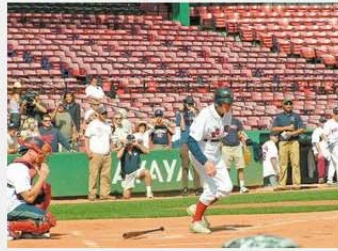


## Grandson's film a tribute to 'The Old Boy'

Photo 1 of 2 | View Enlarged Photo



Philip Cardarople heads for first base after hitting a ball at Red Sox Fantasy Camp at Fenway Park in Boston. Cardarople is the focus of the documentary short "The Old Boy," filmed by his grandson, Matthew.

photo courtesy of matthew cardar

By MOLLY DRISCOLL  
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*It's that time again. The Woods Hole Film Festival will kick off its 19th year on Saturday and will run through Aug. 7. As always, it will present a variety of independent films: shorts and features, narratives and documentaries. Several have strong Cape Cod connections, including Matthew Cardarople's "The Old Boy."*

It all started when he earned \$600 working at Dunkin' Donuts.

Matthew Cardarople, 27, used that money to buy a camera — without his mother's knowledge, he says.

"I started filming everything," Cardarople said.

And now Cardarople has completed his first documentary, the 32-minute "The Old Boy," which will be screened at 1 p.m. Tuesday as part of a shorts program at the Woods Hole Film Festival. "The Old Boy" tells the story of Cardarople's grandfather, Philip Cardarople, who lived in Sandwich, and the sacrifices he made for his family as well as the reward he got for his lifelong devotion to the Red Sox.

Matthew Cardarople, who grew up in Exeter, N.H., had returned to the East Coast after attending the New York Film Academy in Los Angeles and working for three years as Luke Wilson's assistant. The demands of that job, Cardarople says, got to be too much.

"It was just always being at his beck and call, sleeping with my Blackberry, not being able to see my friends," Cardarople said. "He was a great guy, but I wanted to focus on my future and not so much his future."

Cardarople wanted to reconnect with family and, upon visiting his grandparents in Sandwich, was struck by how his grandfather, 92 at the time, was caring for his grandmother, Florence Cardarople, who was bedridden. Philip Cardarople had rejected suggestions to put Florence in a nursing home and was taking on the demands of her care while also keeping their house in good condition.

"I thought, 'I want to do something for him,'" Cardarople said.

Cardarople went on Google and searched for "Red Sox," Philip Cardarople's favorite baseball team. One of the first things that popped up in the search results was the Red Sox Fantasy Camp, during which participants get the chance to play on the field at Fenway Park. Cardarople knew his grandfather would love it and knew that he wanted to capture the fantasy camp experience on film, as well as Philip Cardarople's life.

"I thought it was just such an important thing to film him caring for my grandmother," Cardarople said.

He brought up the idea to his grandfather.

"He said, 'I'm with you,'" Cardarople said. "He was very excited."

Because of Philip Cardarople's age, other members of their family were against the idea of him taking part in the camp, Cardarople said. But his father was behind him on the idea.

"Dad was really the one who wanted to help," Cardarople said. "He put up the money for him to do (the camp)."

Cardarople went online and bought a camera and complete filmmaking kit through a bill-me-later website and began filming, amassing 60 hours of footage of his grandfather. He used only natural lighting, and he was the only cameraman. Filming his grandfather made him remember how much he loved making movies.

"I remember filming and being like, 'This is what I'm most passionate about,'" he said.

Cardarople wasn't sure how Philip Cardarople would react to being filmed — first, but his grandfather had no problem with it.

"He was completely natural," Cardarople said. "I was surprised with how comfortable he was."

Cardarople filmed Philip Cardarople everywhere — running errands, around the house with his wife Florence, and training for the fantasy day camp, then actually participating in the camp. The only problem he had with filming at Fenway Park, Cardarople said, was that someone made him sign a waiver. Otherwise, the process of filming at various locations was a smooth one.

"Everyone was very generous," he said. "I live in Hollywood, and it's the complete opposite. That's what I love about filming on the East Coast, everyone is so excited about it."

After presenting his project to The Masses, a collective of artists founded by Matt Amato of which Heidi Ledger was also a part, Cardarople was able to use The Masses' studio in Los Angeles to edit his film. Monetary contributions by others also helped him complete the film, Cardarople said, including a \$5,000 donation by Tom Kartotis, the chairman of the board of the Fossil watch company. Cardarople and Kartotis had chatted when Cardarople picked Kartotis up from the airport while working as Wilson's assistant, and Kartotis had learned about "The Old Boy."

"(He said) he had grandparents he was very close with and wanted to help me out," Cardarople said. "He's such a great guy."

But then it was a long, hard journey to get "The Old Boy" seen by others. Cardarople submitted it to more than 20 film festivals, but the film was rejected. He edited the movie and contacted directors of festivals when he tried submitting it again.

"There are so many films coming in," Cardarople said of his decision to talk with festival staff. "It's better to explain who you are and where you're coming from."

"The Old Boy" was finally accepted to the Kent Film Festival in Connecticut. Right before he was about to buy his ticket to the festival, Cardarople went to the doctor for a routine checkup and was told there was a problem with the size of his heart — he needed open-heart surgery immediately. He found out "The Old Boy" had been accepted to the Woods Hole Film Festival "literally 20 minutes before surgery," Cardarople said. It's now been two months since the surgery, and he said he's doing great.

Cardarople is in the planning stages on another documentary, but is waiting to go any further on it until after the festival.

"I just want to have closure on this film first," he said. "The Woods Hole Film Festival will be that closure."

Philip Cardarople died soon after filming on "The Old Boy" was completed. But Cardarople says he thinks his grandfather would be happy about the success of the movie.

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### Local angles

Want to see more movies at the Woods Hole Film Festival with connections to our own backyard? Check out a few of these:

"Out of Service": Directed, produced and written by Brewster resident Rebecca Alvin, the film tells the story of the North Truro Air Force Station, a now-abandoned military site that was busy during the 1950s and '60s. "I thought, how interesting that this was once this bustling, lively place," Alvin said of her choice to tell the station's story. "And now it's a ghost town." Short documentary, to be screened at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Lillie Auditorium, 7 MBL St.

"House of Bones": The movie is directed and written by Victoria Campbell, a Martha's Vineyard native, whose family is forced to sell their Vineyard summer home after the death of Campbell's grandmother. Feature documentary, to be screened at 5 p.m. Tuesday at Old Woods Hole Fire Station, 72 Water St.

"Living Downstream": Filmed mostly at the Woods Hole Research Center and Oceanographic Institute, it shares the story of ecologist Sandra Steingraber, a cancer survivor who began looking for links between cancer and the environment. Feature documentary, to be screened at 6 p.m. Aug. 2 at Woods Hole Research Center, 149 Woods Hole Road.

"Tracking Patagonia": Bourne native Sarah Athanas directed and produced this documentary about Patagonia (a region of Chile), the possible construction of five hydroelectric dams in the region and citizens' reactions to the idea. Feature documentary, to be screened at 5 p.m. Aug. 3 at Redfield Auditorium, 53 Water St.

"Before We Get To Seattle": Directed and produced by Lawrence native April Moskus and Adam Linn, who used to summer in Marston's Mills, the movie tells the fictional story of Chloe, a girl who wants to go to '90s Seattle to take part in the grunge scene. "(April) and I both grew up in that time period," Linn said. "This music was really important to us." Short drama, to be screened at 9 p.m. Aug. 6 at Old Woods Hole Fire Station.

"In All Relative": Alyssa Polacsek, who lived in Sandwich for part of her childhood and worked summers at her family motel in Dennis, wrote and produced this movie. The dramedy is about a woman named Shannon O'Leary and her wacky family. Short narrative, to be screened at 5 p.m. Aug. 2 at Old Woods Hole Fire Station.

"The Aristocrat": Filmed entirely on Cape Cod, the movie is the fictional story of traveling salesman Marc Ward, who is leaving his job but will spend one week training his replacement. During that week, Marc struggles to define what he wants to do with his future. "The Cape after all the tourists leave is still a very interesting place," director Greg Croteau said of his decision to film locally. Feature drama, to be screened at 7 p.m. Aug. 1 at the Redfield Auditorium.

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