

Document Citation

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Ontario, 1997, 55 minutes

Director: B. Nash

Producer: Elizabeth Yake **Production Company/Print Source/Sales**

Agent: Cinemat

A joyride from beginning to end, B. Nash's documentary captures the work and spirit of the late bpNichol, one of Canada's most innovative writers. Concrete poet, underground comic creator, performer, librettist—Nichol, originally from Vancouver, even has a street in Toronto named after him. The film itself is part concrete poem, part cartoon, insight and whimsy. B. Nash weaves a dynamic tapestry of style and content out of interviews (with Nichol contemporaries like bill bissett, Dennis Lee, Michael Ondaatje, and the founders of the legendary Coach House Press, as well as younger acolytes), inventive visual metaphors, and terrific archival footage. Archival sources include the Nichol family's home movies, outtakes from Ron Mann's 1982 *Poetry in Motion*, and Ondaatje's 1970 film about Nichol, *Sons of Captain Poetry*. Thought-provoking, experimental, and wildly playful, *bp (pushing the boundaries)*, as infamous documentary filmmaker Allan King noted, "is the film bpNichol would have made about himself."

John Dippong

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Vancouver Film Fest

CANADIAN IMAGES



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