

The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill

Directed, Produced and Edited by Judy Irving



The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill — Hollywood traditionally turns to glossy fictions for its feel-good movies, but it's hard to imagine Julia Roberts or Kate Hudson providing any more uplift than this documentary about a penniless North Beach dharma bum who feeds and befriends a flock of wild parrots. **It is that rare documentary that has romance, comedy and a surprise ending that makes you feel as if you could fly out of the theater like a cherry-headed conure.**

The longhaired birdman is Mark Bittner, who was essentially homeless before he became so well-known for feeding the parrots on Telegraph Hill that a young couple allowed him to live in their guest cottage rent-free. Director Judy Irving patiently follows Bittner over many months, treating him with well-earned respect rather than as an “eccentric,” a term he dislikes.

As we meet the inner circle of Bittner's flock — Connor, an old bird whose blue head makes him a perpetual outsider in the group, and Mingus, the only parrot who ever insisted on being brought inside to live with Bittner — we begin to see how much he has in common with the wild birds. And when the film finally broaches the subject of whether Bittner himself ever will be brought inside, it soars.

- Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News

STARRING

Mark Bittner

Connor (blue-crowned conure)

Olive (mitred conure),

Mingus, Picasso & Sophie, Pushkin, and Tupelo
(cherry-headed conures)



*Limited
Engagement!*

*Starts
March 11th*



**AVALON
THEATRE**