingarn-Koff

This feature-length documentary follows a group of people whose lives are dramatically transformed by the virtual world Second Life. They enter a new reality, whose inhabitants assume alternate personas in the form of avatars -- digital alter egos that can be sculpted and manipulated to the heart's desire. More than an examination of a hot new technology, the film is foremost an intimate, character-based drama about people who look to a virtual world in search of something they are missing in their real lives. A young woman in Detroit becomes a star designer of virtual clothes and houses; an American and a Canadian fall in love online then struggle to build a real life together; a man creates the avatar of an 11-year-old girl who he believes is an expression of his subconscious. The results are unexpected and often disturbing: reshaping relationships, identities, and ultimately the very notion of reality.

Official Site

life2movie.com

Technical

Documentary, 2010, 99 Min, HDCAM, Color, Dolby E

Screenings (2010)

Sundance Film Festival
SXSW Film Festival
Sarasota Film Festival
San Francisco International Film Festival
Independent Film Festival Boston
IFC Center / Stranger Than Fiction (New York)
Munich Film Festival
BFI Southbank (London)
SITGES Film Festival (Spain)

Credits

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"LIFE 2.0"

Directed and Produced by Jason Spingarn-Koff

Producers: Andrew Lauren and Stephan Paternot, Co-Producer: Jonathan Shukat

Director of Photography and Consulting Producer: Dan Krauss

Editor: Jason Spingarn-Koff

Additional Editor: Shannon Kennedy

Music: Justin Melland

Sound Design and Mix: The Lodge

Title Graphics and Online: Edgeworx

LIFE 2.0

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Los Angeles Times: "Documentaries are Sundance's real strength... 'Life 2.0' brings you inside the head-spinning virtual universe that is Second Life."

Variety: "A peerless study... a chilling window into the psychology of the Internet-obsessed... 'Life 2.0' is a disturbing but nonjudgmental study of online addiction and the lure of manufactured identities... Every thread here raises a provocative question about the ethics of online interactivity, and serves to demonstrate the Web's ability to both facilitate and destroy human relationships."

Austin Chronicle: "A thoroughly engrossing film... a thought-provoking examination of the narratives we tell and believe about ourselves and completely upends the notion of meaningful human interaction."

Boston Phoenix: 3.5 of 4 stars. "Not so much a documentary of an Internet phenomenon as a deconstruction of 21st-century culture, Jason Spingarn-Koff's unsettling film explores the online game Second Life, in which players create avatars to live in a virtual world... These seeming addicts play the game as much as 20 hours a day, often disrupting their lives and imprisoning themselves in a world of illusion. Or it the world to come? As one surprise resolution suggests, sometimes escaping the world means facing the truth."

SLUG Magazine: "Life 2.0 is a must-see for every video game nerd, tech-head, chat room user, reality TV watcher and social networking addict."

New Scientist: "Engrossing... remarkable... a calm and tender account of Second Life."

Cinematical: "An incredibly compelling human drama."

IMDB: Sundance Review "One of the most potent docs I've seen at the festival — or anywhere else in quite a while."

The Onion AV Club: "Life 2.0 comments insightfully on the way the Internet has altered our perception of reality and the way we see ourselves."

Salt Lake City Weekly: "Surprisingly complex study of virtual worlds both as unhealthy escape and as an opportunity for self-discovery."

Sundance Film Festival: "Director Jason Spingarn-Koff digs deeply into the core of basic human interaction... he manages to create an intimate, character-based drama that forces us to question not only who we are, but who we long to be."