



Subject: CUFF Announces Complete Lineup for 23rd edition, June 1-5 at the Logan Theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE CONTACT: Bryan Wendorf 773-341-6727, info@cuff.org

The Chicago Underground Film Festival Announces Complete Line-up
23rd edition highlights 100 groundbreaking films from around the world; Opens with long-awaited World Premiere "Tony Conrad Completely In the Present"

Chicago (April 23, 2016) –The 23rd Chicago Underground Film Festival returns to the Logan Theatre, 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., June 1-5, 2016 and features an international slate of innovative, exciting and provocative films and videos. More than 100 features, documentaries and shorts will screen over five days at the longest running underground film festival in the world. This year's event opens with the long awaited world premiere of Tyler Hubby's feature documentary "Tony Conrad Completely In the Present," about the legendary artist. Conrad was scheduled to attend the festival to accept the "Lifetime Achievement Award," when he unexpectedly passed away on April 9, 2016. The festival will honor the artist with a posthumous award and tribute. Tickets: \$20 for opening night (includes admission to after party at Elastic Arts), \$10 per program. Festival passes also available for \$80, which grants admission to all screenings and events. Tickets available at www.universe.com/cuffchicago

For over two decades, the Chicago Underground Film Festival has provided audiences with an accessible, viewer-friendly showcase for avant-garde and cult-cinema. Through sidebar events, infamous after-parties and lively panel discussions, CUFF promotes an atmosphere of engagement for filmmakers to discuss ideas, techniques and tactics, to network and to forge lifelong creative relationships.

This year CUFF will present a diverse slate of experimental, documentary and narrative features and shorts, carefully selected and curated into 25 unique programs, drawn from nearly 2,700 submissions from around the globe. Complete festival schedule and links to press screeners available [here](#).

"This year's lineup is one of our strongest ever," says Artistic Director Bryan Wendorf, "Our goal has always been to present work that is thought-provoking and challenges audience expectations but does so in a fun and enjoyable way and we've achieved that beyond even our own expectations. From retrospectives of important figures from the history of the avant-garde to films that push genre conventions into unusual new territory, bringing together the latest work by long time friends who have become some of the leading film artists working today and discovering brand new talents who will likely become the stars of tomorrow"

Festival Highlights and Special Programs include:

- Opening Night: The Chicago Underground Film Festival is proud to present the World Premiere of “Tony Conrad: Completely In The Present”, a two decades in-the-making documentary by Tyler Hubby that explores the extraordinary life and influential work of the legendary artist, filmmaker and musician who passed away on April 9. Conrad was slated to be the festival’s Guest of Honor and the festival will pay tribute to him with a screening of his own film and video work.
- Tony Conrad Tribute: A tribute to Tony Conrad presenting an overview of his film and video work from 1966 to 2011 including his groundbreaking film “The Flicker” a landmark of structural filmmaking that consists entirely of an alternating pattern of black and white frames creating a hypnotic and trancelike experience unlike anything else. Thursday, June 2 8:30 pm
- Closing Night: The Chicago Underground Film Festival will conclude on Sunday, June 5 with the Chicago Premiere of “The Alchemist Cookbook” the latest micro-budget effort from Grand Rapids, Michigan auteur Joel Potrykus. The follow up to his critically acclaimed films Ape and Buzzard. A genre defying blend of black comedy and horror, “The Alchemist Cookbook” tells the story of Sean, a socially maladjusted outcast who isolates himself in the Michigan backwoods to study the occult arts. The film solidifies Potrykus reputation as one of the most intriguing young artists in contemporary American independent cinema.
- Luther Price Program: Digital restorations of “Clown” and “A” two early works by Luther Price. A stand out figure of the contemporary avant-garde, Luther Price’s images of beautiful decay live and die in an instant onscreen, evoking the fragile, ephemeral nature of both life and cinema itself. Alternately iconoclastic and nostalgic, his films confront the specters of death, sex, and childhood trauma – Price’s early Super 8mm films offer a window into his singularly captivating psyche. In these small gauge works he inhabits alter egos, the nightmarish harlequin of “Clown” (1992) and the unhinged, Joan Crawford-esque drunk in the suicide melodrama A (1995) these painfully personal works took a psychic toll and led to him working with 16mm found footage in the early 2000s as “a way,” Price has written, “for me to still talk about issues...but not destroy me.” Saturday June 4, 8:00 pm

2016 Feature Film selections

This year the festival has programmed 11 feature length films, including two world premieres, and a US premiere running the gamut from narratives, documentary and experimental work that like the festival itself defy easy categorization.

- Festival alumni Ben Rivers’ “THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS” is a hallucinatory narrative gorgeously shot against the rugged landscape of Morocco. A film director abandons his own set and descends into a perilous adventure that forms a multi-layered excavation into the illusion of cinema itself. Thursday, June 2, 7:00 pm
- Anna Biller’s “The Love Witch,” A modern-day witch uses spells and magic to get men to fall in love with her in this feminist tribute to 1960s pulp novels and Technicolor melodramas. Thursday, June 2 9:00 pm
- “Grace Period”, an experimental documentary by KyungMook KIM and Caroline Key that examines the activities of female sex workers in the Yeongdeungpo red-light district in Seoul, South Korea. Archival footage, mostly shot by the women themselves, shows their collective efforts as they organize with other sex workers from brothels across the country. Friday, June 3, 7:00 pm

- “Director’s Commentary: Terror of Frankenstein” directed by Tim Kirk and produced by Rodney Ascher (Room 237, The Nightmare) is an exercise in extreme metafictional tragicomedy. Presented as the commentary track of a cynically rushed repressing of a forgotten (but 100% genuine) Frankenstein film’s DVD, this project transforms the film into an entirely new, all too human horror story. “Director’s Commentary: Terror of Frankenstein” is Mystery Science Theater 3000 by way of Sartre, an icy satire of the monsters on screen, behind the camera, and in the audience. Friday, June 3 9:00 pm
- “Focus on Infinity” a documentary by Austrian filmmaker Joerg Burger, a cinematic journey to people, machines and places that are connected with the exploration of the origin of our universe and our existence. Allowing an insight into the life and thoughts of scientists, this film will bring up questions, that are important to modern cosmology and quantum physics. Saturday, June 4 4:00 pm
- “Excursions” by Daniel Martinico. In the hopes of revitalizing their marriage, a husband and wife retreat to a remote cabin getaway with some longtime friends. Their pleasant interaction quickly assumes a relentless intensity as they push one another, mentally and physically, towards transcendence. This shortcut to enlightenment, however, has unexpected consequences. Saturday, June 4 6:00 pm
- The World Premiere of “Pastor Paul” by Jules Bartkowski. Filmed in Ghana and Nigeria, “Pastor Paul” is the first American Nollywood film; a white tourist in West Africa who is possessed by a ghost after acting in a Nollywood movie. Saturday June 4 9:00 pm
- The US Premiere of “Deprogrammed” by Mia Donovan Inspired by her stepbrother’s cult deprogramming by the infamous ‘Father of Deprogramming’ Ted ‘Black Lightning’ Patrick in 1991, Mia Donovan examines Patrick’s life and techniques and begins to unravel his notorious legacy. Sunday, June 5, 2:00pm
- “Booger Red” by Berndt Mader and Johnny McAllister is a hybrid documentary/narrative about a veteran reporter who searches for the truth behind the largest purported child sex ring in Texas history. On his journey through the bowels of East Texas, he’s forced to confront his own history with abuse while he discovers that the allegations at the root of his investigation might have never happened. Mixing interviews with and acting from the actual defendants interwoven with a fictional narrative, The Austin Chronicle wrote “Booger Red falls somewhere between Errol Morris’s The Thin Blue Line and Call Northside 777’s cynicism”. Sunday, June 5, 4:00 pm.

2016 Shorts Programs

Blending experimental, documentary, traditional, and nontraditional narratives, the festival’s acclaimed shorts programming features an impressive lineup featuring nearly one hundred films from over twenty different countries. The programs include new work from festival favorites such as Ben Russell, Jennifer Reeder, Lori Felker James N. Kienitz Wilkins, Robert Todd, Jon Rafman, Anja Dornieden & Juan David González Monroy, Sasha Litvintseva, Beatrice Gibson, Laura Kranik, Daichi Saïto, Kevin Jerome Everson as well work by many others making their first appearance at the festival.

Complete festival schedule and links to press screeners available [here](#).

Returning for its fourth year at the lovingly restored Logan Theatre, CUFF has established itself as the premier venue for emerging independent filmmakers. From high camp to formal experimentation, CUFF programs films that wildly exceed expectations while breaking the boundaries of genres – films made with passion, obsession and drive. Moviemaker Magazine named CUFF one of the “coolest underground/experimental film festivals in the world” and a look at this year’s exciting lineup will make it clear why.

CUFF Details:

Dates: June 1-5, 2015

Location: Logan Theater, 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60647. www.thelogantheatre.com

Tickets: \$20 for opening night (includes admission to after party at Elastic Arts), \$10 per program. Festival passes also available for \$80, which grants admission to all screenings and events. Tickets available at www.universe.com/cuffchicago

More information at www.cuff.org

ABOUT THE CHICAGO UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its twenty-third year, the Chicago Underground Film Festival, presented by IFP Chicago, is dedicated to the work of film and video makers with defiantly independent visions. Widely recognized as a world-class event, the festival showcases the best in new American and international cinema and providing the movie-loving public with access to some of the most critically acclaimed filmmakers and emerging talent from around the world. Our mission is to promote films and videos that dissent radically in form, technique, or content from the “indie” mainstream and to present adventurous works that challenge and transcend commercial and audience expectations. 25 programs comprised of narrative, documentary and experimental features, shorts, and music videos, representing more than 20 countries, make up the main body of the festival, along with nightly parties and live music, discussions and other networking and community building events. To learn more about the festival visit www.cuff.org, on Facebook at ChicagoUndergroundFilmFestival and Twitter @CUFF_Chicago

ABOUT IFP CHICAGO

IFP/Chicago is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to the idea that independent film is an important art form and a powerful voice in our society. We provide information, community, education and professional development opportunities for independent filmmakers, industry professionals and independent film enthusiasts. We encourage quality and diversity in independent production and assist filmmakers at all levels of experience in realizing their unique vision. To find out about upcoming programs & events, or to sign up for the IFPChicago newsletter visit www.ifpchicago.org. Find IFP Chicago on Facebook IFP-Chicago and Twitter @IFPCHICAGO.

Opening Night!

Wednesday, June 1 8:00pm

Tony Conrad: Completely In Present

Lacrimal Groove

MV Carbon
4 min., video, 2015, USA

“An isolated human calls upon the insects to interpret a message sent through the circuitry of a Buchla. Communication gaps are patched between the species as the frequencies surpass the limitations of language.” MC

Tony Conrad: Completely In Present

Tyler Hubby
98 min., video, 2016, USA

“Acclaimed editor Tyler Hubby directs the first feature documentary about the iconoclastic American multimedia artist Tony Conrad, whose has influenced artists ranging from the Velvet Underground to the Yes Men. The film follows Tony Conrad’s strange and uncompromising 50 year artistic path through experimental film, music, video, public television and education and his unlikely resurgence as a noteworthy composer and performer. Conrad’s numerous works, interwoven with intimate footage shot over the last twenty years, reveal a remarkable, inspiring, creative life.” TH

Thursday, June 2 6:30pm

Shorts 1: Two of Wands

Super-Unit

Teresa Czepiec

20 min., video, 2015, Poland

“Superjednostka (Polish for Superunit) is a huge block of flats designed as a housing machine. Up to three thousand people can live on 15 floors of the building. The lifts only stop every three floors so the residents must go through a maze of corridors and stairs in order to get to their flats. The main characters of the documentary are people living in Superjednostka and going through important moments of their lives there. This is where their emotions throb, their expectations engender, and their desires come true... or not. 762 flat doors and 762 stories. We are opening only a few of them.” TC

The Anatomical Universe

Damon Mohl

15 min., video, 2015, USA

“Revolving simply around the friendship between a janitor and a security guard, The Anatomical Universe examines the life of a man named Edward Hillcot. Charles Dickens said it best, “A wonderful fact to reflect upon, that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other.” DM

Heavy Fog Tonight

Nathan Reich

19 min., video, 2015, USA

”Conrad Milster, 80, chief engineer since 1967 at New York City's oldest running steam driven power plant, prepares for his last annual steam whistle show. Conrad will have to face the daily struggles of preserving an era long forgotten while adapting to the digital world around him.” NR

Irradiant Field

Laura Kranik

10 min., video, 2016, USA

“Mirroring sky and earth, solitary mechanical sentinels follow the sun, while metal grids rain in a parched California landscape. Irradiant Field is a visual and sonic portrait at the intersection of nature and machine - a desert mirage of light, wind, water, and metallic reflection.” LK

Another City

Lan Pham Ngoc

25 min, video, 2016, Viet Nam

"A drenched middle-aged woman taking off her wig, gazing out of the glass windows. A young man bursting into tears in a karaoke room surrounded by tropical landscape wallpaper. A young woman trying to wipe a smear off of the wedding dress she's wearing. Each predicament is woven seamlessly together by a familiar Asian refrain..." LPN

Thursday, June 2 7:00pm

THE SKY TREMBLES...

Engram of Returning

Daichi Saiito

19 min., 35mm, 2015, Canada

"Accompanied by an extraordinary improvisational score by Montreal-based musician Jason Sharp, Daichi Saiito's *Engram of Returning* is an epic 35mm CinemaScope metaphysical travelogue that reveals a supernal world which pulses and flickers with formal patterns and deep hues." - Andr ea Picard

THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS

Ben Rivers

98 min., 35mm, 2015, UK

"At the heart of the film's multiple narratives is an adaptation of A Distant Episode, the savage short story set in Morocco by American author Paul Bowles, first published in 1947. Moving between documentary, fiction and fable, THE SKY TREMBLES AND THE EARTH IS AFRAID AND THE TWO EYES ARE NOT BROTHERS observes its protagonist, filmmaker Oliver Laxe, directing his own film *Las Mimosas* in Morocco, only to walk off set and into Rivers' narrative. Shot against the staggering beauty of the Moroccan landscape, from the rugged terrain of the Atlas Mountains to the stark and surreal emptiness of the Sahara, with its encroaching sands and abandoned film sets, Laxe is drawn into a hallucinatory and perilous adventure of cruelty and madness to form a multi-layered excavation into the illusion of cinema itself." BR

Thursday, June 2 8:30pm

The Magician: Tony Conrad

The Flicker

30 min., 16mm, 1966, USA

Conrad's seminal experimental film, exploits the strobing effect of the cinematic image. Considered a cornerstone of structural filmmaking.

Landscape Is a Wish for Motion

4 min., video, 2003/2011, USA

A spoken piece with film projection.

Weak Bodies and Strong Wills

5 min., 16mm on video, 1986, USA

A political lament for a dying economy. The anonymous found footage includes a cameo appearance by Harry Truman.

Beholden to Victory (excerpt)

7 min., Super-8 on video 1980, USA , With Mike Kelley, Tony Oursler, and others.

“An excerpt of the full-length super-8 film *Hail the Fallen*. It is a ‘war movie’ genre picture... The film was not directed in the traditional sense. There was no script. The actors were required to play as in a game – to follow certain rules, or to be more precise, to follow certain restrictions. They were told only what they were NOT ALLOWED TO DO. Thus the film consists of a series of scenes, of examples of correct behavior.” - Mike Kelley

In Line

7 min., video, 1985, USA

Word, trance, and command are installed as valences of artistic license, revealed as figures of parental authority.

Palace of Error

9 min., 16mm on video, 1982/2011, USA

A theoretical discourse involving three participants, enacted in silhouette. Tony Conrad with Keith Sanborn and Barbara Broughel.

I’ve Never Been...

4 min., video, 2003/2011, USA

An original song with guitar and special effects. Editing and additional guitar: Zeljko McMullen

Teddy Tells Jokes

7 min., video, 1980, USA

Straight and Narrow

10 min., 16mm on video, 1970, USA (produced with Beverly Grant Conrad, music from Terry Riley and John Cale’s recording “Church of Anthrax”)

“An extension of the flicker film phenomenon, *Straight and Narrow* is a study in subjective color and visual rhythm... (it) uses the flicker phenomenon not as an end in itself, but as an effectuator of other related phenomena.” - Filmmakers Cooperative

Thursday, June 2 9:00pm

The Love Witch

The Love Witch

Anna Biller

120 min., 35mm, 2015, USA

"Elaine, a beautiful young witch, is determined to find a man to love her. In her gothic Victorian apartment she makes spells and potions, and then picks up men and seduces them. However her spells work too well, and she ends up with a string of hapless victims. When she finally meets the man of her dreams, her desperation to be loved will drive her to the brink of insanity and murder. With a visual style that pays tribute to Technicolor thrillers of the '60s, The Love Witch explores female fantasy and the repercussions of pathological narcissism." AB

Friday, June 3 6:30pm

Shorts 2: The Tower

Terrestrial

Calum Walter

11 min., video, 2015, USA

"The observations of an object in motion: A mobile device captures the trajectories of objects liberated from and bound to land, against a backdrop of uniquely human dissonance. Terrestrial attempts to articulate a desire to transcend bodily limits with electronics and machines, while acknowledging an unavoidable level of dysfunction. The film was inspired by an incident in 2014 where a Blue Line train in Chicago failed to stop at its final destination, the O'Hare airport, and eventually came to a stop halfway up the escalator at the airport's entrance. Terrestrial re-imagines this accident as an earthbound machine's failed takeoff." CW

A Disaster Forever

Michael Gitlin

16 min., video, 2015, USA

"Derived from a 25-year old cassette tape, transcribed and re-enacted on a surround recording stage, A Disaster Forever positions us on the unfamiliar terrain of a highly idiosyncratic cosmology. ." MG

Lighthouse

Paul Clipson

5 min., 16mm, 2015, USA

"A collage of city surfaces, layers and levels of space, meant to blur with and contrast to the guitar-drone soundtrack of Kong Midas Sound and Fennesz. Filmed in New York, San Francisco and Hong Kong." PC

Must See

Nellie Kluz

13 min., video, 2016, USA

"All over America, rain or shine, pilgrims journey together." NK

Light Licks: Pardes/Night time Is The Right Time

Saul Levine

4 min., 16mm, 2014, USA

"LIGHT LICKS are ecstatic flicker films inspired by jazz and mystic visionary practice. PARDES ancient Persian for walled garden. In Hebrew and Aramaic - paradise, heaven, the garden of Eden, the peak or terminus of ecstatic visionary, trance flight NIGHT TIME IS THE RIGHT TIME moon play light garden be loved" SL

An Appearance of Fortitude

Rajee Samarasinghe

5 min., video, 2015, USA/Sri Lanka

"Part of an ongoing series of American psychogeographies, this particular piece investigates the idea of "remoteness," as two people establish a curious rapport in a sleepy Southern Californian suburb." RS

Ears, Nose and Throat

Kevin Jerome Everson

11 min., 16mm on video, 2016, USA

"During an Ear, Nose and Throat examination Shadeena Brooks recounts a horrible event she eyewitnessed." KJE

Crippled Symmetries

Beatrice Gibson

26 min., video, 2015, UK

"A precocious 11 year old capitalist and his side-kick, an ailing composer, are the two unlikely protagonists of this experimental meditation on money, music and abstraction in post crisis Britain. The work is inspired obliquely by William Gaddis' epic satirical novel JR (1975)." BG

Friday, June 3 7:00pm

Grace Period

Jaaji Approx.

Sky Hopinka

8 min., video, 2015, USA

"Logging and approximating a relationship between audio recordings of my father and videos gathered of the landscapes we have both separately traversed. The initial distance between the logger and the recordings, of recollections and of songs, new and traditional, narrows while the images become an expanding semblance of filial affect." SH

Notes From The Border

Iva Radivojevic

10 min., video, 2015, USA

"The refugee crisis on the borders of Europe during the summer of 2015 through the tale of one man's journey to the continent." IR

Grace Period

KyungMook KIM & Caroline Key
62 min., Video, 2015, South Korea/USA

“Combining documentary with experimental video, Grace Period documents the activities of female sex workers in the Yeongdeungpo red-light district in Seoul, South Korea. Facing constant police crackdowns and the threat of permanent closure following the opening of a massive shopping complex adjacent to their workplaces, the women of Yeongdeungpo band together in protest. Archival footage, mostly shot by the women themselves, shows their collective efforts as they organize with other sex workers from brothels across the country. In creative and daring acts of resistance, they launch a series of demonstrations that trace a lineage to Korea’s democratic union movements of the 1980s-- denouncing the government and corporate interests, demanding decriminalization, and declaring their rights as “ KK, CK

Friday, June 3 8:30pm

Shorts 3: Three of Cups

REGAL

Karissa Hahn
2 min., 16mm, 2015, USA

“from: film (theater) to > youtube (home) > to film (theater) torrented/pirated (digital) images as found footage....printed from a household printer onto 16mm clear film.... such as the loading dial, REGAL aims to circulate and find its way back to the screen. Take this proxy and see that the ghost has become tangible. informed largely by: Hito Steyerl's "In Defense of the Poor Image".” KH

Savasana

Brandon Daley
10 min., video, 2015, USA

“A man in the midst of a midlife crisis attempts to sooth his existential concerns by practicing the age old art of yoga.” BD

From beginings to begining

Simon Quéheillard
10 min., video, 2015, France

4'33" 4:3

Michael Wawzenek
5 min., video, 2015, USA

“After John Cage” MW

Immortal Cats #1

Scott Fitzpatrick
1 min., video, 2015, Canada

“What is your greatest ambition in life? Laser-printed onto recycled 35mm film in 2015.” SF

Rabbit Season Duck Season

Michael Bell-Smith

5 min., video, 2014, USA

“In Rabbit Season, Duck Season, a scene from the 1951 Warner Bros. cartoon “Rabbit Fire” is retold as an allegory for the present day. The cartoon’s iconic encounter between the hunter, the rabbit, and the duck frames a web of tightly constructed sequences that move across various forms of video, including traditional animation, live action, and 3-D animation. A loose essay film, the video adopts a variety of tones and genres to touch upon themes of resistance, taste, the construction of meaning, and the exhaustion of choice” MB

Discontinuity

Lori Felker

16 min., video, 2016, USA

“Discontinuity highlights the unexpected fissures that can form between us, including the things that can fall in and get lost. When Tabitha returns “home” after a separation from her boyfriend, Stephen, what they’ve been missing becomes opaquely clear and who they’re becoming makes it hard for them to see each other. Their disconnections are mirrored in the film’s approach to editing, its confusion of time and space, and a free-wheelin’ clowder of cats.” LF

Chums From Across the Void

Jim Finn

17 min., video, 2015, USA

“Little Radek, the step-dancing Bolshevik; Machera, the Andean Robin Hood, and Maria Spiridonova, the Russian socialist assassin are your guides for Past Leftist Life Regression therapy. In this third Inner Trotsky Child video, narrator Lois Severin— a former Trotskyite turned suburban housewife—attempts to radicalize the personal fulfillment and self-help scene. Like the Christian fundamentalist activists in the 1970’s who prepared the way for the Reagan Revolution, the Inner Trotsky Child movement was a way to cope “ JF

Bev

Samy Burch & Alex Mechanik

26 min., video, 2015, USA

“The son of a serial killer goes to a trust workshop in Tampa, has nightmares.” SB,AM

Friday, June 3 9:00pm

Director's Commentary: Terror of Frankenstein

Director's Commentary: Terror of Frankenstein

Tim Kirk

92 min., video, 2015, USA

“*Director's Commentary: Terror of Frankenstein* is an exercise in extreme metafictional tragicomedy. Presented as the commentary track of a cynically rushed repressing of a forgotten (but 100% genuine) Frankenstein film's DVD (in lieu of unspecified 'recent events'), this project transforms the film into an entirely new, all too human horror story. Featuring Clu Gulager as Gavin Merrill, director of the 1977 original

who is happily exploiting the unmentioned tragedy linked to the film, the recording session becomes both a mystery and its own sort of Frankenstein story as he clashes with 'Terror of Frankenstein's' screenwriter (Zack Norman) and, ultimately, its star (Leon Vitali from Stanley Kubrick's Eyes Wide Shut and Barry Lyndon, playing himself.) "Director's Commentary: Terror of Frankenstein" is Mystery Science Theater 3000 by way of Sartre, an icy satire of the monsters on screen, behind the camera, and in the audience.." TK

Saturday, June 4 2:00pm

Shorts 4: Six of Swords

The Puddle

Serdar Yilmaz

10 min., video, 2015, Turkey

"A man in the flea market walks while checking walls covered with old posters and counters full of stuff with prying eyes. Due to the incarnating object that he sees on one of the counters just carries him away into another reality." SY

On Surgery

Russell Sheaffer & Aaron Michael Smith

8 min., Video, 2015, USA

"On Surgery attempts to replicate the physical process of bone surgery on the body of 16mm film stock. By wetting raw, unprocessed 16mm color negative film, separating out the photosensitive emulsion from the base of the film using a medical scalpel, and then reapplying the layers, the only images visible are representative of the scars left on the film. The music for the film is taken entirely from the sound of the projection of the 16mm film and from a reading of one of Sheaffer's post-surgical diary entries. " RS

Vintage Print

Sigfried A Fruhauf

13 min., Video, 2016, Austria

"An old photograph forms the starting point of my exploration. The picture must have been taken towards the end of the 19th century, at a time when film had just been invented and pictures were only starting to move. Its origins date back to a phase of transition between the still and the moving image. By creating a wide variety of duplications of a single image i am trying to translate it into the temporal and contemporary nature of film." SF

Conversations With The Dead: Birth Caul Bardo

Irving Gamboa

4 min., 16mm on video, 2016, USA

"A chemically treated and rust bathed hallucinatory vision of the Tibetan Bardos. A film about the cyclical rhythms of dream and myth: A subterranean rorschach tapestry of bardo-themed symbols." IG

The Betrayal

Susan Young

6 min., video, 2015, UK

"A woman trusts her psychiatrist, but becomes enmeshed in his prescriptive web. At its dark heart, The Betrayal is a twisted, deadly love affair." SY

The Immortal Jellyfish

Colin West McDonald
9 min., video, 2015, USA

"After misreading her clock, Claire goes on an existential crusade to discover the truth behind time itself."
CM

In the Sky of your Thoughts what the Clouds Are

Craig Webster
15 min., video, 2015, USA

"A spandex-clad wanderer is led by a boy into a strange world." CW

Bang Utot

Fabio Scacchioli & Vincenzo Core
26 min., video, 2016, USA

"A diaphanous shadowed woman rests beyond the confine of thousand liquefied nights, writes her secret on a piece of paper and, speechless, asks the uncovered sky if it's true what they say, that beyond the tides live creatures made out of dreams. Is it a dream the dream that I see? Is it a sound the sound that I hear? The image, seeing itself in the mirror, says: it is not that what I show you that matters, but what I conceal, what vanishes beyond the boundary of the visible." FS,VC

Saturday, June 4 3:00pm

Shorts 5: Seven of Wands

Champion

Andrés Passoni
18 min., video, 2015, Argentina

"Every Sunday greyhound fans take their passion to the dog tracks. The spectators gather attracted by big bets, they watch the animals with the program in hand and choose their favorites to bet on them a sum of money hoping to win the prize with the greyhound champion." AP

Snowbirds

Lorenzo Gattorna
9 min., Video, 2015, USA

"The onset of northern winter transitions towards the solace of southern latitudes. A dense nostalgia nestles into the former as a peculiar splendor surfaces upon the latter. However, what remains constant is a forecast for the near future. A certain unease surrounds eventual passersby and the establishment of permanence."
LG

Wayward Fronds

Fern Silva

13 min., 16mm on Video, 2014, USA

"Mermaids flip a tale of twin detriments, domiciles cradle morph invaders, crocodile trails swallow two-legged twigs in a fecund mash of nature's outlaws... down in the Everglades. Wayward Fronds references a series of historical events that helped shape the Florida Everglades today, while fictionalizing its geological future and its effects on both native and exotic inhabitants. Guided by recent talks amongst legislature to finally disperse billions of dollars in restoration funds, events in this film unfold by giving way to a future eco-flourished Everglades. Nature begins to take over, engulfs and tames civilization after centuries of attack, and even guides it into its mysterious aqueous depths, forcing humans to adapt and evolve to its surroundings." FS

Baba Dana Talks To The Wolves

Ralitsa Doncheva

11 min., 16mm on Video, 2015, USA

"*Baba Dana Talks To The Wolves* is an intimate, impressionistic portrait of Baba Dana, an 85 year-old Bulgarian woman who has chosen to spend her life in the mountains, away from people and cities. She lives in one of the oldest monasteries in Bulgaria, Zelenikovsky Monastery. Once known as a favorite place of repose for Bulgaria's last Tzar, the place is now known as Baba Dana's home. There are no wolves in this film. There are no wolves left in Bulgaria." RD

Solitary Acts #6

Nazli Dincel

11 min., 16mm, 2015, USA

"This is a feminist critique of the Oedipal complex. It is not the male child's desire to have sexual relations with the mother. It is the mother's desire to be sexually attracted to child-like men. The filmmaker recounts an abortion she had in 2009. If she had the child, he would have turned six this year, in 2015. The aborted child survives and becomes her lover. The filmmaker films her subject in a private act, complicating what could be considered a solitary act. There are three endings to the film. First is a recount of the child's earliest sexual memory, similar to the filmmaker's, the text is hammered on the film with letter punches. Second is a letter written to the filmmaker from her subject, is read by the filmmaker, the image is punched out with a leather puncher and carefully replaced into blackness not to lose motion. A pop song from 2009 is used, the one the filmmaker heard while driving in the taxi from her abortion.. The film concludes by a letter written to the subject by the filmmaker. In this third part the audio is broken apart and the letter is reversed, mimicking the reverse masturbation(the image)." ND

JUS SOLI

somebody nobody

16 min., video, 2015, UK

"JUS SOLI opens up a discourse on the Black British experience; interrupting the emotional transition between generations and questioning what it means to be British" somebody nobody

First Time

Steven Summers

7 min., video, 2015, USA

“A meditation on VHS tapes and the act of losing one's virginity.” SS

I Remember Nothing

Zia Anger

18 min., video, 2015, USA

“A student, unaware that she is epileptic, tries to get through another day. The film is structured in five sections, after the phases of a seizure.” ZA

Saturday, June 4 4:00pm

Focus on Infinity

Lullaby Optic

Steve Woods

8 min., Video, 2015, USA

“An abstract work generated by moving lights through multiple video feedback loops, resulting in a catalog of transient electronic forms. Captured in-camera, with no additional graphics or color enhancement. Scored with sounds from the NASA archives, and also with recordings of circuit-bent toys.” SW

The Known Universe

Lisa McCarty

4 min., Video, 2015, USA

“The Known Universe is comprised of every publicly available image captured by the Hubble Telescope.” LM

Focus on Infinity

Joerg Burger

80 min., Video, 2014, Austria

“The question concerning the origin of our cosmos and our existence has moved humanity for thousands of years. Where do we come from, what are we and where do we go? Looking for answers to these questions, scientists dig deep into the dimensions of our thoughts – to the limits of our imagination. Mathematics and Physics reached a certain degree of abstraction, not absolutely comprehensible for laypersons. □What is keeping the innermost of the world together – creation or evolution?□ Theories and conclusions of natural science make you think about the purpose of life. Rational thinking rises to a new challenge: It gets confronted with an intellectual world that only philosophers and theologians seem to have known so far. Conversely, belief needs to deal with questions regarding the scientific background of creation. Enormous telescopes in the desert, supercomputers and gigantic particle accelerators: No effort is too much to satisfy the thirst for knowledge of human beings – to finally understand the secret of infinity. Focus on Infinity is a cinematic journey to people, machines and places that are connected with the exploration of the origin of our universe and our existence. Allowing an insight into the life and thoughts of scientists, this film will bring up questions, that are important to modern cosmology and quantum physics..” JB

Saturday, June 4 5:00pm

Shorts 6: The Emperor

This Home Is Not Empty

Carol Nguyen

4 min., video, 2014, Canada

“A personal film questioning the 'lies you tell yourself' through a metaphorical lens.” CN

DUST - The wanted life

Giulio Baraldi

21 min., video, 2014, Germany/Italy

“DUST is the adventure of eight physically and mentally disabled persons who have been living in the Cottolengo Institute of Turin for over fifty years. This is neither a script nor an attempt to tell their discomfort. Through a creative artistic path revolving around theatre, these characters in search of an author stage themselves and the life that they would like to lead.” GB

Still At Large

Paul Rooney

11 min., video, 2015, UK

“The work seems to be an essay film about Holy Island, northern England, written and presented by Nicholas Still. But there is another, sinister, voice on the soundtrack, perhaps the voice of 'narrative' itself, submerging everything in it's sadistic tide.” PR

The Splits

Allison Hrabluik

15 min., video, 2015, Canada

“Twenty people gather in a hall to perform an absurd ritual of movement and sound. Scissors clip, a rope whirs, and the sound of a mouth harp interrupts an operatic scream” AH

Traveling with Maxim Gorkiy

Bernd Lützel & Kolja Kunt

111 min., video, 2014, Germany

“As so often, also here it's rather about allusion than description. This also applies to the persons represented. Flat silhouettes of people. Their heads depicted in profile. Faces with no expression, formal gestures. In the background, a little bit of everyday life: The hard, square, stone architecture arises from ochre-colored, brownish, blackish mush of color or mud. A demonstration of the function of the central perspective. An idealized representation of a tropical paradise. Strangely, there's no absurdity in this.” BL,LK

Spawned Seeds

Eugene Sun Park & Sara Zalek

3 min., video, 2015, USA

"Spawned Seeds was a two-day festival at the Chicago Cultural Center in April 2015, featuring Butoh artists from around the world. One of the major developments in 20th-century contemporary dance, Butoh combines dance, theater, improvisation and influences of Japanese traditional performing arts to create a unique art form that is both controversial and universal in its expression. Improvisation and innovation are both themes characterized in contemporary Butoh performance. As art critic Mark Holborn of the New York Times points out, "Butoh is defined by its very evasion of definition." EP

Rock Clay Sand Straw Wood

Adele Horne

11 min., 16mm, 2015, USA/Canada

"A group works together to build a cottage out of inexpensive, local resources in Northern California. The film documents the gestures and materials that are part of the process." AH

Open Hearing

Brian Ashby, John Corbett, & Terri Kapsalis

10 min., video, 2015, USA

"A dog is rescued from the railroad tracks. Citizens have their say while councilmen watch. Which is more precarious? Will somebody please do something? A collaborative meditation on the tensions between image, sound, and word that journeys beyond the human in the circus of politics. Filmed at Chicago City Hall, 2013-2015. Additional footage from public meetings of the Chicago Board of Education." BA

Saturday, June 4 6:00pm

Excursions

Old Friends

Bruce Bundy

11 min., video, 2015, USA

"Kat and Arthur are married, Clara and Nicholas are too, and they all share a long friendship from their pursuits in higher education. Kat and Arthur have left the academic realm in favor of assuming control of a family-owned funeral parlor, while Clara and Nicholas have gone the route of adjunct professors; all are haunted by their positions. Clara and Nicholas taunt Kat and Arthur for leaving academia while lamenting their own newly onset professorial malaise, and envying their backdoor exit, while Kat and Arthur savor their roles as ejected fools while aching somewhat for the self-satisfying virtues of an academic life. They drink a lot and their strange, kinky, beautiful and tormented dynamics dance them through the course of their evening-long, heady reunion, proving that they are, indeed, old friends" BB

Excursions

Daniel Martinico

80 min., video, 2016, USA

"In the hopes of revitalizing their marriage, a husband and wife retreat to a remote cabin getaway with some longtime friends. Their pleasant interaction quickly assumes a relentless intensity as they push one another, mentally and physically, towards transcendence. This shortcut to enlightenment, however, has unexpected consequences." DM

"*Excursions* is a slow burn that eventually sets your hair on fire. What begins as an idyllic couples getaway for Los Angeles yuppies quickly subverts into an animalistic symphony of oddities that pulls viewers down a rabbit hole, and then collapses the hole behind them." - Josh Mandel, Slamdance

Saturday, June 4 7:00pm

Shorts 7: The Page of Swords

Over&Over

Michael Fleming

8 min., 35mm on video, 2016, The Netherlands

"A 35mm found footage, hand manipulated, analogue collage film. It focuses on how fear and revenge is used in commercial cinema. Suggesting to be in control of our fear of mortality. Decimate what threatens us. In a same way the surface of the film material has been treated: by peeling, scalping, cutting, burning and destroying the image." MF

Body Contours

Kristin Reeves

5 min., video, 2015, USA

"Make movies in your mind, feel the soundtrack, and drift away from your body for the win. Produced through a media art residency at Signal Culture using real-time analog video processing tools." KR

16mm Sound Film

Aaron Kutnick

2 min., 16mm on video, 2014, USA

"The origins of film scratches." AK

Actual Case History

Tony Gault & Elizabeth Henry

9 min., video, 2015, USA

"Rotoscope animation reshapes a film into an examination of "the vague, indefinite fears which keep growing in our minds." TG,EH

Odessa Crash Test (Notes on Film 09)

Norbert Pfaffenbichler

6 min., video, 2014, Austria

One of the most iconic moments in the history of film is reimagined with smashing success.

6500

Lisa Truttmann

9 min., video, 2015, Austria

"A video essay on the relativity of words, questioning the application of absolute values in an argument, visualized through a play on colors, their spaces, and their subjective perception. Quotes from Ludwig Wittgenstein's "Remarks on Colour" emphasize this rhythmic flickering and slightly absurd conversation between colour and language." LT

B-Roll With Andre

James N. Kienitz Wilkins
19 min., video, 2015, USA

"An anonymous and mediated testimonial about one man's dangerous dream." JW

Blops

John Klacsmann
3 min., 16mm, 2014, USA

"BLOPBLOPBLOPBLOPBLOPBLOPPOLBPOLBPOLBBLOPBLOPBLOPBLOPBLOPBLOP.....an 'anxious animation'" JK

Stop

Matt O'Connell & Lydia Janbay
28 min., video, 2014, USA

"Summer 1995. A boy receives his first video camera for his 13th birthday. What starts as a harmless home movie evolves into something much more alarming once he begins obsessively documenting his stepsister's self-destructive behavior. Using personal crises as props for his narrative, the boy's invasive lens only intensifies family conflict." MC,LJ

Saturday, June 4 8:00pm

Luther Price

Clown

Luther Price
30 min., Super-8 on video, 1991/2002, USA

A

Luther Price
60 min., 16mm on Video, 1995, USA

Digital restorations of "Clown" and "A" two early works by Luther Price. A stand out figure of the contemporary avant-garde, Luther Price's images of beautiful decay live and die in an instant onscreen, evoking the fragile, ephemeral nature of both life and cinema itself. Alternately iconoclastic and nostalgic, his films confront the specters of death, sex, and childhood trauma – Price's early Super 8mm films offer a window into his singularly captivating psyche. In these small gauge works he inhabits alter egos, the nightmarish harlequin of "Clown" (1992) and the unhinged, Joan Crawford-esque drunk in the suicide melodrama A (1995) these painfully personal works took a psychic toll and led to him working with 16mm found footage in the early 2000s as "a way," Price has written, "for me to still talk about issues...but not destroy me."

Saturday, June 4 9:00pm

Pastor Paul

He Who Eats Children

Ben Russell

26min., video, 2016, USA

“...and we Antilleans, we know only too well that – as they say in the islands – the black man has a fear of blue eyes.” - Franz Fanon, *Black Skin White Masks*

Pastor Paul

Jules Bartkowski

70 min., video, 2015, Ghana/USA, World Premiere

“*Pastor Paul* follows the story of Benjamin, a mathematician and tourist in West Africa who is on a mission to discover the hidden formulas in the rhythms of African drumming. Early on in his travels he is shanghaied by a famous Nollywood actor named Kubolor (Wanlov the Kubolor) into playing the ghost of a white missionary (called Pastor Paul) in a Nollywood film, directed by the eccentric and formidable Funsho Ogundipe (Himself). During the shoot Benjamin experiences an actual spirit possession, speaking in tongues and seizure-like spasms, horrifying the crew and inadvertently giving the director exactly what he was looking for. Benjamin attempts to return to his research, seeking out drummers in remote villages, until his possession reoccurs. From that point on, his life turns into a Nollywood film as he pursues a remedy for this affliction. In the end Benjamin attends the premiere of the Nollywood film where it all began.” JB

Saturday, June 4 10:00pm

Shorts 8: Wheel of Fortune Reversed

Memento Mori

Ali Aschman

4 min., Video, 2014, USA

“An old briefcase opens to reveal the lives of objects, in this reflection on the ravages of time and the tendency of all things towards death and disappearance..” AA

Crush

Christopher McKee

11 min., Video, 2015, USA

“A romantic encounter in the not-so-normal life of a girl named Sandra. A love letter to the films of David Cronenberg and Wes Anderson, this dark comedy explores the themes of young love, parental guidance, obsession, and pleasure” CM

The Puppet Man

Jacqueline Castel

9 min., Video, 2015, USA

“A supernatural killer stalks a young woman and her friends in a seedy, neon-lit dive bar in this short film featuring horror legend John Carpenter.” JC

Disco Inferno

Alice Waddington

12 min., Video, 2015, Spain

“A weary hell minion is on a mission to rescue her boss, who has entrenched herself on a palace surrounded by a bunch of lost souls. But the Devil is not willing to return to her daily routine.”AW

Gorgeous Vortex

Todd Lincoln

15 min., Video, 2015, USA

“A high fashion horror film about a woman who is haunted by her past and on the run from a secret organization.” TL

Sticky Drama

Jon Rafman and Daniel Lopatin

11 min., Video, 2015, USA

“Featuring a cast of over 35 children and developed in collaboration with Daniel Lopatin (a.k.a. Oneohtrix Point Never), the video brings to life a fantastical world in which characters are on a quest, battling for dominance and in a race against time to archive past histories. Inspired by the costumes, staging and extended improvised narratives of Live Action Roleplay (LARP), the video reflects the vivid, often violent world of children’s imaginations and games, as well as extending ongoing investigation into the nature of memory and the horror of data loss.” JR

Maggie's Problem

Molly Hewitt

30 min., Video, 2014, USA

“From the dark depths of the unknown comes a creature which baffles science and could terrorize the world. But what happens when she is unable to contain her sinister desires? Maggie has a problem and it is a very big problem indeed!” -MH

Sunday, June 5 2:00pm

Deprogrammed

The Ladies

Tyler Zoanni

13 min., Video, 2015, USA

“For 50 years, a group of Ukrainian women has gathered in New York’s East Village to make dumplings for their church. This observational short offers an evocative portrait of “the ladies” and the work, faith, gossip, and humor that brings them together.” - TZ

Deprogrammed

Mia Donovan

84 min., Video, 2015, Canada, US Premiere

"Deprogrammed is a feature-documentary about the rise of Ted 'Black Lightning' Patrick's deprogramming technique and anti-cult crusade. Deprogramming, as a form of cult intervention, started in 1971 and quickly snowballed into a vast underground movement composed of concerned parents, ex-cultist-turned-deprogrammers and some sympathetic law-enforcers whose mission was to physically and mentally remove individuals from groups referred to as 'cults'. Inspired by her stepbrother's deprogramming by Patrick in 1991, Mia Donovan meets the infamous 'Father of Deprogramming' himself and begins to unravel his notorious legacy." MD

Sunday, June 5 3:00pm

Shorts 9: The Hierophant

Anthem

Robert Todd

3 min., Video, 2015, USA

"Troubled times call for troubling measures. We have used our powers to build our House as we have seen fit, perfectly hollow, reflecting nothing of consequence. The end is near, and we have ushered it in." RT

Of Birth and Brittle Teeth

Marinah Janello

6 min., Video, 2015, USA/Spain

"Of Birth and Brittle Teeth chronicles the lives of a group of farmers located in central Spain, dedicated to living off the land that they tend. With the use of spoken poetry and documentations of their daily lives, the film encourages the viewer to see the agronomist and their harvest as one." MJ

Infrastructures

Aurèle Ferrier

23 min., Video, 2014, Switzerland

"*Infrastructures* involves a journey through a landscape of infrastructures that are common to an everyday reality of routine. Yet here we find these environments are deserted. This allows attention to focus instead on the design and spatial arrangements of the objects, which become centrally present. ." AF

Anóme

Lena Ditte Nissen

13 min., video, 2014, Germany

"Interweaving documentary images from the two matrilineal tribes of the Moshu (China) and the Kuna (Panama) this film connects alleged female societies from continent to continent. The link between these

two worlds is the filmmaker herself, trying to cope with the otherness of what is seen and the strangeness of the inner experience.” LN

Exile Exotic

Sasha Litvintseva

14 min., video, 2015, UK

“Steeped in elliptical history and historical simulacra, Exile Exotic is set at a hotel that is a replica of the Kremlin. Narrating the exotic beginnings of my mother's and my exile from Russia, the film serves as a platform for us to visit the Kremlin again, albeit by the side of a pool. This film is a pilgrimage. This film comes in waves.” SL

The Masked Monkeys

Anja Dornieden & Juan David González Monroy

30 min., 16mm, 2015, Germany

“The masked arts of Indonesia are thousands of years old. They are commonly referred to as wayang topeng (wayang: shadow or puppet; topeng: mask). It is believed that wayang topeng originated from tribal death rites, where masked dancers were considered the interpreters of the gods. In the lowest rungs of Javanese society a unique manifestation of these masked traditions can be found. Its practitioners are performers, but they are not merely entertainers. Their aim is not simply to amuse. Their ambition is to be respected, to be honored, to be successful. They have embarked on a path they know will lead to a higher state, to an honorable and noble position.” AD, JM

Sunday, June 5 4:00pm

Booger Red

Booger Red

Berndt Mader

95 min., Video, 2015, USA

“Booger Red is a hybrid narrative/documentary film where fictional journalist, Onur Tukul, investigates the true case of the ‘Mineola Swingers Club’ trials. In 2006, seven people were sentenced to life for purportedly running the largest child sex ring in Texas history--inside of a swingers club in Mineola, TX. Onur, portraying a veteran reporter, interviews the actual defendants and lawyers involved in the trials. On his journey through the seedy underbelly of east Texas, Onur is forced to confront his own history with abuse while he discovers that the allegations at the root of his investigation might have never happened..” BM

“Booger Red falls somewhere between Errol Morris’s The Thin Blue Line and Call Northside 777’s cynicism.”
- The Austin Chronicle

Sunday, June 5 5:00pm

Shorts 10: The Hanged Man

Instrument

Anna Kipervaser

6 min., video, 2014, USA

"Connecting time and place through undiscovered empty space between hemispheres." AK

Tiniest Dreams

Randy Sterling Hunter

6 min., 16mm on video, 2014, Austria

"Two cannot become one. This idea threads its way through Tiniest Dreams conceptually, and it is persuasively conveyed by the formal division of the work into two parts as well." -Christian Höller, Six Pack Films

Animal Landscape

Shelley Dodson

4 min., video, 2014, USA

"African animals transform the environment as the relationship between predator and prey unfolds." SD

Toledo, My Father

Carson Parrish

8 min., 16mm on video, 2015, USA

"An underexposed night on the town with my dad and the movie palaces of yore." CP

White Zone

Gaelle Cintre

22 min., 16mm on video, 2015, France

"Four women who are electro-hypersensitive -a rare condition where people find themselves acutely intolerant to electromagnetic fields including cell phone signals and WiFi- are driven deep into the French Alps in search for remote underground shelter. Because of their situation, their way of life has never been photographed. Until now. Zone Blanche is a film without electricity." GC

Shades of Shadow

Amir George

8 min., Video, 2015, USA

"Commissioned by Chicago Film Archives. Shades of Shadows is a collaboration with psychedelic soul band The O'Mys, that delves into spiritual mysticism and ritual sacrifice. Created with all archival footage, the characters in the film seek to manifest a better self." AG

Cup of Stars

Ryan & Tyler Betschart

4 min., 16mm on Video, 2015, USA

"A vivid tableau of tenderness, *Cup of Stars* finds two brothers under a cool night sky, fishing for stars and supernovas. Using dream logic under their own bizarre terms, The Betschart Bros. subtly express through a smearing of light and the telling of folktales, ideas of growing up as siblings in Southern California." RB,TB

Venom And Eternity For Beginners

Aryan Kaganof

20 min., 16mm on Video, 2015, South Africa

"The system's thought, the thought of the social organization of appearance, is itself obscured by the generalized sub-communication which it defends. It does not know that conflict is at the origin of all things in its world. Specialists in the power of the spectacle, an absolute power within its system of language without response, are absolutely corrupted by their experience of contempt and of the success of contempt; and they find their contempt confirmed by their knowledge of the contemptible man, who the spectator really is."AK

The Mess

Peter Burr

14 min., Video, 2016, United States

"A journey to the threshold of a utopian labyrinth. We follow the perspective of Aria End - tasked with cleaning up this feral structure." PB

Sunday, June 5 6:00pm

Shorts 11: High Priestess

All Tru-ish

Mina Mir

3 min., Video, 2015, USA

"A One-sided relationship is depicted through a series of vibrant, absurdist vignettes." MM

Dear Lorde

Duke & Battersby

27 Min., Video, 2015, USA

"Bone collector Maxine Rose, a 14 year old teenage girl, is looking for validation from her heroes, amongst them the primatologist Jane Goodall, bishop Desmond Tutu and the New Zealand teen pop Star Lorde. Offering them a gift of language, Maxine Rose stands for the desire to be visible and understood, not unlike the desire of an artist. We are particularly impressed by the multilayered story telling structure, the freshness of the characterization, and the honest exploration of an artists' vulnerability." –Excerpt from the jury's comment on awarding Dear Lorde the EMAF award.

Pattern For Survival

Kelly Sears

7 Min., Video, 2015, USA

"Pattern for Survival channels the frenetic energy and aggression of security and preparedness. As you read the rest of this manual, keep in mind the need for a survival strategy." KS

Crystal Lake

Jennifer Reeder
20 Min., Video, 2016, USA

“A group of young girls take over a skate park, forming an all-female force field on the half pipe. There on the reclaimed ramp, with no boys around, they are thriving and visible. This is an anthem for young feminists, which presents female friendship as a means to survive adolescence. EVERY GRRRL-SHAPED BREATH IS A BATTLE CRY.” JR

Baghdad, Iowa

Usama Alshaibi
34 Min., Video, 2015, USA

“This liminal landscape, artificial yet grounded in a personal cultural mash-up of memory and pain, is seen through the camera, or the windshield as screen, as an attempt to reach a border between the seen and unseen. The town Baghdad, Iowa, is an imagined place that is transitional and conceptual. It is a place that connects my personal memories and trauma to an artistic space, which in turn allows both fears and desires to be expressed. Baghdad, Iowa is the mask, the shadow and the night stars that sing the sorrow song of death. The traveler is you and the voice you hear is your own. You might be dreaming, so don't wake up until you arrive in Baghdad, Iowa.” UA

Sunday, June 5 7:00pm

Shorts 12: Five of Pentacles

Chorus

John Lewis
15 min., 16mm, 2015, USA

“To the accuser who is the god of this world.” JL

Luminous Echoe

Chelsey Lorae
15 min., video, 2015, USA

“Shot entirely inside a Los Angeles residence, *Luminous Echoes* creates an abstract experience of sights and sounds in a city dwelling.”

All Systems Go

Shannon Lee
5 min., video, 2015, USA

“A pilot destroys a UFO in his memory. Created with colored pencils and videographics, as well as repurposed found footage and sound” SL

Yapi

Nathaniel Draper & Aaron Khandros
9 min., video, 2015, Greece

"Greece is covered in concrete tumors — yapi, half-finished buildings left in permanent limbo, skeletal structures like temples to some obscure future gods. Emerging from their obscurity, the yapia grow to take on a life of their own. The future of their meaning, and their moment, are up for grabs." ND,AK

Gulls at Gibraltar

Stephen Broomer

4 min., 16mm, 2015, Canada

"Seagulls hover and dip on the rocky coastline of Gibraltar Point. Tilting and multiple horizons camouflage the birds, splintering and gathering the lone gull to the flock." SB

Mental Space

Toby Tatum

7 min., video, 1015, UK

"A vision in a dream. Follow a stream of consciousness deep into a world transformed by the shaping spirit of the imagination." TT

Fish Point

Pablo Mazzolo

7 min., 16mm, 2015, Argentina

"The film is an impressionist, kinetic exploration through the natural landscape of Fish Point, the Provincial Nature Reserve on Pelee Island (Ontario, Canadá)." PM

2183 Days

Natasha De Betak

26 min., video, 2015, France/India

"Filmed over a period of five years; An unique cinematic observation of a Holy man who has been on a hunger strike to save the sacred river Ganga. Year after year, his body crumbles and on the 2183rd day he dies. Expressionism and poetry meet to create a sublime journey of an unusual soul." NDB

Sunday, June 5

8:15pm

The Alchemist Cookbook

Prima Materia

Azin Seraj

9 min., video, 2015, USA

"To the alchemists, the crudest base materials concealed a divine spark, a latent, transformative potential obscured within the darkness of matter. Prima Materia draws on the cryptic language of esoteric alchemy to distill, through the use of elemental processes and symbolically charged objects, both the personal experience and psychological phenomenon of surviving trauma." AS

The Alchemist Cookbook

Joel Potroykus

82 min., Video, 2016, USA, Chicago Premiere

“Young outcast Sean has isolated himself in a trailer in the woods, setting out on alchemical pursuits, with his cat Kaspar as his sole companion. Filled with disdain for authority, he’s fled the daily grind and holed up in the wilderness, escaping a society that has no place for him. But when he turns from chemistry to black magic to crack nature’s secret, things go awry and he awakens something far more sinister and dangerous.”
JP