

YOUR SENSATIONAL SUMMER Y♥GA MAG

YOGA

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Magazine

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WHAT'S HOT • KIDS' YOGA • EKA PADA BAKASANA

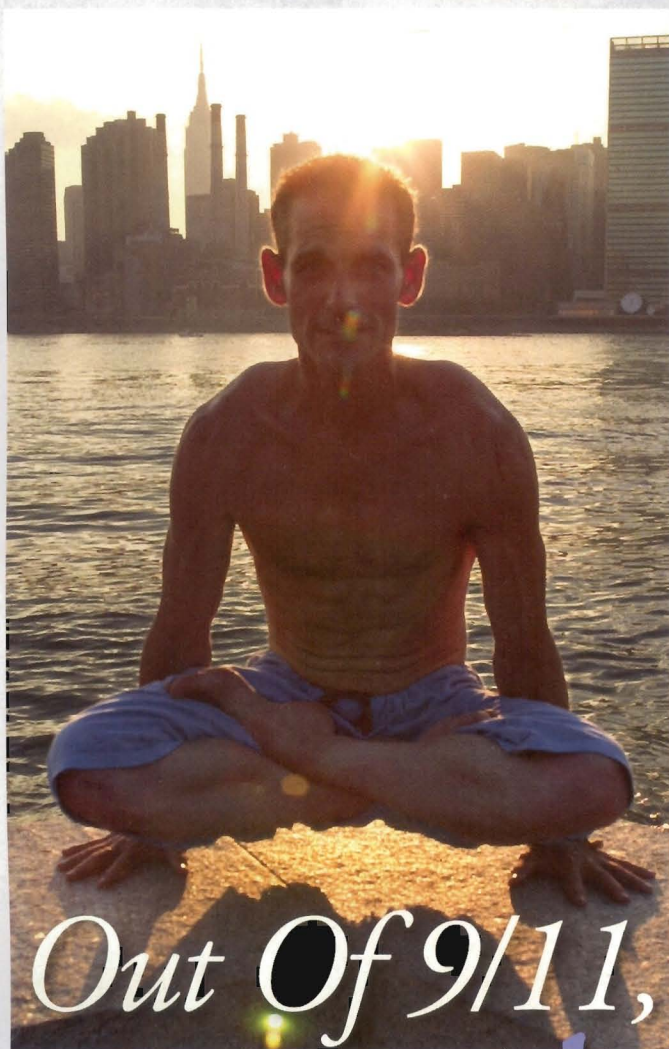


Photo: Kelly Dwyer

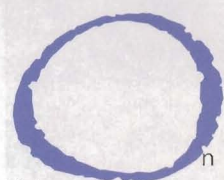
Walking into the yoga class that day literally changed not only Arthur's life, but his career too.

Suddenly, going to a class every day was not only important but essential, and it wasn't long before the idea of a yoga-based film began to take hold: "After a year of practising yoga every day two of my teachers, who were aware that I was a filmmaker, asked me to capture what was going on in our community." Little did Arthur know that when he accepted the challenge of finding out why people practise yoga, his journey would take him around the world and take some six years to complete.

The documentary that Arthur ultimately made, *YYoga Movie*, is not just a film about yoga, it is also an invitation to a better life; a journey into how and why yoga affects so many people and in so many ways. It is a celebration of yoga, and during the long journey Arthur met, interviewed and studied with many different yoga teachers, including Shiva Rea, Erich Schiffmann, Ally Hamilton and Gurmukh Kaur Khalsa. He filmed on the beach, in a charter school in South Central Los Angeles, and everywhere in between. He even sent his camera equipment to Iraq in the arms of yoga teacher/wrestler Diamond Dallas Page, who was teaching American soldiers there at the time.

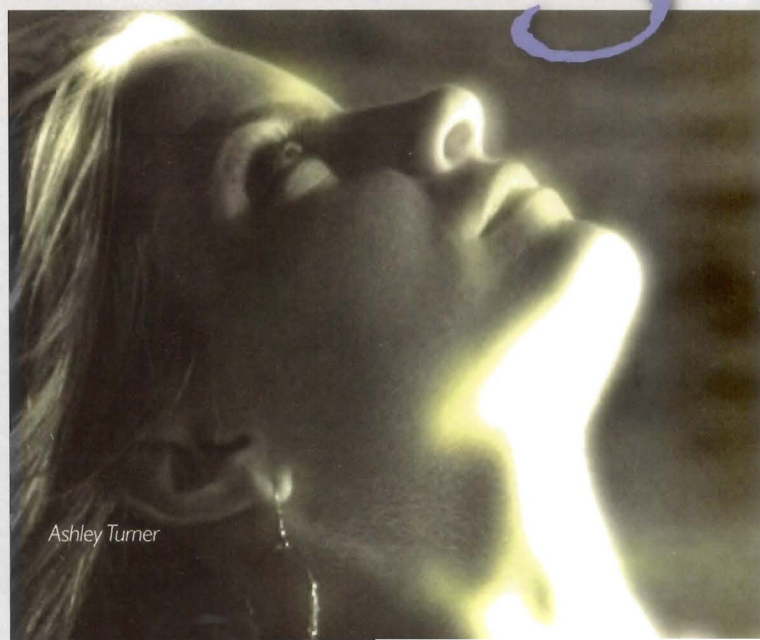
"I wanted to go to Iraq," says Arthur, "but the US Government refused my request. So instead I loaned Diamond Dallas Page one

Healing



On 13th September 2001, film-maker Arthur Klein received an email from a friend of a friend who had escaped the collapse of World Trade Center Tower One, and had decided to put his feelings into words. The email was poignant, heartfelt and amazing, and after forwarding it onto some friends, Arthur left his desk in the middle of the day and walked out into the Santa Monica sun.

"I left the office in my street clothing and went to a 1:30pm yoga class around the corner from work," remembers Arthur. "It seemed like a far better idea to regain a sense of peace and well-being instead of going to the mall and shop or go on vacation as the American leadership advised. The teacher was Ashley Turner and her words were magic... I went to that class every day for many months after that."

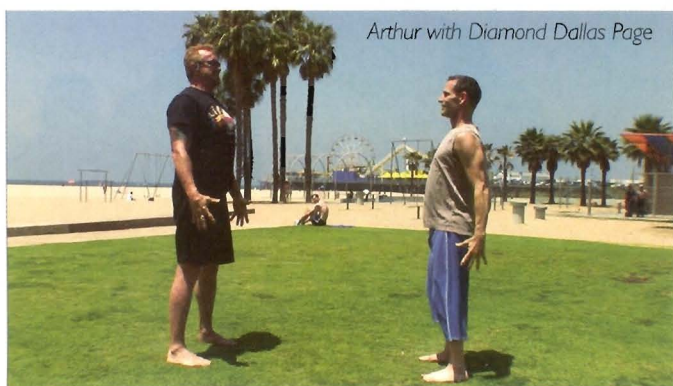


Ashley Turner

of my video cameras and I taught him how to use it. I was pleasantly amazed at just how great, although shaky, the footage was."

Of course the making of *Y Yoga Movie* changed Arthur's life completely and he now practises every day. He says: "Yoga and meditation is now integral to every breath I take and every move I make, to use a Sting lyric out of context. This practice makes life the most it can be in every moment. It has changed everything about me in every way. It affects me on an atomic cellular level as well as an omniscient observer of myself in the motion of life, light and love for my very conscious existence! It makes everything so much more meaningful."

Luckily for Arthur, the making of the movie meant that he could explore his own practice in much more detail than normal, and as



Arthur with Diamond Dallas Page

a result he ended up studying with many different teachers, and at dozens of yoga studios. He says, "I have had the opportunity and passionate desire to immerse in many different types of practice: everything from Ashtanga, Power Yoga, Anusara, Hatha, Bhakti, Ghurmuk Kuhndalini Yoga, Raja Vipassana, Karma, and Prana Yama. Now I split the week between Erich Schiffmann (the author of the book *Move into Stillness*) and Bryan Kest as my mainstay. I also do my own personal practice as well as try to support all the teachers who invite me to be in their classes."

Some of the more inspiring characters in *Y Yoga Movie* are the children of a charter school in South Central Los Angeles, home of the LA riots in the early 1990s. Filming in the school was a big experience for Arthur, who remembers, "I had the opportunity to take a class with these second graders a few weeks earlier and it was so much fun."

There wasn't enough time for Arthur to set up full interviews with the children, so it was a case of lining them up and asking "How do you feel when you practice?" The children didn't let him down with their answers, and one little boy stood out when he replied, "It makes me into a whole new person..."

Another young man who made a huge impression was Andre, a former gang member who had found strength thanks to yoga and his teacher Hala Khouri. Arthur kept in touch with the student, who has just graduated from Santa Monica Community College with a two-year degree, and is now enrolled in a four-year course. Proof if it was needed that yoga can absolutely heal your life.




Andre

So after six years making *Y Yoga Movie*, what is next for Arthur Klein? "I am preparing to tour with Y and have begun pre-production on my next feature film *Big Mind Movie*," he says. "It will be the sister film to *Y Yoga Movie* and will journey through the world of meditation in the way *Y Yoga Movie* has journeyed through the world of Yoga. I am beginning a tour of The Pursuit of Happiness Yoga workshops and would love to come to the UK. I am very curious to see if the yoga community in the UK would appreciate the yoga I plan to teach."

And as a student himself, what was the biggest thing Arthur learnt whilst filming *Y Yoga Movie*? He thinks for a moment and then replies, "Inhale possibility, exhale fear and be in the cosmic beautiful moment of every breath... The only finite thing in each of our lives is the number of breaths left in our experience and journey through this life, because as Carl Sagan said, 'we are stardust observing starlight.'"





For more information on Arthur Klein, his workshops and the *Y Yoga Movie* please visit www.YYogaMovie.com and www.pursuitofHappinessYOGA.com