

October-November 2004

From Tugboats to Polar Bears a touring collection of short films by Matt McCormick

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During October and November of 2004, award winning independent filmmaker Matt McCormick will be touring the country presenting "From Tugboats to Polar Bears," a collection of short films he has made over the past five years that is being released on DVD by the Peripheral Produce video label. Matt's work blurs the line between documentary and experimental filmmaking, and fashions abstract and witty observations of contemporary culture and current issues.

The touring program, which roughly mirrors that on the DVD, will feature the premiere of two new films, including *Towlines* (22 min, 2004), an experimental documentary that explores the role of the tugboat in modern society and features an original soundtrack by James Mercer (front-man for the widely popular band The Shins). Also making its debut on the tour will be *Grounded* (5 min, 2004), a cinematic portrait of heavy industry and urban wildlife. Other titles featured in the collection include *American Nutria* (11 min, 2003) which examines the calamitous saga of an imported rodent, *Sincerely, Joe P Bear* (4 min, 1999) which uses found footage from the 1960's to contemplate how polar bears deal with heart-break, and Matt's signature film *The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal* (16 min, 2001), an experimental documentary that makes the observation of how the process of destroying one art form unwittingly creates another.

Matt's work has screened in film festivals, galleries, and D.I.Y. art spaces around the globe, appeared on MTV and the Sundance Channel, and has received positive reviews from the likes of The New York Times and Film Comment magazine. Matt has worked and collaborated with many artists and musicians, including The Shins, Miranda July, The Postal Service, and Calvin Johnson. Matt has had three films screen at the Sundance Film Festival, and has received awards including Best Short Film from the San Francisco International Film Fest, Best Experimental from the New York Underground Film Fest, and Grand Prize from the Media City Film Fest. His film 'The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal' was also named as one of the 'Top 10 Films of 2002' by both The Village Voice and Art Forum magazine.

tour dates:

10-12: University of Syracuse*
10-13: Spark Gallery / Syracuse
10-14: Coolidge Corner Movie Theatre / Boston
10-15: Cable Car Cinema / Providence RI
10-18: Harvard University / Cambridge MA*
10-19: MIT / Boston MA*
10-20: Fly Wheel Art Space / Easthampton MA
10-21: Bard College / NY
10-22: Temple University / Philadelphia PA*
10-23: Small Change / Philadelphia PA
10-26: Cornell University / Ithaca NY
10-27: Ithaca College / Ithaca NY*
10-28: Synthetic Zero / New York
10-29: Pratt University / Brooklyn NY*
10-30: Hallwalls Contemporary Art Space/ Buffalo NY
11-1: Alfred University / Alfred NY
11-3: GOPA Gallery / Cleveland OH
11-4: The Ice Factory / Chicago IL
11-5: Chicago Art Institute / Chicago IL*
11-6: Northwestern University / Evanston IL
11-7: Bamboo Theatre/ Milwaukee
11-8: University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*
11-11: University of Wisconsin-Madison
11-13: University of Iowa / Iowa City
11-16: University of Montana - Bozeman
(* students only/not open to the public)

recent press for Matt and his films:

"In the last few years, Matt McCormick has emerged as one of our strongest independent filmmakers, doing work that's both ingenuous and humorously absurd..."

Fred Camper - Chicago Reader

"Portland filmmaker Matt McCormick's experimental-doc The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal is one of the finest short films of any kind I've seen in a long time..."

Ed Halter -The New York Press

"The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal, a send-up of art criticism and urban planning, is a seemingly off-handed but exceptionally intelligent foray into American vernacular art."

Amy Taubin - The Village Voice

Films in the program include:

Towlines

22 minutes - 16mm on video - 2004

An experimental documentary about tugboats (or perhaps a children's movie made for adults). Features original music by James Mercer of The Shins

AMERICAN NUTRIA

11 minutes - video - 2003

Nutria are a large, odd looking rodent from Argentina, that 60 years after their introduction to North America, appear to be on track to eating the entire continent. Narrated by Calvin Johnson, original music by The Postal Service.

The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal

16 minutes 16mm -or- video 2001

a short documentary that proves it is no coincidence that funding for "anti-graffiti" campaigns often outweigh funding for the arts. Narrated by Miranda July.

Grounded

5 minutes - 16mm on video - 2004

a portrait of heavy industry and urban wildlife.

Going to the Ocean

8 minutes - 16mm - 2001

an abstract meditation on the uses of water. night vision video and found kodachrome-improvised soundtrack: trains/static/melodeon.

The Vyrotonin Decision

7 minutes - 16mm - 1999

a postmodern disaster epic featuring appropriated segments of 36 television commercials from 1971.

Sincerely, Joe P. Bear

4 minutes - 16mm - 1999

appropriated news clips from the 1960's combine with hand-painted film to tackle the momentous issue of how polar bears cope with heartbreak and rejection.

Past and Pending

5 minutes - music video - 2003

A music video for The Shins.

For more information about Matt's films, down-loadable print stills, and tour schedules and updates, please visit www.rodeofilmco.com
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