

## FILM AT REDCAT PRESENTS

**Sat March 9 | 8:30 pm |**

Alpert Award Artist

Jack H. Skirball Screening Series

\$10 [students \$8, CalArts \$5]

## **Kevin Jerome Everson** ***Ten Five in the Grass & Other Shorts***

*Three World Premieres, one US Premiere*

With six feature-length films and more than 90 shorts, Alpert Award recipient Kevin Jerome Everson has explored the multiple facets of African American life via a variety of formal approaches. Whether through his signature long shots, collage of archival sources or the re-enactment of fictional material that echoes the lives of his performers, Everson favors a strategy that interrupts the documentary impulse, abstracting everyday actions and statements into theatrical gestures. His work plays with the ambivalent relationship between art and narrative, fact and fiction. This screening includes a selection of shorts, from the Lumière-inspired ***Workers Leaving the Job Site*** (2013), to a dark, witty, homage to Chester Himes, ***Early Riser (Cotton Comes to Harlem)*** (2012), to an exploration of the world of black cowboys, ***Ten Five in the Grass*** (2012).

### **In person: Kevin Jerome Everson**

“Everson has carved a place for himself outside both the typical expectations of documentary and the conventions of representational fiction... He has crafted an exquisite—and prodigious—body of work on the working-class culture of African-Americans and people of African descent... His work centers on everyday tasks and gestures to unearth and illuminate the ordinary grace of daily life. —*Artforum*

“Everson is astoundingly prolific... From all this remarkable work, much more is sure to emerge, driven by the same restless, probing, experimental impulse.” —*The New York Times*

The program comprises films made by Everson in the last two years connected with or actually filmed in the American South—cowboys and rodeo riders in Louisiana and Mississippi; oil spill clean-up workers on the beaches of Pensacola Florida; local denizens and fictional characters, past and present of Columbus, Mississippi, the hometown of the filmmaker's parents.

***Workers Leaving the Job Site***

2013, 16mm to digital, 6:30, color, silent  
*World Premiere*

Another take, another era, another factory, shot in Mississippi in summer 2012, this is a riff on the Lumière Brothers classic 1895 film.

***Ten Five in the Grass***

2012, 16mm to digital, 32:00, color, sound  
*U.S. Premiere*

A film about Black cowgirls and cowboys in preparation for the specific rodeo event of calf roping. Filmed in Lafayette, Louisiana and Natchez, Mississippi in late spring/summer 2011, the title "Ten Five in the Grass" refers to the type of rope used to capture fast calves.  
*Awarded the Euro Prize at the 2012 Oberhausen Short Film Festival.*

***Rita Larson's Boy***

2012, 16mm to digital, 10:53, b&w, sound  
*West Coast Premiere*

Everson hoped to find a lost audition tape of the actor Nathaniel Taylor, raised in Columbus, MS, who portrayed the character 'Rollo Larson' – Rita Larson's Boy – in the 70s sitcom *Sanford and Son*. With no luck, he set out to make his own version of the tape. Ten young actors, in Cleveland Ohio, portray ten actors auditioning for the role of Rollo Larson. This is one of three films included in ***The Tombigbee Chronicles Number Two***, a series of films based on famous people and objects from Columbus, Mississippi, the hometown of Everson's parents. Tombigbee is the river the runs though Columbus.

***Stoplight Liberty***

2013, 16mm to digital, 2:00, color, silent  
*World Premiere*

At an intersection in Columbus, Mississippi, June 2012, Liberty takes on a variety of guises.

***Early Riser (Cotton Comes to Harlem)***

2012, 16mm to digital, 3:43. b&w, sound  
*West Coast Premiere*

Part of ***The Tombigbee Chronicles Number Two***, *Early Riser (Cotton Comes to Harlem)* is based on Chester Himes's *Cotton Comes to Harlem* novel and screenplay. The cotton in the novel and film comes from the region around Columbus. *Early Riser*, filmed noir style, depicts the scene when detectives Coffin Ed and Grave Digger Jones interrogate Lo-Boy, an artist/hustler, about the event around the demise of his friend Early Riser.

***Chicken***

2012, 16mm to digital, 3:20, b&w, sound  
*West Coast Premiere*

Part of ***The Tombigbee Chronicles Number Two***, *Chicken* is a scene from Tennessee Williams's play *Kingdom of Earth*, filmed as if it were a stage play. Tennessee Williams was born in Columbus. The title character, 'Chicken of Kingdom', struggles with how people view him.

***Charlie's Proof***

2013, 16mm to digital, 12:42, color, sound  
*World Premiere*

The legendary Charlie Smith, also depicted in Everson's new feature *The Island of St. Matthews* (2013), is a long time resident of Columbus, Mississippi, a good storyteller and a man of firm opinions, if not memories. Here, he tends to disagree with the filmmaker.

***Stone***

2013, 16mm to digital, 6:50, color, sound  
*West Coast Premiere*

A street "shell game" makes one a good judge of character and audience participation. Here, "Stone" is getting his hustle on, often and early.

***Half On, Half Off***

2011, 16mm to digital, 3:20, color, silent  
*West Coast Premiere*

Everson traveled to the beaches of the Alabama and Florida Panhandle

following the BP oil spill during the shooting of his Whitney Biennial feature *Quality Control* (2011), to document the temporary clean-up workers hired by the hour and the shift to sift through the sands for traces of the disaster.

All films courtesy of the artist; Trilobite-Arts-DAC; and Picture Palace Pictures

Curated by Steve Anker and Bérénice Reynaud

*Funded in part with generous support from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences*

Additional screening of work by Kevin Jerome Everson in Los Angeles

**Sunday March 17:    *Quality Control* (2011)**

### **Los Angeles Filmforum**

At the Spielberg Theatre at the Egyptian, 6712 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles CA 90028

Tickets: \$10 general, \$6 students/seniors; free for Filmforum members. Available by credit card in advance from Brown Paper Tickets or by cash or check at the door.

More details: [www.lafilmforum.org](http://www.lafilmforum.org)

Whether he's working in sculpture, installation, single channel video, 16mm or 35mm film, **Kevin Jerome Everson's** focus is at once aesthetic and political. With the subject often labor itself, and the gestures or tasks in the lives of working class African Americans, Everson favors a strategy that interrupts the documentary impulse, abstracting everyday actions and statements into theatrical gestures. Archival footage is re-edited or re-staged, real people perform re-enactments and fictional scenarios based on their own lives, and historical observations intermesh with contemporary narratives. The work plays with the ambivalent relationship between art and narrative, fact and fiction.

Born (1965) and raised in Mansfield, Ohio, Everson has a MFA from Ohio University and a BFA from the University of Akron. He is currently a Professor of Art at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. He was awarded the **Alpert Award** 2012 for excellence in film/video and has received fellowships from the Guggenheim, NEA, NEH, Ohio Arts Council and the Virginia Museum, an American Academy Rome Prize,

grants from Creative Capital and the Mid-Atlantic, residencies at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Yaddo and MacDowell Colony, and numerous university fellowships.

A solo exhibition of his work, *More Than That: Films of Kevin Jerome Everson*, took place at the Whitney Museum of American Art April-Sept. 2011, and his feature *Quality Control* (2011) was included in the 2012 Whitney Biennial. His work was the subject of a career retrospective at Visions du Reel in Nyon, Switzerland in April 2012. A solo show at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland is scheduled for 2014.

His artwork – paintings, sculpture, site-specific installations and photographs – and films, including six features (*Spicebush*, 2005; *Cinnamon*, 2006 – shown at REDCAT in 2007; *The Golden Age of Fish*, 2008; *Erie*, 2010 – shown at REDCAT in 2010; *Quality Control*, 2011 and *The Island of St. Matthews*, 2013 – world premiered at the latest Rotterdam International Film Festival) and over ninety short form works, have been exhibited internationally at museums and art institutions including the Centre Pompidou; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art; Cleveland Museum of Art; the Studio Museum in Harlem; Armand Hammer Museum; The Wexner Center of the Arts, Columbus, Ohio; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Wurttembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart; Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Buffalo, New York; Spaces Gallery, Cleveland, Ohio; American Academy of Rome, Rome, Italy; 1k Projectspace, Amsterdam; Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, Virginia, William Busta Gallery, Cleveland, Ohio and various other arts institutions and public spaces.

Everson's films have screened and garnered many awards at numerous international film festivals including the Sundance Film Festival; Rotterdam International Film Festival; Views from the Avant Garde and the New York Film Festival; AFI Film Festival; Ann Arbor Film Festival ; Athens International Film Festival, Ohio; BFI/London Film Festival; Black Maria Film Festival; Chicago Underground Film Festival; Cinematexas; CineVegas; Courtisane Film, Video and New Media Festival, Ghent, Belgium; CPX:DOC, Copenhagen, Denmark; Curta Cinema, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Entrevues Festival du Film, Belfort, France; European Media Arts Festival, Osnabruck, Germany; Festival du Nouveau Cinéma, Montréal, Québec; FID Marseille; Filmfest München; Flex Film Festival, Gainesville, Florida; Huesca International Film Festival, Spain; Images Festival, Toronto, Ontario; IndieLisboa; International Short Film Festival Oberhausen; Media City Film Festival,

Windsor, Ontario; Migrating Forms, New York City; Milano Film Festival; Mostra Internazionale Del Nuovo Cinema, Pesaro, Italy; New York Underground Film Festival,; PDX Film Festival, Portland, Oregon; Punto de Vista, Pamplona Spain; Recontres Internationales, Berlin, Madrid, Paris; San Francisco International Film Festival; Shorts International, New York; South by Southwest Film Festival; The Viennale; Virginia Film Festival, Charlottesville, Virginia and Wavelengths, Toronto International Film Festival, etc.

*Broad Daylight and Other Times*, a three-DVD boxed set of films by Everson, was released by Video Data Bank in 2011.