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FILM ★★★ EXTRAS ★

BLACK WHITE + GRAY

DVD RELEASED: 28 July RRP: £19.99 DISCS: 1

CERT: 15 RUN TIME: 72 mins YEAR: 2007

DIRECTOR: James Crump STARS: Joan Juliet Buck, Robert Mapplethorpe, Sam Wagstaff EXTRAS: Picture gallery PICTURE: ★★★ AUDIO: ★★★

Beauty, art, sex, S&M - who would've thought a collection of archive footage, photographs and interviews could be so interesting (let's face it, they often aren't). Sam Wagstaff was a museum curator born into money, Robert Mapplethorpe was the bad boy photographer who not only introduced his older lover to the world of kink but also helped him unlock a side of his emotional psyche he'd been suppressing. In turn, Wagstaff used his connections to help get Mapplethorpe and his photographs, then considered immensely shocking, the recognition they deserved. This documentary examines their relationship, as well as the connections they had with musician/poet Patti Smith and the mark they made on New York's art scene during the '60s and '70s. It's likely to interest art morons as well as aficionados, but not those likely to be affronted by male nudity. **Anne Wollenberg**

