

Statement by Andr ea Picard for the Cinematheque Ontario's Program Guide, on the occasion of the screening of the complete *The Book of All the Dead*.

History teaches us that those who wait in despair are very close to discovery and that anguish itself is very close to insight." - R. Bruce Elder

R. Bruce Elder is not only one of Canada's foremost experimental filmmakers, he's one of our greatest artists, thinkers, critics, and filmmakers, period. It's fitting, then, that Elder, shortly after garnering the Governor General's Award for Media Arts earlier this year, was appointed a Fellow by the Royal Society of Canada, thereby receiving formal recognition for both his impressive artistic and scholarly contributions to our national cultural landscape. In a country noticeably quiet about our manifestos, Elder has made a stir over the years with his dizzyingly epic and provocative output, in film, and in print. His incomparable interrogations of history (and its follies) have spawned the colossal quartet THE BOOK OF ALL THE DEAD (1975-94), a forty-two-hour film cycle spanning eighteen years of production that has secured his international reputation. He has since maintained a prolific pace through his seemingly inexhaustible passion for writing, filmmaking, and teaching - one that continues to inform the independent filmmaking scene in Canada.

Please join us in honouring R. Bruce Elder's recent achievements, as Cinematheque Ontario presents the world premiere of THE YOUNG PRINCE, the fifth film in his THE BOOK OF PRAISE cycle. - Andr ea Picard