

Advance Care Planning Film Suggestions



A public health crisis, like the COVID-19 pandemic, causes many of us to think about our life, our goals, and the type of care we would want to receive if confronted with a serious medical illness. Although end-of-life conversations can be difficult to bring up with loved ones, it's important to think about and let others know your wishes. Often times, we aren't sure where to start or we don't know what to say. To help you get started, we have compiled a list of films that provide different ways that you can approach end-of-life care conversations with your loved ones. Watch these films alongside your family and friends, and as you talk about the films, you can also discuss your own end-of-life wishes.

Advanced Care Planning Film List

A Man Called Ove (2015)

Free on Amazon Prime



"Ove (Rolf Lassgård) is the quintessential angry old man next door. An isolated retiree with strict principles and a short fuse, who spends his days enforcing block association rules that only he cares about, and visiting his wife's grave, Ove has given up on life. After a boisterous young family moves in next door and accidentally flattens Ove's mailbox, an unlikely friendship forms." -IMDB

Amour (2012)

\$3.99 to rent on iTunes & GooglePlay

"Retired music teachers Georges (Jean-Louis Trintignant) and Anne (Emmanuelle Riva) have spent their lives devoted to their careers and to each other. Their relationship faces its greatest challenge when Anne suffers a debilitating stroke. Though Georges himself suffers from the aches and infirmities of old age, he bravely ignores his own discomfort to take care of his wife, and is determined to keep his promise to her that she never go back to the hospital." -IMDB



Being Mortal: PBS Frontline Documentary (2015)

Free on Youtube



"Author and surgeon Atul Gawande explores how doctors care for terminally ill patients, highlighting how many doctors - including Gawande himself - struggle to talk candidly with their dying patients." -IMDB

Big Fish (2003)

Free on Hulu; \$3.99 to rent on Google Play; \$4.99 to buy on iTunes

"When Edward Bloom (Albert Finney) becomes ill, his son, William (Billy Crudup), travels to be with him. William has a strained relationship with Edward because his father has always told exaggerated stories about his life, and William thinks he's never really told the truth. Even on his deathbed, Edward recounts fantastical anecdotes. When William, who is a journalist, starts to investigate his father's tales, he begins to understand the man and his penchant for storytelling." -IMDB





Coco (2017)

Free on Disney+, \$2.99 to rent on Google Play, \$3.99 to rent on iTunes

“Despite his family’s generations-old ban on music, young Miguel dreams of becoming an accomplished musician like his idol Ernesto de la Cruz. Desperate to prove his talent, Miguel finds himself in the stunning and colorful Land of the Dead. After meeting a charming trickster named Héctor, the two new friends embark on an extraordinary journey to unlock the real story behind Miguel’s family history.” -IMDB

Consider the Conversation: A Documentary on a Taboo Subject (2017)

Free on Youtube

“Two friends, a hospice worker and a teacher, offer insights into the American struggle with preparing for the end of life.” -IMDB



Defining Hope (2017)

\$2.99 to Rent on Google Play, \$4.99 to Rent on iTunes

“Nurses guide patients and their families at fragile junctions in their lives.” -IMDB

Endgame (2018)

Free on Youtube

“Facing an inevitable outcome, terminally ill patients meet extraordinary medical practitioners seeking to change our approach to life and death.” -IMDB



Extremis Documentary (2016)

Free with Netflix

“Witness the heavy emotions that come with end-of-life decisions as doctors, patients, and families face harrowing choices in a hospital intensive care unit.” -IMDB

Finding Your Feet (2017)

Free on Hulu, \$3.99 to Rent on Amazon Prime & iTunes

“When “Lady” Sandra Abbott discovers that her husband of 40 years is having an affair with her best friend, she seeks refuge in London with her estranged, older sister Bif. The two could not be more different - Sandra is a fish out of water next to her outspoken, serial dating, free-spirited sibling. But different is just what Sandra needs at the moment, and she reluctantly lets Bif drag her along to a community dance class, where she starts finding her feet.” -IMDB



Life as a House (2001)

\$2.99 to Rent on Google Play, Amazon Prime, & Youtube

“‘Life as a House’ is the poignant, often humorous journey of one man who decides to tear down his house -- and winds up rebuilding the world around him. From the day he picks up his sledgehammer, George Monroe embarks on a grand adventure that will shatter expectations and build a foundation for many different dreams among his family and neighbors.” -IMDB



My Sister's Keeper (2009)

\$2.99 to Rent w/ Google Play/Amazon Prime & Youtube

“Conceived as a marrow donor for her gravely ill sister, Anna Fitzgerald (Abigail Breslin) has undergone countless surgeries and medical procedures in her short life. Though their older daughter’s life has no doubt been prolonged, the unorthodox decision of Anna’s parents has cracked the entire family’s foundation. When Anna sues her parents for emancipation, it sets off a court case that threatens to destroy the family for good.” -IMDB



Nine to Ninety (2014)



“Nine to Ninety is the love story of Phyllis and Joe Sabatini, who at age 89 and 90 live in the home of their daughter and son-in-law, where they relish time with their young granddaughter Jacqueline.” -IMDB

One True Thing (1998)

\$3.99 to Rent on Google Play, Youtube, iTunes, & Amazon Prime

“Kate (Meryl Streep), the undervalued matriarch of the Gulden family, is diagnosed with cancer. Daughter and journalist Ellen (Renée Zellweger) returns from New York City to care for her mother at the request of her father (William Hurt). During the time Kate spends with her parents, she discovers secrets that she was never privy to in her childhood. Though Ellen has always idolized her father, she learns that her mother has had a much more difficult life than she knew.” -IMDB



The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (2007)

\$3.99 to Rent on Google Play, Youtube, iTunes, Amazon Prime, & Free with HBO Subscription

“Jean-Dominique Bauby (Mathieu Amalric), editor-in-chief of French fashion bible *Elle* magazine, has a devastating stroke at age 43. The damage to his brain stem results in locked-in syndrome, with which he is almost completely paralyzed and only able to communicate by blinking an eye. Bauby painstakingly dictates his memoir via the only means of expression left to him.” -IMDB



The Farewell (2019)

\$4.99 for Rent on Amazon Prime/Youtube/Google Play

“A Chinese family discovers their grandmother has only a short while left to live and decide to keep her in the dark, scheduling a wedding to gather before she dies.” -IMDB





Tuesdays with Morrie (1999)

Free on Youtube

“Accomplished sportswriter Mitch Albom (Hank Azaria) feels that his life is lacking, despite his success. When Mitch watches a television interview with his former university professor, Morrie Schwartz (Jack Lemmon), he is moved to reconnect with his old mentor, who is struggling with Lou Gehrig’s disease. As Mitch and Morrie get reacquainted, they engage in thoughtful conversations about a variety of significant topics, including love, happiness, and death.” -IMDB

Youth (2005)

\$3.99 on Google Play, Youtube, iTunes, & Amazon Prime

“A retired orchestra conductor is on vacation with his daughter and his film director best friend in the Alps when he receives an invitation from Queen Elizabeth II to perform for Prince Phillip’s birthday.” -IMDB



Do you have a recommendation for this list?

Please reach out to [Dapa Wilcox](mailto:info@NJHCQI.org), Community Coordinator, at info@NJHCQI.org; and for more information about COYL, how to join your local COYL task force, and access to additional resources, please visit our [COYL page](#).

Conversation of Your Life (COYL) aims to engage communities in conversations around advance care planning. Learn more [here](#).

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