

MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

The 13th Annual MadCat Women's International Film Festival Kicks off September 16 at El Rio with World Premieres, Live Musical Accompaniment, and Directors in Person Screening the best films by women directors from around the world

For Immediate Release: (415) 517-0062;
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www.madcatfilmfestival.org

When: September 16, 2009, Doors open at 6:30pm and films start at 8:30 pm Rain or Shine. Tickets at the door CASH only \$8-\$20 Sliding scale

Where: El Rio, 3158 Mission Street at Precita Street in San Francisco

Join MadCat for a one-night only event at San Francisco's El Rio, as it is transformed into an open-air movie palace under the stars. Watch the best in women's avant-garde cinema with live music by returning bands Tartufi and Silian Rail, your musical guides to the latest films by the Bay Area's own film artists as well as by women media makers from around the world.

On September 16th at El Rio, MadCat presents a special sneak-peak of some of the films that will screen as part of the 13th Annual MadCat Women's International Touring Festival. In the past, the MadCat Tour extended the life of the films featured at the San Francisco event. This year, the Touring Festival takes a larger complement of films on the road, sharing more MadCat films around the country. Still deep in the selection process culling through hundreds of superb submissions, we couldn't wait to share some choice cinematic treats. After the San Francisco kick-off, MadCat takes the entire Festival lineup around the country to

universities, art houses, museums, and microcinemas in cities such as Houston, Buffalo, Tallahassee, Boston, Durham, and many others.

The exciting program at El Rio includes a 3D look at a slice of San Francisco history complete with an original score written by Stormy Knight, world premieres by Kerry Laitala and Samara Halperin, a widescreen 16mm film, an ode to Coney Island's Astroland, and live musical accompaniment provided by local bands Silian Rail and Tartufi — all under the cover of the night sky.

“These filmmakers push the boundaries of storytelling and dazzle the eyes with their amazing use of the media,” says Curator and Executive Director Ariella Ben-Dov.

The MadCat Women's International Film Festival is the longest running experimental women's film festival in the United States. Known for its inventive programming of avant-garde works, lush experimental films, thought-provoking documentaries, innovative animation, and personal essay films, MadCat sets itself apart from other women's film festivals by showcasing films that challenge traditional uses of sound and image and explore notions of visual storytelling.

Through Ben-Dov's curatorial vision, the MadCat Film Festival has grown tremendously over the years in both scope and size. MadCat's first screenings took place at the Roxie Cinema in San Francisco over a three-day period. Today, MadCat brings 12 programs and more than 20 films to venues across the country. The Festival will be back in the Bay Area at Artists' Television Access later this year with more programs from the 13th Annual MadCat Women's International Film Festival Tour.

MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

Sneak-peak El Rio screening of the 13th Annual MadCat Women's International Film Festival

Doors open 6:30 pm and movies start 8:30 pm Rain or Shine

Tickets at the door in CASH only \$8–\$20 Sliding Scale

3158 Mission Street at Precita (must be 21 or older)

Live music by Tartufi and Silian Rail

MadCat Highlights

Astroland Samara Halperin

2009 • 3:10 min • Color • Mini-DV • Filmmaker in Person • World Premiere

Take a ride through pre-demolition Astroland in this free-wheeling celebration of the fabled Coney Island amusement park. Shot on glorious 16mm color film. Original score written by Stormy Knight.

The Horses. They Came Harriette Yahr

1990 • 4 min • Color • 16mm • Bay Area Premiere

A film about the destructive nature of obsession.

Seattle Solstice Caryn Cline

2008 • 2:40 min • Color • 16mm • West Coast Premiere

Hydrangea, Geranium, Nandina, Camillia, Snapdragon, Cyclamen, Violet, Linden. Birch Bark.... Mapping a Seattle landscape in deep winter with its surprising array of flora, this film is a series of optically printed, handmade frames that unfolds into a gorgeous swath of color and movement.

1 to 8 Amy Schwartz

2008 • 5 min • 16mm • Color • West Coast Premiere

A rhythmic play on light and color, this film consists of Super-8 frames, each 30-seconds in length, reworked in the optical printer

Lively Lovely (and the rest) Eve Gordon

2007 • 2:52 min • B/W • U.S. Premiere

A modern take on the musical cinema of the 1930s, *Lovely* follows a disembodied pair of legs as it dances a Busby Berkley-esque routine, simultaneously objectifying the female form while celebrating its grace.

Woodward's Garden Katherin McGinnis

2008 • 10 min • Color 3D • Mini-DV • World Premiere with Live Original Score

Combining old and new 3D images, *Woodward's Garden* explores the site of "the Central Park of the West," a 19th century amusement park in San Francisco's Mission district, which now houses a drug rehab facility, an Internet porn studio, and upscale restaurants. Historic stereographs by Carleton Watkins and Edward Muybridge evoke the era when this park thrived. Glasses provided by MadCat.

Spectrology Kerry Laitala

2009 • 11 min • Color • 16mm • Filmmaker in Person • World Premiere

In 1646, Athanasius Kircher's *Ars Magna Lucis et Umbrae* described for the first time how images could be projected onto a screen by means of a magic lantern. Using this apparatus, 18th century showmen like Paul de Philipsthal and Etienne Gaspard Robertson conjured up the spirits of the recently deceased to spellbind and spook their unwitting audiences. Calling upon the secret repertoire of these early conjurers, *Spectrology* simulates the creation of the bygone phantasmagoria, recasting them in a modern-day illusion.

Motion Studies Fernanda D'Agostino

2009 • 12 min • Color • Mini-DV • S.F. Premiere

Using an eye-popping color palette, D'Agostino digitally transforms the original footage of migrating wild birds and the motion studies taken by Dr. Bret Tobalske's flight lab at the University of Portland. At times, an undulating abstract painting,

other times, the birds in flight and the wake of their movement becomes more apparent. Either way, it's mesmerizing.

Cobra Mist Emily Richardson

2009 • 9 min • Color • Anamorphic 16mm • U.S. Premiere

Orford Ness sits on the Suffolk Coast of Great Britain, looking out at Europe across the North Sea. Formerly a military base, this spit of land was the site of Cold War radar experiments. Dotted by the extraordinary architecture of the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, the place has a sinister atmosphere, accentuated by its moody soundtrack that layers ominous industrial din with the sounds of nature.

STILLS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

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