



# HYPERGRAPHIA

Starring JOHN HURT

Based on "THE INMAN DIARY" by ARTHUR CREW INMAN

Published by HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS Literary Advisor DANIEL AARON

Co-Producer ANWEN REES MYERS

Produced by LORENZO DESTEFANO & DARREN DEMETRE

Written & Directed by LORENZO DESTEFANO

[www.hypergraphiafilm.com](http://www.hypergraphiafilm.com)

When Oscar-nominated actor **John Hurt** first read the screenplay of "**HYPERGRAPHIA**", the strange but true saga of the eccentric Boston diarist, **ARTHUR CREW INMAN (1895-1963)**, he saw a dynamic way to explore one of the most extreme, charming and complex personalities to have walked the earth. "*I have done quite a lot of outsider figures,*" Hurt concedes, "*but then drama is all about them. Hamlet isn't exactly one of the crowd, is he?*"

Hurt, (*The Elephant Man*, 1984, *Midnight Express*, *The Naked Civil Servant*, *An Englishman in New York*), along with writer/director **Lorenzo DeStefano** (*Talmage Farlow*, *Los Zafiros*-*Music From The Edge Of Time*, *Life Goes On*), and Co-Producers **Anwen Rees Myers & Darren Demetre**, plan to make "Hypergraphia" on a sensible budget on Boston locations and in-studio. Here is their story.

The 155 volume, 17,000,000-word **INMAN DIARY** is a chilling account of one of the most obsessive humans ever to put pen to paper. Arthur Inman spent 60 years of his life, from the age of 8, writing what is acknowledged as one of the longest and most fascinating diaries ever conceived. His is the story of the original blogger, a man obsessed with "connectivity" decades before that word was even conceived.

Inman's passionate chronicling of his own life and the lives of more than 1000 characters populates and enlivens this epic of collective memory. He keeps a scathingly honest record of his politics, his social attitudes, and his fascination with women. Many of these and others were recruited from decades of personal ads ("*Wanted-Talkers & Readers, to amuse an invalid author...*") by his wife of 40 years, **Evelyn Yates Inman**. One of the most eerily devoted yet independent wives in all of recorded literature, the revelation of Evelyn's 30 year affair with **Dr. Cyrus Rumford Pike**, her husband's favorite osteopath, threatens to tear Arthur's world apart.

Arthur's increasingly bizarre, hypochondriac lifestyle is recorded in micro detail. His unending and often comic medical complaints are a major theme. Real and imagined, they included photophobia [fear of light], hypergraphia (an obsession with writing), crippling migraines, bromide and mercury poisoning, along with a multitude of chronic osteopathic and gastrointestinal disasters.

From 1919 to 1963 Inman rarely left the series of darkened rooms he inhabited in Garrison Hall, an antique apartment-hotel still standing at #8 Garrison Street, Back Bay. In this fortress against the tides of time and urban renewal, many lives intersected and a great literary curiosity of our time was born.

A prolific chronicler of the mid-20th century, Arthur Inman charted the flow of history through his fractured but highly intuitive lens. Like Walt Whitman a century before, Inman attempted to record in loving detail the enormity of the American experience. Undervalued and unknown during his lifetime, he was so sure of the lasting value of his Diary that he deposited microfilmed copies in salt mines and bank vaults all over America to avoid nuclear annihilation. *"I believe that one day, upon my diary's publication, I will become quite famous."*

**Harvard University Press**, from whom Lorenzo DeStefano holds exclusive dramatic rights, first published *The Inman Diary* in 1985, twenty-two years after Arthur Inman's death.

*"CAMERA OBSCURA"*, Lorenzo DeStefano's play based on the Inman Diary, was first performed at Seattle Repertory Theatre and received its world premiere in 2002 at London's Almeida Theatre, both productions in collaboration with the renowned English director, Jonathan Miller ([www.cameraobscuraplay.com](http://www.cameraobscuraplay.com)). A documentary film, *"FROM A DARKENED ROOM-THE STRANGE LIFE & TIMES OF ARTHUR CREW INMAN"*, is in progress ([www.darkenedroomfilm.com](http://www.darkenedroomfilm.com)). *"THE INMAN DIARIES"*, a chamber opera by American composer Thomas Oboe Lee, based on DeStefano's play, received its world premiere in September 2007 at Boston's Intermezzo Opera Company ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Inman\\_Diaries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Inman_Diaries)). A published **Biography of Arthur Inman** is in development.

**Inmanalia LLC / Productions Á-Propos**  
805 641-3845 / [info@hypergraphiafilm.com](mailto:info@hypergraphiafilm.com)  
[www.hypergraphiafilm.com](http://www.hypergraphiafilm.com) / [www.lorenzodestefano.com](http://www.lorenzodestefano.com)

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