



THOMAS EDISON BLACK MARIA  
FILM FESTIVAL

**38th Annual Thomas Edison Black Maria  
Film Festival Tour  
Capri Theatre  
Montgomery, Alabama  
Friday May 10th, 2019 - 7:00PM**

***Black Maria Film Festival Introduction***

***Random Thoughts – Animation***

7 min. by Steven Vander Meer, Arcata, CA

Having recently completed a film made of circles and personal health problems, our hero ships his masterpiece off in a box to a film festival. As he makes his way to the festival on foot, his thoughts reveal how inspiration can come to a creative spirit from anywhere, about anything, at any given time. After the festival, on his walk back home, the filmmaker feels super inspired and can hardly wait to start his next project - until, that is, he gets to his mailbox...

***Twilight – Experimental***

2 min. by Richard Reeves, Creston, Canada

*Twilight* was inspired by the two lights (twi-light) found inside of film projectors. The film was created by applying both sound and picture directly onto 35mm film. The sounds were made by drawing Spirograph moiré patterns onto clear mylar sheets. The patterns were cut out and then stuck onto the 35mm film's optical sound area, played through a Moviola, and transferred to computer for composition. Many sounds are just one to twelve frames long. Once the soundtrack was created, each individual

sound was assigned a specific shape and color that repeats throughout the entire composition. The visual shapes were airbrushed and hand-painted onto an orange mask (negative film), then printed positive for further rendering by bleaching or scratching into the film's emulsion before the final print copy was made. The result is a lively fusion of image and sound.

### ***Dawn – Narrative***

15 min. by Jorn Threlfall, London, UK

New Mexico, July 1945. The paths of an old farmer and a young Navajo boy cross. The world will never be the same after this night.

### ***Familiar Tale – Documentary***

20 min. by Sumie Garcia & Santiago De la Paz, Mexico City, Mexico

Yukio Saeki arrived in Mexico from his native Japan in 1955. He opened a photography store in the Santa Maria la Ribera neighborhood in Mexico City which he named FotoSaeki. At 83 years old, he recalls life in Mexico, family, relationships with his Mexican customers, and remembers the echo of a hot Monday morning in Japan, as he walked across a field toward the ocean as an atomic bomb fell in his homeland.

### ***Birthday – Documentary***

9 min. by John Psathas and Liliane Calfee, Chicago, IL

Four high school girls from Chicago's South Side explore the topic of homelessness through the eyes of a man who shares his firsthand account of living on the streets. By joining him on his journey, the filmmakers' hope is to encourage compassion and kindness for people experiencing homelessness.

### ***Until Next Time – Narrative***

15 min. by Arden Rod Condez, Quezon City, Philippines

Due to an illness, a woman working as a maid and caregiver is forced to retire her position. Her daughter arrives from the provinces to take over her duties, and her mother must prepare her for her new life as a domestic worker. This simple story highlights the love and intimacy between mother and daughter in spite of their imminent separation.

### ***Mom's Clothes – Animation***

6 min. by Jordan Wong, San Francisco, CA

A meditation on being in and out of the closet. A once docile child grows out of his mother's patterned clothes. Now he can navigate between different forms of intimacy and gender – queer and colorful.

### ***The Velvet Underground Played at My High School – Animation***

7 min. by Tony Jannelli, Summit, NJ, and Robert Pietri, LA, CA

On Dec. 11, 1965, an unknown four-piece rock 'n' roll band took to the stage for the first time at Summit High School, in Summit, NJ. "Nothing could have prepared the kids and parents for what they were about to experience that night," wrote Rob Norris, a student at Summit at the time, in Kicks magazine. "Our only clue was the small crowd of strange-looking people hanging around in front of the stage.

### ***Brainworm Billy – Animation***

3 min. by Emily Hubley, East Orange, NJ

A young man is haunted by a famous comedian.

### ***What Aristotle Said – Documentary***

4 min. by David Gross, Brooklyn, NY

A portrait of the painter, art director, illustrator and teacher, Bill Curran of Hoboken, NJ.

### ***The Elephant's Song – Animation***

8 min. by Lynn Tomlinson, Owings Mills, MD

*The Elephant's Song* tells the true and tragic tale of Old Bet, the first circus elephant in America, as recounted in song by her friend, an old farm dog. Their story is portrayed in colorful, handcrafted animation, created frame by frame with clay-on-glass animation, where oil-based modeling clay is spread thinly on a glass sheet and moved frame-by-frame like a moving finger painting. Old Bet the elephant sings the choruses, which are animated with oil pastel on video frames printed from archival films, paintings, and photographs.



## **Thomas Edison 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.blackmariofilmfestival.org](http://www.blackmariofilmfestival.org), office: 201.856-6565  
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### **Jurors for the Thomas Edison Black Maria Film Festival:**

**Henry Baker** works in video, television, film, sound, print and interactive media. In 1987, he founded his video company BXB in NYC. Clients included 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 as Director of the Center from 1978-81. At Synapse he curated 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. He has served as an annual pre-screening juror for the Black Maria Film Festival for 4 consecutive years.

Baker 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.

**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 writing has been published in the journals *Raw Vision*, *Folk Art*, *The Folk Art Messenger*, *New York Folklore*, *Curator*, and *The Moving Image*.



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