

what chuu lookin at!?

10TH QUEER CITY CINEMA INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ARTS FESTIVAL

MAY 30 – JUNE 1, 2013

Welcome to QCC10

If there is a theme or focus or common thread to this year's festival, it comes in the form of documentary film of which there is abundance at this year's festival. Twenty-three out of the thirty-two films and videos at QCC10 are queer-forward docs or are works that reference reality and/or truth in some way, shape or form. This year's documentary-rich festival provides queer insights into lives lived, places loved and old and new ways of looking at the world we call homo.

The festival's catch phrase, 'whatchulookinat!?' comments on both the physical act of 'seeing', while questioning how and what we absorb of the social world around us - and subsequently who we end up judging and who judges us. On the other hand, and in a more spirited and pointed way - 'whatchulookinat!?' is uttered with a queer in your face exclamation in an attempt to confront the homophobic, transphobic and xenophobic gaze. Snap! With it's huge cargo of documentaries, this year's festival asks you to pro-actively look at, see and to think about how queer images and realities impact a collective queer consciousness informed from the past, the present and an imagined future.

Another prevalent thread at QCC10 is history as many of the docs take a look back, into the past, at individuals, groups, and places or are simple portraits or personal histories. This seems to underscore the theme of looking and informing, of creating a queer presence, providing a means to appreciate what has been and how 'what is now' has come to be.

All of which brings us to Queer City Cinema where we can celebrate the talents of queer voices and artists from around the world and even here in our ever changing and precariously evolving province of Saskatchewan. The Homo-Made in Saskatchewan program is an idea/gesture of exclusivity that has been part of the programming at Queer City Cinema for many years. However, it has never been fully realized due to the lack of queer media art that gets made here. This year's Homo-Made in Saskatchewan program is the first year that I have been able to put together a fully-fledged program of work made by Saskatchewan artists - and that is something worth applauding!

Other festival highlights include the fascinating feature length documentary I Am Divine, about, that's right, Divine herself, the star of John Water's many early films including Pink Flamingos, Female Trouble, and Hairspray. The 1981 film Cruising, starring Al Pacino is the framework of the much-anticipated docu-drama Interior. Leather Bar. co-directed by non other than James Franco. S&M, gay sex, leather and yes, James Franco himself, make their appearances - providing a close and intimate look at queer sex on screen. Bruce LaBruce, Vaginal Davis and many others provide insight and personal reflection in She Said Boom: The Story of Fifth Column, a feature doc about the 1980's experimental kick-ass feminist post-punk band Fifth Column who greatly influenced the Riot Grrl and Queercore movements that followed. Appearances by G.B. Jones and other members of the band make this a must see doc for fans of music with an attitude.

And just to acknowledge or clarify what may seem like a significant year in the history of Queer City Cinema Inc. - yes, this is indeed the 10th edition of the media arts festival, but we've actually been operating since 1996, which also makes us 17. So happy 10th and happy 17th to us!

Gary Varro, Artistic Director
Queer City Cinema // May 2013



whatchulookinat!?

FESTIVAL PASS

\$25.00

(Includes all nine screenings)

FILM SCREENING TICKETS

\$7.00 per screening

\$12.00 double bill

\$15.00 triple bill

All screenings at
Neutral Ground Gallery
1856 Scarth Street

Cash bar and complimentary
snacks available for evening
screenings only.

TICKETS & PASSES AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

All screenings - **RESTRICTED** - NO ONE UNDER 18 ADMITTED

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THURSDAY, MAY 30

OCC10 - P1 - 7PM (75:29 min.)

SHORT FILMS AND VIDEOS



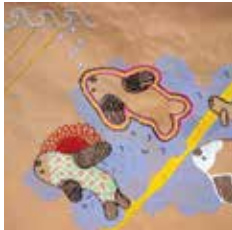
Bang Bang



Cuki Colorinchi Evolution



Where We Were Not



The Hawker

Bang Bang

Mihee-Nathalie Lemoine, Canada, 2011, 1:40 min.

100 retouches to rebuild the scalp damaged by a racist teacher of a young student newly arrived in the land of her adoption.

Where We Were Not – Part 1: Feeling Reserved, Alexis' Story

Jessica MacCormack, Canada, 2011, 6 min.

Where We Were Not is being made in collaboration with a group of women MacCormack has worked with, and has formed friendships with while creating art projects in prisons and centres for marginalized people. Narrated by an abolitionist activist, a First Nations transgendered woman, and two women serving life sentences, this project gives a first hand account of the Canadian injustice system.

Transforming FAMILY

Rémy Huberdeau, Canada, 2012, 11:10 min.

Transforming FAMILY jumps directly into an ongoing conversation among trans people about parenting. It's a beautiful snapshot of current issues, struggles and strengths of transsexual, transgender and gender fluid parents (and parents-to-be) in North American society today.

Seminal

Bren Ryder, Canada, 2012, 10:24 min.

A queer couple documents their journey to become pregnant. From the trip to the sperm bank, interviews about their experience, to the explicit sexual encounter and subsequent sperm injection, this film uses simultaneous images and subtitle text for a unique viewing experience.

Cuki Colorinchi Evolution

Eduardo del Olmo, Spain, 2011, 3:27 min.

Spanish with English subtitles

A masked crocheter shows us his sudden immersion into crochet art.

The Hawker

Coco Riot and Elisha Lim, Canada, 2012, 1:48 min.

"When I was a kid in Singapore, the same person served me chicken rice every day. I didn't know if that person was a man or a woman, and that was awesome."

Ja kada sam bila klinac, bila sam klinka (When I was a Boy, I was a girl)

Ivana Todorovic, Serbia, 2013, 30 min.

Serbian with English subtitles

Goca is a transvestite in Belgrade, the capital city of a country where organising or participating in a gay pride parade is forbidden. She is raising a daughter who is really her niece. Although her eighteen-year-old boyfriend steals the money she risks life and limb to earn as a sex worker, Goca still loves him and manages to retain her sunny, open-minded nature. On her thirty-ninth birthday she decides to celebrate her coming-out on stage in front of a live audience. And so she tells them the story of her life: "When I was a boy, I was a girl."

Two Girls Against the Rain

Sao Sopheak, Cambodia, 2012, 11 min.

Khmer with English Subtitles

A captivatingly courageous and touching film about a lesbian couple in Cambodia. The two women have known and loved each other since the time of the Khmer Rouge. The deep bond existing between them and their strength have helped them overcome all different kinds of resistance, including that of their families.



Two Girls Against the Rain



Transforming FAMILY



When I was a Boy, I was a girl



Seminal



THURSDAY, MAY 30
QCC10 - P2 - 9PM (92:00 min.)

They Glow in The Dark

FEATURE FILM PRECEDED BY SHORT FILMS AND VIDEOS

Buffalo Death Mask

Mike Hoolboom, Canada, 2013, 23 min.

A conversation with Canadian painter Stephen Andrews returns us to a pre-cocktail moment, when being HIV+ afforded us the consolation of certainty.

They Glow In The Dark

Panagiotis Evangelidis, Greece, 2013, 69 min.

Michael and Jim first crossed paths in California in the 70s while wandering around America. They became lovers for a short while and, later, friends, but after a while they lost track of each other. Twenty years later Michael successfully tracked down Jim once more: penniless and now seriously affected by complications caused by HIV, Jim has returned to his family in Illinois. Michael, also sick with HIV, suggests they try to make a living together in New Orleans, Michael's favorite city in the US, the city where he first found shelter as an teenage runaway pulling tricks in the streets. They reach New Orleans right after the devastation of Katrina, and they try to make a living selling hand-made dolls with Cajun themes in the French Market. They are both carriers of a glorious past which, while painful, equips them with the courage to keep going despite their serious problems, taking one day at a time, like comets who glow in the dark for just a few moments, before their big fall. North American Premiere.



Buffalo Death Mask

FRIDAY, MAY 31
QCC10 - P3 - 7PM (74:00 min.)

SHORT FILMS AND VIDEOS



C.L.U.E.

C.L.U.E. (color location ultimate experience), Part 1
robbinschilds and A.L. Steiner, USA, 2007, 10:47 min.

Inhabiting the intersection of human movement and architecture, A.L. Steiner and robbinschilds (Sonya Robbins and Layla Childs) present a full-spectrum video, set to a score by rock quartet Kinski. Edited in succinct rainbow-hued sections, each sequence features robbinschilds in monochromatic gear, acting in psychedelic contrast and communion with their surroundings. In a style that is obsessive, persistent, and often humorous, robbinschilds reveals their observations of the human imprint on the world.



As They Say

Kif Ma Yi Qulu (As They Say)
Hicham Ayouch, Morocco/UAE, 2011, 20 min.
Arabic with English subtitles

Father and son go on a fishing trip together into the mountains. When the son confesses to the father that he's gay, the situation escalates: tests of masculinity, rituals, violence, erupting feelings, speechlessness, and finally an unexpected end. Not only does the film attest to family and generational conflicts, but it positions these within an overwhelming landscape (the Rif mountains), which itself becomes one of the agents.

The Runaway Troupe of the Cartesian Theater
Lior Shamriz, Germany/People's Republic of China, 2013, 18 min.

A person of undefined gender and ethnicity is sent by a German cultural institution to a city in China, where s/he experiences a cruel conspiracy against her/his loved one.

I Remember: A Film About Joe Brainard
Matt Wolf, USA, 2012, 24:35 min.

Modesty, whimsy, and clarity of design grace the work of Joe Brainard (1941-1994), an artist and writer whose evocations of memory and desire perhaps found their greatest expression in his memoir-poem *I Remember*. Composed of a sequence of brief recollections, the poem's standardized format admits an incredible variety of images and feelings: "I remember Greyhound buses at night...I remember candy cigarettes like chalk...I remember leaning up against walls in queer bars..." Wolf's archival montage combines audio recordings of Brainard reading from the poem, as well as an interview with his lifelong friend and collaborator, the poet Ron Padgett. The result is an inventive biography of Joe Brainard, and an elliptical dialog about friendship, nostalgia, and the strange wonders of memory.



She Said Boom: The Story of Fifth Column

FRIDAY, MAY 31
QCC10 - P4 - 9PM (68:44 min.)

FEATURE FILM PRECEDED BY SHORT FILMS AND VIDEOS

African Mayonnaise
PJ Raval, USA, 2012, 4:44 min.

In *African Mayonnaise*, the 6th installment of the *Christeene Video Collection*, *Celebrity gets Fucked*.

She Said Boom: The Story of Fifth Column
Kevin Hegge, Canada, 2012, 64 min.

She Said Boom: the Story of Fifth Column is a feature length documentary film about the multi-disciplinary post-punk group Fifth Column, a group of women from Toronto who formed in 1981 and ended up collaborating for almost twelve years. Fifth Column formed with the intention of re-imagining what it meant to be in "a band", and as self-proclaimed outsiders, decided that they would create a malleable space within which to collaborate with other artists and outsiders, whether they were musicians, photographers, or filmmakers, all of these things became one. As the project continued over its 12 year run, this inclusivity spread

through cult filmmaking, and self-publication of magazines to strongly represent the Queer movement.

This story explores how these women went on to kick-start the Do-It-Yourself art making generation and inspire other groups of young women and men all over the world for the following generations, such as the Riot Grrrl and Queercore movements. Their commitment to working outside a capitalist structure made it impossible for them to claim their due as musicians and artists, despite having garnered worldwide notoriety for their work. It also explores the contributions of this group of young people to the core of Canada's rich subculture, and investigates the reasons these cultures often slip through the cracks of our history and art-heritage. The three core members of the band, Caroline Azar, Beverly Breckenridge and G.B. Jones help tell their story here – along with other former members of the group and their friends, such as notorious filmmaker and controversial artist Bruce LaBruce, who helped create the hugely impactful *J.D.'s* fanzine with Jones. The film also features activist, musician and writer Kathleen Hanna (*Le Tigre*, *Bikini Kill*) who fronted the Riot Grrrl movement, as well as performance artist and musician Vaginal Davis.



Interior. Leather Bar.

FRIDAY, MAY 31
QCC10 - P5 - 11PM (78:00 min.)

FEATURE FILM PRECEDED BY SHORT FILMS AND VIDEOS

Tom's Gift

Todd Verow & Charles Lum, USA, 2012, 7 min.

Voice-over narration describes Tom's Gift - a sex shop in rural America closed by municipal ordinance.

2P2R

Filipe Afonso, Portugal, 2012, 11 min.

Two prostitutes wander and complain about the lack of happenings in their night. When a boy, whom they see frequently, passes on his way home, one of the women asks for something to eat, following him home. At home, one other boy waits in bed, deciding to take an action for the first (and last) time, as his plane leaves early in the morning...

Interior. Leather Bar.

James Franco and Travis Mathews, USA, 2013, 60 min.

The 1980 film *Cruising* (starring Al Pacino as an undercover cop investigating a murder in the NYC gay leather bar scene) was plagued with controversy, and it is famously rumored that William Friedkin, the film's director, was forced by the MPAA to cut and destroy 40 minutes of sexually explicit material. Those 40 minutes have never been screened publicly. Inspired by the mythology of this controversial film, filmmakers James Franco and Travis Mathews collaborate to imagine their own lost footage. Amid the backdrop of a frenzied film set, actor Val Lauren reluctantly agrees to take the lead in the film. Val is repeatedly forced to negotiate his boundaries during scenes on and "off camera", as unsimulated gay sex happens around him. What emerges is a portrait of the fascinating dynamics that drive the filmmakers' need to challenge normalcy, the interplay of celebrity and experimentation, and the dilemma faced by actors struggling to reconcile who they are with the idea of performing in a sexually explicit, gay, S&M film. The film itself is constructed as a play with boundaries remaining queer in subject and form. The result is a provocative exploration of the importance of the radical and transgressive in society and the value of engaging with things that scare us. As much a film about filmmaking as it is about an exploration of sexual and creative freedom, *Interior. Leather Bar.* defies easy categorization.



Tom's Gift



African Mayonnaise (P4)



2P2R



FREE

SATURDAY, JUNE 1
QCC10 - P6 - 1PM (90:17 min.)

Wildness

FEATURE FILM PRECEDED BY SHORT FILMS AND VIDEOS

The Thing

Rhys Ernst, USA, 2012, 15:17 min.

There's something missing in Tristan and Zooney's relationship. Zooney has spent weeks planning a road trip to a mysterious roadside attraction known as "The Thing" in the hopes that she and Tristan will reconnect. Tristan, a transgender man, and his fluffy grey cat Steven struggle to find places to comfortably pee, while Zooney learns the open road isn't everything she hoped it would be. Will they find what they're looking for at "The Thing"? Official Selection: Sundance Film Festival, 2012

Wildness

Wu Tsang, USA, 2012, 75 min.

Rooted in the tropical underground of Los Angeles nightlife, *Wildness* is a documentary portrait of the Silver Platter, a historic bar in the MacArthur Park area that has been home for Latin/LGBT immigrant communities since 1963. With a magical-realist flourish, the bar itself becomes a character, narrating what happens when a group of young artists create a weekly performance art/dance party (organized by director Wu Tsang and DJs NGUZUNGUZU & Total Freedom) called *Wildness*, which explodes into creativity and conflict. What does "safe space" mean, and who needs it? And how does it differ among us? At the Silver Platter, the search for answers to these questions creates coalitions across generations.



The Thing

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

QCC10 - P7 - 3PM (62:37 min.)

SHORT FILMS AND VIDEOS

Homo-Made in Saskatchewan. *Queer City Cinema is proud and excited to be able to showcase the work of several local artists. This program is a mix of documentary, experimental, personal narrative, and drama – diversity as an expression of the great and special place we call home. Directors in attendance with post-screening chat and reception.*



Boi Oh Boi



Sight



Transqueery

The Brand Album

Kris Brandhagen, Regina, 2007 ongoing, 9:10 min.

The Brand Album is a unified collection of stop-motion video scenes made of still self-portrait photographs that explore the subject of identity. As a whole, The Brand Album's major impetus is "the seeing of oneself" in terms of physicality, presence, body language, and emotion, through which Brandhagen attempts to establish a view of "self" from an external perspective.

Transqueery, Miki Encounters the Neil Richards Collection

Miki Mappin, Saskatoon, 2012, 20:38 min.

Exploring the University of Saskatchewan's queer archives, Miki engages with the material and becomes fascinated with the collection. Largely hand held, using existing light and the camera's microphone, Miki Mappin's disarmingly simple technique results in a direct, personal, and entertaining engagement with her subject. World premiere.

Sight

Thirza Cuthand, Saskatoon, 2012, 3:33 min.

Super 8 footage layered with Sharpie marked lines and circles obscuring the story of the filmmaker's experience with temporary episodes of migraine related blindness and her cousin's self induced blindness later in life. Paralleling the experience of Blindness with Mental Illness, Cuthand deftly elucidates that any of us could lose any of our abilities at any time.

A branch is too big to come out of a twig

Steve Reinke and Turner Prize*, Regina/Chicago, 2012, 8 min.

In March 2012, the Saskatchewan-based artist collective Turner Prize* (Jason Cawood, Blair Fornwald, and John G. Hampton) visited artist Steve Reinke in his Chicago studio in order to extract texts from his subconscious. Reinke participated in three mechanically-assisted dream simulation sessions, wherein he described scenarios, thoughts, and images to Turner Prize*. Scenes evoking Reinke's visions were enacted by the collective in a series of short performative video clips, which were subsequently edited by Reinke. The resulting work is a collaborative exploration of the transformative act of interpretation, a self-indulgent daydream, and an exercise in automatic writing, all diluted through long-distance exchange. In short, it is a fairly inaccurate portrait of Steve Reinke's subconscious.

Discovery

Iryn Tushabe, Regina, 2012, 11:52 min.

Coming home late, with a lingering unfamiliar perfume, sparks a tearful confrontation for a couple. But telling the truth – in more ways than one – results in greater closeness and renewal.

Boi Oh Boi

Thirza Cuthand, Saskatoon, 2012, 9:32 min.

An exploration of Butch Lesbian identity, with a description of the curious side trip of exploring the possibility of transitioning to male. Spahn rides back and forth on the same route to highlight the ambivalence of one genderqueer's journey to an identity s/he feels comfortable with.



The Brand Album



Discovery



A branch is too big to come out of a twig

SHORT FILMS AND VIDEOS

Encounters I May Or May Not Have Had With Peter Berlin

Mariah Garnett, USA, 2012, 20min.

Encounters I May Or May Not Have Had With Peter Berlin deals primarily with monumentality, narcissism and the ways in which our heroes are embedded into our identities, and manifested through the body. Through a variety of gestures, the pervasiveness of this practice is highlighted alongside its ultimate, inevitable failure. The viewer moves through various stages of anxiety, idolization and actual touchdown with 70's gay sex icon Peter Berlin himself, capturing both the apparent and the hidden. The film guides the viewer through the process of making contact with a figure who exists only in his own photographs.



Encounters I May Or May Not Have Had With Peter Berlin

At Least you know you exist

Zackary Drucker with Flawless Sabrina,
USA, 2011, 16 min.

Created inside an archeology of the uptown New York City apartment inhabited by legendary performer/drag queen Mother Flawless Sabrina, At Least you know you exist is a site-specific exploration of a fixed space where everything is in a state of change. In this 16mm film, totemic mystical objects act as a collection of mysterious sculptures in different states of mutation, and rich layers of feverish history interface with a new vision of transgender performativity. Navigating the real and the unconscious, oscillating between documentary and myth narrative, Drucker weaves a fluid, parallel text of these two divergent lives, exploring a legacy being passed from a lost generation towards the future.



At Least you know you exist

Circle in the Sand

Michael Robinson, USA, 2012, 45:45 min.

In a broken near future, a band of listless vagabonds ambles across a war-torn coastal territory, supervised and sorted by a group of idle soldiers. Rummaging, stuttering, and smashing through the leftovers of Western culture, these ragged souls conjure an unstable magic, fueled by their own apathy and the poisonous histories imbedded in their unearthed junk. Suspicion, boredom, garbage, and glamour conspire in the languid pageantry of ruin. Feel the breeze in your hair, and the world crumbling through your fingers.



Circle in the Sand



SATURDAY, JUNE 1
QCC10 - P9 - 9PM (86:30 min.)

I Am Divine

FEATURE FILM PRECEDED BY SHORT FILM

The Church of Feel Good

Jason Penney, Canada, 2012, 17 min.

The Church of Feel Good teaches us how to reach out beyond the mundane entrapments of modern living and grab onto the divine satisfaction we so deserve. A loving homage to 1980's direct to VHS lifestyle videos, this short film by Jason Penney goes beyond the self help and actualization movement mumbo jumbo and presents us with a step by step method of learning how we can have ourselves a plausibly good time or a close enough approximation. Watch in shock, awe, and glee as we take the reigns of control and make ourselves and loved ones into the stars of our own reality.



The Church of Feel Good

I Am Divine

Jeffrey Schwarz, USA, 2013, 86 min.

I Am Divine is the story of Divine, aka Harris Glenn Milstead, from his humble beginnings as an overweight, teased Baltimore youth to internationally recognized drag superstar through his collaboration with filmmaker John Waters. Spitting in the face of the status quos of body image, gender identity, sexuality, and preconceived notions of beauty, Divine was the ultimate outsider turned underground royalty. With a completely committed in-your-face style, he blurred the line between performer and personality, and revolutionized pop culture. I Am Divine is a definitive biographical portrait that charts the legendary icon's rise to infamy and emotional complexities.

"A breathtaking and touching portrait of two people inside the same body."
Joshua Brunstig – CriterionCast

"Just as garish, splashy, and loud as Divine himself."
Drew Taylor – indieWire's The Playlist

luminous. curious. be part of the afterglow

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