

Beat: Health

## THE LIFELONG BOND BETWEEN 2 FRIENDS AS THEY PONDER RETIREMENT IN THE FILM YOUTH

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**USPA NEWS** - Paolo Sorrentino's second English-language feature stars Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel. We know the plot outline in the movie "Youth" involves Michael Caine playing a semi-retired classical composer, and Harvey Keitel as his film-director pal, on holiday in the Alps...

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Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel wonderfully carry this spirited look at two aging artist friends with distinctly different ideas about how to wrap up their creative careers.

Given that the central characters are a retired 80-year-old composer-conductor and a veteran film director anxious to launch yet another picture, one might reasonably expect to encounter these old gents in autumnal, summing-up mode. Mick Boyle (Harvey Keitel) has a staff of four young writers with him to help finish the screenplay to his upcoming project. Fred Ballinger (Michael Caine) is a long-eminant musician being entreated by an emissary of the queen to return to London to conduct one concert of his most celebrated composition, "Simple Songs," in exchange for a knighthood.

They simply enjoy just batting things around; as Fred later tells his daughter, "We only ever told each other the good things." Fred insists he's retired for good. A second visit by the queen's representative forces Fred to explain that he has only ever conducted "Simple Songs" with his wife singing them and he'll never do otherwise. Entirely in possession of his faculties, Fred exhibits no evidence of turmoil over his voluntary withdrawal from creative work.

About ageing society :

A main concern is that with the retirement of the baby boomers, the number of people of a working, taxable age will shrink or become stagnant. This could result in gaps in the jobs market, with businesses and public services lacking the workforce required. With the elderly being the fastest growing age group, increasing pressure is being put on healthcare and social services.

Rising longevity means that people are living longer thanks to improvements in health, diet and preventative health care. During the 20th century the average life expectancy increased by 30 years. Lower/declining birth rates, over the last 40 years women have been having fewer children, however in the last decade birth rates have risen slightly.

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