

## Document Citation

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# A/Poem is a Naked Person

USA. 1974.

85 minutes

Director/Cinematography/Editor: Les Blank;  
Producers: Leon Russell, Denny Cordell;  
Sound Recording/Assistant Editor: Maureen  
Gosling.

Leon Russell is the focus of this rarely-seen work by Les Blank, the distribution of which has been permanently blocked by Russell himself. One of

Blank's most ambitious works, this docu-celebration of the roots of an



authentic sub-culture in American music is both a portrait of Oklahoma country life and of Russell himself. Terse, unsoftened vignettes of good ole' country life — catfishing and beer glass-eating — are interspersed between scenes of Russell singing and just living. Beautifully simple spontaneous performances by Willie Nelson and George Jones electrify the screen and Russell's rendition of "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" backing up Blank's scene of a magical, hallucinatory sunset is exquisite and spine-tingling. J.B.

**In Person: Les Blank**