



Angelo Madsen Minax, Nyala Moon, and Zackary Drucker

- Films

Film/Video

MAY 15, 2023

8:30 PM

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We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandeño, and Ventureño; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

Angelo Madsen Minax, Nyala Moon, and Zackary Drucker

• Films

Artist, filmmaker, and cultural producer Zackary Drucker curates an evening of films by trans directors Angelo Madsen Minax and Nyala Moon. In *North By Current*, Minax returns to his rural Michigan hometown after the mysterious death of his two-year old niece and the arrest of his brother-in-law as the culprit. It is preceded by a short film by Nyala Moon—*How Not to Date While Trans*—a break-the-fourth-wall dark comedy that follows the dating life of a Black trans woman and the problematic men she meets along the way.

The program is curated by Zackary Drucker. The program includes a post-screening talk with Angelo Madsen Minax, moderated by Silas Howard.

The Jack H. Skirball Series is organized by Jheanelle Brown and Bérénice Reynaud

THE PROGRAM

How Not to Date While Trans, dir. Nyala Moon (2021, 13 minutes)

A break-the-fourth-wall, dark comedy that follows the dating life of a Black trans woman and the problematic men she meets along the way. Andie searches for romance and self-love but ends with heartbreak. It has won awards at Inside Out Toronto's LGBT Film Festival, Wicked Queer Boston's LGBT Film Festival, and Translation Seattle's 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival. It was selected for distribution through Frameline's New Voices program.

North by Current, dir. Angelo Madsen Minax (2022, 85 minutes)

Filmmaker and artist Angelo Madsen Minax returns to his rural Michigan hometown after a family tragedy. Weaving vignettes of VHS and Super-8 home movies with the present-day, Madsen creates a poetic, nuanced portrait of a family navigating grief, addiction, and transgender identity. He begins to unfurl the depths of generational addiction and Christian fervor in his family, to dive head first into the pain of growth and the power of kinship. Turning the camera towards himself, Madsen confronts his own relationship with masculinity and his interrogation of what it means to be a good brother. Poised to incite more internal searching than provide clear statements or easy answers, *North by Current* is a visual rumination on the understated relationships between mothers and children, truths and myths, losses and gains. Official Selection: Berlinale, Tribeca.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Angelo Madsen Minax is a multi-disciplinary artist, filmmaker, and educator. His projects consider how human relationships are woven through personal and collective histories, cultures, and kinships, with specific attention to subcultural experience, phenomenology, and the politics of desire. Madsen's works have shown at the Berlinale, Tribeca Film Festival, BAM CinemaFest, Art of the Real at Lincoln Center, Anthology Film Archives, British Film Institute, and dozens of LGBT film festivals around the world. He is a recipient of awards and fellowships from the Sundance Film Institute, BAVC Media, New York State Council on the Arts, the Warhol Foundation, LEF Foundation, and has participated in residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, the Core Program at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Yaddo, Bemis Center for Contemporary Art, and others.

North By Current (2021), aired on season 34 of *POV* (PBS), was nominated for an Independent Spirit award, and won the Cinema Eye Honors Spotlight award, Best Writing award from the IDA and numerous festival jury prizes. A *New York Times* Critics Pick, *North By Current* has been called "A titanic work" by Criterion. Madsen is currently an Associate Professor of Time-Based Media at the University of Vermont, a Queer|Art Mentor, and a current Guggenheim Fellow.

Nyala Moon is a filmmaker, writer, and actress of trans experience. After working in the nonprofit community helping other transgender and queer people of color access affirming health care, Moon took a leap of faith and pursued her passion for filmmaking. Before going to film school, she worked in the indie LGBT film scene as a director, writer, and producer. She also contributed to the anthology, *Written on the Body: Letters from Trans and Non-Binary Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence* by Lexi Bean. In May 2020, Moon graduated from City College with her MFA in film production. In 2021, her student thesis film, *One Last Deal*, was screened at NewFest, Inside Out Toronto, Outfest, and many other film festivals. She was also a 2020-2021 QueerArt Film fellow. She also is a TV writing fellow for Hillman Grad 2021 inaugural class and a 2022 Film Fatale trans directing fellow. In June 2022, Moon was selected as 2022 NewFest/Netflix New Voices Filmmaker Grant winner.

Silas Howard's first film, *By Hook or by Crook*, was co-directed in 2001 with the sculptor/performer/writer Harry Dodge, whom Howard had met in San Francisco through the queer punk rock band Tribe 8 and worked with to open Red Dora's Bearded Lady Café. The two collaborators wrote, directed, and starred in the movie, driven by an overwhelming urge to communicate their experience in San Francisco's queer community. Shot in DV, the film was world premiered at the Frameline Film Festival in June 2002, then went to the Sundance Film Festival, where it made quite a splash. It won awards at Outfest, SXSW, and a number of gay and lesbian film festivals. After making several shorts and participating in a few TV series, Howard directed several episodes of the TV series *Transparent*—"Bulnerable" (2015), "When the Battle Is Over", and "Just the Facts" (both in 2016)—becoming the show's first transgender director. Continuing to work in television, Howard returned to filmmaking with *A Kid Like Jake* (2018) and *Darby and the Dead* (2022). He is also a 2015 Guggenheim fellow.

Zackary Drucker is an independent artist, filmmaker, and cultural producer. She has performed and exhibited her work internationally in museums, galleries, and film festivals including the Whitney Biennial 2014, MoMA PS1, Hammer Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, MCA San Diego, and SF MoMA, among others. Drucker is an Emmy nominated producer for the docuseries *This Is Me*, and was a producer on the Golden Globe and Emmy Award-winning Amazon show *Transparent*. *The Lady and The Dale*, her directorial debut for television, premiered on HBO in 2021.

UPCOMING AT REDCAT

Okwui Okpokwasili and Peter Born

adaku, part 1: the road opens

May 25 - 27

In this chapter of a larger speculative mythology, a precolonial African village is at the cusp of a major upheaval. The community is entangled in an argument that could shape the future of all of their lives. This collective reckoning explores the fraught relationship between ancestors, future generations, and the role of ritual. A sonic and visual landscape of reflective textures, contouring shadows, and thrumming facilitates an intimate exchange between performers and the audience.

inti figgis-vizueta

Music for Transitions

June 3

inti figgis-vizueta writes magically real music through the lens of personal identities, braiding a childhood of overlapping immigrant communities and Black-founded Freedom schools—in Chocolate City (DC)—with direct Andean and Irish heritage and a deep connection to the land. In *Music for Transitions*, she is joined by collaborators to present new arrangements of previously remote works and a new co-composed piece for mixed ensemble. Her music has been described as “the sounds of nature with what I imagined as the soundtrack of a dream.” (*Blogcritics Magazine*)



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