



## **36th Black Maria Film Festival Tour - 2017 Capri Theatre, Montgomery, Alabama Saturday April 22nd, 2017 at 3:00PM**

### ***Black Maria Film Festival Introduction***

#### ***The Last Projectionist – Documentary***

11 min. by Eugene Lehnert, Brooklyn, NY

As movie studios ceased distribution of film prints to theaters in favor of the more affordable 'DCP' (Digital Cinema Package), small theaters were left with a hard choice: upgrade or close. This burden left mom and pop movie theaters financially vulnerable with none more vulnerable than the classic outdoor cinema, the drive-in. *The Last Projectionist* follows the story of a family owned drive-in in upstate New York dealing with the costly decision to either upgrade or 'go dark.'

#### ***Oh My – Animation***

4 min. by Tess Martin, Rotterdam, Netherlands

A starry night, tracks in the snow. A girl desperately pursues a creature into a desolate, surreal, white landscape. This music video for the Australian band *The Animators* was created with painted plastic cut-outs and tissue paper and animated one frame at a time on a multi-plane animation

#### ***A – Narrative***

14 min by Joseph Houlberg, Quito, Ecuador

A world with only one letter. The earliest certain ancestor of the letter A is aleph, the first letter of the Phoenician alphabet. In turn, the ancestor of aleph may have been a pictogram of an ox head in proto-Sinaitic script influenced by Egyptian hieroglyphs, styled as a triangular head with two horns extended. This story begins with that one essential letter – A.

***Chateau au Go Go – Animation***

4 min. by Steve Gentile, Boston, MA

A kinetic romp that investigates the images imprinted onto wine corks. This animated, macro-photographed film becomes a sort of frenetic history lesson that alludes to the human impulse to tame nature.

***Mema's Life Story – Experimental***

2 min. by Magdalena Bermudez, Baltimore, MD

A 16mm film exploring displacement, documentation, and dialogue through an imagined conversation between the filmmaker's godmother and her grandmother. Hole-punched 16mm leader interrupts their dialogue, an emulation of the lace the grandmother carried as she fled the Armenian genocide from Talas, through Egypt and eventually to New York City. Interweaving their dialogue and her abstracted lace, the filmmaker attempts to preserve her godmother's grandmother's story while evoking the poetic fragility of inherited memory.

***There's Too Many of These Crows – Animation***

4 min. by Morgan Miller, Brooklyn, NY

Birds and humans are unable to co-exist peacefully in this film about aggression and escalation.

***All it Takes – Documentary***

17 min. by Geoff Pingree, Drew Dickler, and Jake Hochendorfer, Oberlin, OH

With the ever-growing prescription and use of opiate pain medication, heroin addiction has spread across traditional barriers of class, race, gender, and age and become common in all segments of society.

While the path to addiction is distressingly easy, the way out is unimaginably difficult. *All it Takes* explores the opiate epidemic in Lorain County, OH from the point of view of addicts and through the efforts of those who work to help them recover their lives and their dignity.

***More Dangerous Than a Thousand Rioters – Experimental***

6 min. by Kelly Gallagher, Chester Springs, PA

An experimental animated documentary exploring the life of revolutionary Lucy Parsons, the wife of Haymarket anarchist Albert

Parsons. She was an organizer first and foremost and led an inspiring life engaged in the struggle against capitalism. As a woman of color who was married to a famous white male anarchist, she is often unfairly and frustratingly overlooked in many labor histories. Parsons went on to become one of the most powerful voices in the labor movement, helping to found the legendary Industrial Workers of the World. She dedicated her entire life to fighting for the rights of the disenfranchised.

### ***The Itching – Animation***

15 min. by Dianne Bellino, Astoria, NY

In this parable, a shy wolf tries to connect with a group of hip, party-loving bunnies but finds her body is in revolt. An intensely visceral film, *The Itching* investigates our primal longing for connection and reveals the vulnerability, anxiety, and ambivalence embedded there.

### ***The Sandman - Documentary***

19 min. by Lauren Knapp, Alexandria, VA

Dr. Carlo Musso has been helping the state of Georgia execute inmates by lethal injection since 2003. The medical community strongly and unanimously opposes the use of medicine for executions. Yet, most states practicing lethal injection require a physician presence. In exchange, they offer a cloak of anonymity. This film explores Dr. Musso's own moral equivocation and justification for providing "end of life care" within the correctional environment, while personally opposing capital punishment.

### ***Microspectrum - Experimental***

2 min. by Kate Balsley, Johns Creek, GA

A surreal journey through the natural world. Leaves, flowers and other organic materials are abstracted and exist as shapes, forms, colors and textures. Nature is at once strange and beautiful.

*Microspectrum* invites the viewer to reflect upon its complexities.

### ***Boomerang – Animation***

5 min. by Steven Vander Meer, Arcata, CA

Inspired by the song "Boomerang" by the Absynth Quintet, the workings of nature and the universe are mystically and whimsically illustrated in this fast paced, gorgeously hand-drawn film. Great music and a quirky sense of humor define the beauty of it all, and it's no

coincidence when it happens this way.

***How Do You Raise a Black Child? - Narrative***

4 min. by Seyi Peter-Thomas, South Orange, NJ

This short film adaptation of Cortney Lamar Charleston's poem "How Do You Raise a Black Child?" paints an important portrait of everyday life for a young black man growing up in America. It is an impressionistic piece that explores the delicate balance parents must strike as they steer their children toward adulthood.

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**Thomas A. Edison Media Arts Consortium - Black Maria Film Festival**

The films that become the centerpiece of the Black Maria Film Festival honor the vision of Thomas Edison, New Jersey inventor and creator of the motion picture. It was his New Jersey studio, the world's first, which he called the "Black Maria" from which we take our name. The Festival reaches out to diverse audiences in diverse settings including universities, museums, libraries, community organizations, and arts venues. The cutting edge, cross-genre work that makes up the Festival's touring program, has been traveling across the country every year for decades.

We focus on short films – narrative, experimental, animation, and documentary - including those, which address issues and struggles within contemporary society such as the environment, public health, race and class, family, sustainability, and much more. These exceptional works range from animation, comedy, and drama to the exploration of pure form in film and video and are the heart and soul of the festival.

**[www.blackmariafilmfestival.org](http://www.blackmariafilmfestival.org)**

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**Festival Jurors for the 2017 Festival Tour**

**Henry Baker** works in video, television, film, sound, print and interactive media. In 1987, he founded his video company BXB in NYC. Clients include HBO, Cinemax, SONY, Panasonic, Four Seasons Hotels and many others. At BXB he received numerous awards for his creative work in video and television including: Houston International Film Festival, Broadcast Designer's Association, ACE and IFTA awards.

His work has been screened at various locations including: Leslie Lohman Gallery, National Museum of LGBT History, Simon Watson Gallery, Vancouver College, Hallwalls, Intermedia Arts Center, Matrix Gallery et al. His works are in the collections at The NY Public Library and the Everson Museum. He administered the Video Artist Grant Program at Synapse Video Center, Syracuse NY, serving ultimately as Director of the Center from 1978-81. At Synapse he also curated their video exhibitions and distribution programs. He served as a panelist at the National Endowment for the Arts, the WNET-TV Lab, the Broadcast Designer's Association and the Ithaca Video Project. In 2015, he served as a pre-screening juror at Black Maria Film Festival. Henry has given lectures at the International Television Society, Video Free America, Greenwich High School, Boston Film and Video Foundation and the San Francisco Art Institute. He co-founded the New York State Media Alliance.

A consummate sound aficionado, he produced regular radio broadcasts for over a decade at WAER-FM and WONO-FM. Henry has worked in film since the 1950s and video since the 1970s. He received a BFA in Media Communications and an MFA in Synaesthetic Education at Syracuse University. He later received an MS in Information and Library Science at Pratt Institute. He is currently Chief Creative Officer at BXB LLC, Washington DC.

**Margaret Parsons** is curator of film and media programs at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC. Besides an international film exhibition program, the Gallery maintains an archival collection of documentary media on the arts. Parsons has organized media events for other organizations including the Corcoran Gallery of Art, American University, the National Archives, and the Smithsonian Museum of American History. She has served as a trustee for film organizations ranging from the Robert Flaherty Film Seminar to

CINE, and she has been on the editorial boards for *The Moving Image* and the Getty Trust's experimental *Art on Film* in association with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She has served as festival juror for numerous international film festivals including Washington, Nashville, Syracuse, Turin (Italy), and Tulcea (Romania).

Currently, Parsons is a member of the advisory board for the Washington DC Environmental Film Festival and curator for Glimmerglass Film Days, a festival she founded in central New York State. She has recently received awards for her work in film preservation from the governments of France, Georgia, and the Czech Republic, and in the U.S. has been the recipient of awards from the Black Maria, the Washington DC Independent Film Festival, and from Women in Film and Video. Her other interests include photography (35mm film and dark room), as well as naïve and outsider art which she collects. Her writing has been published in the journals *Raw Vision*, *Folk Art*, *The Folk Art Messenger*, *New York Folklore*, *Curator*, and *The Moving Image*.

***The Consortium is grateful for generous funding and support from:***

*New Jersey State Council on the Arts*

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**[www.blackmariofilmfestival.org](http://www.blackmariofilmfestival.org)**

***Thank so much for your support!***