

# N is a Number

## A PORTRAIT OF PAUL ERDŐS

A documentary film by George Paul Csicsery

DVD contains the 57-minute film with extra features, including scene selections and 20 minutes of additional scenes with Paul Erdős

A man with no home and no job, Paul Erdős (1913-1996) was the most prolific mathematician who ever lived. Erdős inspired generations of mathematicians throughout the world with his insightful approach and wry humor. *N is a Number: A Portrait of Paul Erdős* follows him for four years through four countries, presenting his mathematical quest and its personal and philosophical dimensions. Animated sequences illustrate the kinds of mathematical problems Erdős pursued.

### Festivals

Festival International du Nouveau Cinéma et de la Vidéo de Montréal (1993)

Melbourne International Film Festival (1994)

Gold Plaque Award—Documentary Film—Science/Nature, Chicago International Film Festival (1994)

Auckland-Wellington, New Zealand Film Festivals (1995)

Festival International du Film Scientifique du Québec (1995)

Cork Film Festival (1995)



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### A PORTRAIT OF PAUL ERDŐS

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ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	# UNITS	TOTAL
VHS cassette (NTSC) - ISBN: 0-933621-62-0	US\$ 6.00		
DVD (NTSC) - ISBN: 0-9724588-1-6			
Schools / libraries (with performance rights)	99.00		
Individual home video price	29.95		
Shipping/handling fee	6.00		
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# N is a Number: A Portrait of Paul Erdős

Every mathematics educator should show students this tribute to one of the 20th century's most interesting figures.

A man with no home and no job, Paul Erdős was the most prolific mathematician who ever lived. Erdős, who died in 1996 at the age of 83, inspired generations of mathematicians throughout the world with his insightful approach and wry humor.

**N is a Number: A Portrait of Paul Erdős** follows him for four years through four countries, presenting his mathematical quest and its personal and philosophical dimensions. Animated sequences illustrate the kinds of mathematical problems that Erdős pursued.

*Here is what reviewers say about the documentary film, N is a Number:*

"... charming, in part because director George Paul Csicsery does a good job in explaining the basics of Erdős's work, and in part because the idiosyncratic Erdős and his friends are such good storytellers."

—*"Video Classics," Discover Magazine's listing of the top 10 science videos of the past 20 years*

"George Csicsery's beautiful documentary, *N is a Number*, allowed me to see the living Erdős."

—*Bruce Schechter, My Brain Is Open, The Mathematical Journeys of Paul Erdős*

"This well-shot program is an excellent choice for mathematics students ..."

—*Sue Ellen Beauregard, Booklist*

"This one-hour videotape does a great service to mathematics ... it shows the importance of identifying and nurturing the mathematically gifted."

—*Sunday A. Ajosek, Mathematics Teacher*

"Documentarian George Csicsery captures the whimsical genius of the man perfectly, and actually provides a beneficial service to those who imagine mathematicians as cold numbers-keepers. Erdős is a delightful human being, and this bio celebrates him with wit and style."

—*Kelly Vance, East Bay Express*

**Gold Apple Award, National Educational Film & Video Festival**

**Gold Plaque Award, Science/Nature, Documentary category, Chicago International Film Festival**

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*See photographs and more information about Paul Erdős:*

<http://www-history.mcs.st-and.ac.uk/history/Biographies/Erdos.html>

[www.oakland.edu/enp](http://www.oakland.edu/enp)

[www.oakland.edu/enp/erdosdeath.html](http://www.oakland.edu/enp/erdosdeath.html)

<http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~lhuang3/onscience/>

Through 2010, the film is being offered to PBS stations by American Public Television (APT).

Check with your local PBS station for dates and times, or at: [www.aptonline.org](http://www.aptonline.org)

*For information about N is a Number: A Portrait of Paul Erdős, please contact:*

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