

DOCUMENTARIES » SECOND SIGHT

Alison McAlpine's gorgeously introspective film, as wispy yet persistent as the mists hugging glens and moors, is the perfect autumn tale.

With charmingly whimsical Donald Angus MacLean holding court, *Second Sight* is a story of ghosts, longing and leave-taking that is as potent as the primordial Isle of Skye.

MacLean gave McAlpine the anchor she needed to build on her fascination with the compelling stories she heard in childhood from a Scottish great-grandmother with the gift — some might say curse — of second sight.

Once stories of apparitions and premonitions were told in ceilidh houses by a generation that grew up without electricity or television and walked for miles to get anywhere, a generation

living in close community and intimate with the land.

Also featured is Don Angie, a master storyteller in the oral Gaelic tradition. A widower with a penchant for sugary tea and a fetish for file cabinets, he's got a twinkle in his eye and an ache in his soul as he tells tales tall and true with a poetry at its most genuine and humbling as he reminisces about the feel of his wife's back.

McAlpine's reflective portrait of MacLean gives voice to a vanishing way of being that reverberates in the haunting landscape, a landscape that's every bit the character Don Angie is in what the Scots call its "thin spaces between this world and the next."

» *Human Edge, Wednesday, TVO at 10 p.m.*
 » *Henrietta Walmark*



Donald Angus MacLean: Scottish storyteller supreme.

