



February 11, 2012
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Vtape, TIFF Bell Lightbox, Art Gallery of Ontario and Inside Out presents

IMPATIENT: JOHN GREYSON RETROSPECTIVE

MARCH 30 – APRIL 5, 2012 AT TIFF BELL LIGHTBOX & THE AGO

To mark the release of John Greyson's DVD box set and a new book about his feature *Zero Patience*, Toronto video distributor Vtape has partnered with TIFF, the Art Gallery of Ontario and Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival to present a multi-venue retrospective of his work. This comprehensive retrospective includes screenings of seven features and twenty-one shorts by Greyson, the launch of the book and DVD box set, and a TIFF Carte Blanche screening selected by Greyson.

Greyson first gained international recognition in 1989 with his provocative hybrid feature *Urinal* (Best Gay Film Teddy, Berlin International Film Festival), an experimental documentary/drama featuring the closeted characters of Eisenstein, Kahlo and Mishima who are recruited to fight back against the police persecution of gay public sex in Ontario. Subsequent shorts and features established him as a leading figure in the loosely defined New Queer Cinema movement of the early 1990s, including such titles as *The Making of Monsters* (Best Canadian Short Film, TIFF, Best Gay Short Teddy, Berlin International Film Festival), *Zero Patience* (Best

Canadian Feature, Sudbury Film Festival) and *Lilies* (Best Film Genie, best film awards at festivals in Montreal, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Johannesburg, Austin).

His many shorts, addressing such diverse topics as gay penguins, censorship, gender conformity, solidarity with Palestinian queers, gay rights in Bosnia, and the American bombing of the Iraqi Film Archives, have been shown in festivals internationally, while his 2003 feature *Proteus* was awarded Best Actor at Cape Town's Sithenghi International Film Festival. He has been awarded the Arts Toronto Award for Film/Video (2000), the Bell Canada Award in Video Art (2007), the Arts & Culture Pride Award (2009), and the 1st Annual Alanis Obomsawin Award for Commitment to Community & Resistance, Cinema Politica, 2011. Recently, his 2009 opera-documentary *Fig Trees* addressing AIDS activism was awarded Best Film at Inside-Out, and Best Gay Documentary Teddy at the Berlin International Film Festival, while his new short documentary *Green Laser*, about the 2011 freedom flotilla's attempt to break the blockade of Gaza, will receive its world premiere in February 2012 at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Throughout his extensive body of work that ranges from hybrid documentary and historical fiction to filmed operas and experimental video art, Greyson employs digitized Brechtian techniques and camp humour as instruments of cultural and political activism. His work engages audiences passionately and critically, occupying diverse cinematic genres (the essay, the song, the viral video) and distinctive formal devices (multiple layers of subtitles, split-screen, voice and anachronism) to wittily contest dominant discourses of sexuality, gender and power. These deft, challenging works tell outsider stories that trouble history and skewer complacency, joining a growing debate about the role of queer activism in today's social justice struggles.

Colleagues and collaborators of Greyson will briefly introduce each program, and then facilitate Q&A's with Greyson following the screenings. TIFF's Noah Cowan will host the DVD/book launch, which is co-presented by *This is Not a Reading Series*, interviewing Greyson along with *Zero Patience* book authors Wendy Pearson and Susan Knabe and Vtape's Wanda Vanderstoop .

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FRIDAY, MARCH 30

- 6:00 TIFF **DVD Box Set/Book Launch**
Impatient: John Greyson DVD Box Set
(Vtape, including 4 features and 34 shorts/extras, 2012, \$149, home use only)
Zero Patience, Susan Knabe and Wendy Gay Pearson
(Queer Film Classic Series, Arsenal Pulp Press, 2012, \$14.95)
Blackberry Lounge, 2nd floor, TIFF Bell Lightbox
Moderator Noah Cowan in conversation with John Greyson,
Zero Patience book authors Wendy Gay Pearson and Susan
Knabe, and Vtape's Wanda Vanderstoop, intro by Marc Glassman.
Presented by Vtape, Arsenal Press and This is Not a Reading Series
- 7:00 TIFF ***Zero Patience***
(1993) An ACT UP musical about blame, bigotry and bodies. Patient
Zero, the Air Canada flight attendant, is accused of bringing AIDS to
North America. Can Victorian sexologist and African explorer Sir
Richard Francis Burton clear his name? With: Normand Fauteux, John
Robinson
Herr (1998) Four dancers and a couch explore masculine conformity;
The Ballad of Roy & Silo (2010) Central Park Zoo's gay penguins get
married... and then divorced
Intro: Tom Waugh, Lisa Steele
- 9:30 AGO ***Proteus***
(2003) In 1735, a Dutch sailor and a Khoisan herder were tried for sodomy
on South Africa's Robben Island, the Dutch penal colony. *Proteus* tries to
imagine their story, but pictures of history are elusive. Co-directed by Jack
Lewis. With: Rouxnet Brown, Neil Sandilands, Shaun Smyth, Kristen
Thomsen
A Maffie Called Simon (1985) Experimental portrait of the South African gay
black activist Simon Nkoli
Intro: Tim McCaskell, Michelle Jacques

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

4:00 AGO *The Law of Enclosures*

(2000) Henry and Beatrice are stuck in an endless repetition of the Gulf War, from the moment they meet until the hour of their death fifty years later. Starring: Sarah Polley, Diane Ladd, Sean McCann, Brendan Fletcher (Best Actor Genie)

14.3 Seconds (2009) Iraq Film Archive is destroyed by US bombs
Intro: James Loney, Charlotte Mickey

6:30 AGO *Shorts Program I*

Covered (2009) Birds, covers, Sontag, and violence at Sarajevo queer fest;
The Jungle Boy (1985), Mowgli confronts the St. Catherines washroom busts;
This is Nothing (1999), Epistolary gay emails during bombing of Belgrade;
Letter to Ray Navarro (1999) Requiem for New York AIDS activist;
Vuvuzela (2010) Worldcup showdown debating boycott of Israel;
Intro: Mike Hoolboom, BH Yael

9:00 AGO *UNOUT*

(1996) Greenaway meets La Habanera in this cautionary fable about circumcision, copyright and Trudeau's sexlife, with three Peter's confronting the limits of Canadian 'tolerance'. With: Damon D'Oliveira, Matthew Ferguson, Michael Achtman. Maria Reidstra

Albino (2002), a Pat Robertson/Ellen DeGeneres mash-up;
Captif D'Amour (2010), penguin remake of Genet's *Chant D'Amour*
Intro: Cheryl Sourkes, Karl Beveridge

SUNDAY, APRIL 1

4:00 TIFF *Lilies*

(1996) Passionate, luminescent tale of love and betrayal, adapted from the celebrated play by Marcel Marc-Bouchard, which won Best Picture Genie and best film awards at festivals in Montreal, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Johannesburg, Austin. With: Brent Carver, Alexander Chapman, Matthew Ferguson, Jason Cadieux, Danny Gilmour, Aubert Palaccio, Marcel Sabourin.

Roy & Silo's Starter Home (2009), penguin bliss destroyed by bulldozers;
Packin' (2002), 1500 cop crotches at the 2001 FTAA Summit in Quebec.

Intro: Salah Bachir, Alexander Chapman

- 6:30 AGO *Urinal*
 (1988) Six closeted artists (including Sergei Eisenstein, Yukio Mishima and Frida Khalo) are recruited to protest the police persecution of gay public sex in Ontario in the mid-eighties. Winner of Best Gay Feature Teddy, Berlin International Film Festival.
The ADS Epidemic (1987), a safer-sex remake of Death in Venice;
The Perils of Pedagogy (1985), a gay youth rebellion assisted by Lulu.
 Intro: Sara Diamond, Piers Handling
- 9:00 AGO *Shorts Program 2*
G7 vs. G8 (2009), Group of Seven use paint against the G8 summit;
Hey Elton (2010), Elton is asked to join boycott and cancel Tel Aviv concert;
The Making of Monsters (1991), Brecht directs a musical about the gay murder of a school teacher in a Toronto park by five teens; winner of Best Short Canadian Film, TIFF; Best Short Gay Teddy, Berlin International Film Festival;
Rex Vs. Singh (2008), a collaboration with Ali Kazimi and Richard Fung. Four stagings of the trial of two Sikh millworkers accused of sodomy in 1915 Vancouver.
 Intro: Richard Fung, Janine Marchessault

MONDAY, APRIL 2

- 6:30 TIFF *Fig Trees* (100 min)
 Opera-documentary about Capetown's Zackie Achmat and Toronto's Tim McCaskell, two AIDS activists who have fought government indifference and big pharma on behalf of people living with AIDS. With operatic contributions by Gertrude Stein, a host of saints, and an albino squirrel. Best film Awards at festivals in Berlin, Hamburg, Toronto, Lisbon.
The Sixth Room (2002), a 4-voice oratorio exploring myths of gay saints;
Motet for Amplified Voices (2005), a megaphone choir challenges censorship at York University.
 Intro: Atom Egoyan, Scott Ferguson

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

- 6:30 TIFF *Carte Blanche*
Edward 2nd (Derek Jarman, 1991, UK, 90 min.)
 Tilda Swinton stars in Derek Jarman's surreal, Queer Nation-reimagining of Christopher Marlowe's ode to doomed homo love.
White Money (Colin Campbell, 1983, Canada, 8 min.) Campbell's "cri-de-crotch" against the bathhouse raids and censor battles of 1980s Ontario.

VENUES

TIFF Bell Lightbox, Reitman Square, 350 King St. West, Toronto
Tickets: <http://tiff.net>

AGO Jackman Hall, entrance on corner of Dundas & McCaul St.
Tickets: www.ago.net/greyson-retrospective

IMPATIENT: JOHN GREYSON DVD BOX SET

Box set: \$149 (8 DVDs, 4 features and 34 shorts, home use only)
Individual titles: \$49 (each title contains feature plus shorts & extras on 2 DVD's)
Educational purchase with circulation rights, contact: distribution@vtape.org

Disk 1A	Feature	Urinal
Disk 1B	Shorts	The Perils of Pedagogy The Jungle Boy Kipling Meets the Cowboys The ADS Epidemic
	Extras	You Taste American A Moffie Called Simon
Disk 2A	Feature	UN@UT
Disk 2B	Shorts	Four Safer Sex Shorts Herr This is Nothing Packin'
	Extras	Moscow Does Not Believe in Queers Topping The Sixth Room Nunca
Disk 3A	Feature	Proteus
Disk 3B	Shorts	Motet for Amplified Voices Pils Slip Motet for Zackie 14.3 Seconds
	Extras	It Takes Two Two Tables Albino On Message Abbott Has No Pride 14.3 Seconds (Billboard)
Disk 4A	Feature	Fig Trees
Disk 4B	Shorts	Covered Rex Vs. Singh G7 vs. G8 Hey Elton Vuvuzela BDS Bieber Gaza Island
	Extras	Why Rain Teddy Tribute CUPE Thriller