2010 Third Coast Film/less Festival

Saturday, March 6, 2010

Photo by Jesse Shapins
Johanna Zorn, Executive Director
Julie Shapiro, Artistic Director
Delaney Hall, Senior Producer
Gwen Macsai, Host of Re:Sound

Technical support by Jason Ward
DVD screenings produced by Andrea Silenzi
Additional assistance by Zan Aranda

The Third Coast Filmless Festival is part of the 2010 season of Chicago Public Radio Presents . . .

The 2010 Third Coast Filmless Festival is presented in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University; and the Poetry Foundation. Additional support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEFA); exploreChicago.org, the city of Chicago’s official tourism website; American Airlines; and Chicago’s Navy Pier. The educational partner is the Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women & Gender in the Arts & Media at Columbia College Chicago.

Special thanks to Festival PLUS pass holders John Barth, Michelle Boone (Board member), Milan Chheda, Elizabeth Gracie, Philip L. Graitcer, Joanna Greer, Lisa Lee (Board member), Merrill Smith (Board member), and Lane Vanderslice (Board member).

Additional thanks to Daniel Ash, Breeze Richardson, Don Hall, and Sabiha Roksana of Chicago Public Radio; Peter Taub, Yolanda Cesta Cursach, and Surinder Martignetti of the MCA Chicago; and Chicago Public Radio.

The Third Coast International Audio Festival is a nonprofit arts organization made possible with lead support from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Chicago Public Radio Presents . . . is sponsored in part by Goose Island Brewery, Spex, and AV Club Chicago.

Chicago Public Radio Presents . . . is WBEZ’s public event series designed to bring public radio fans, their friends, and anyone else we can find together in the same room to experience the rich traditions of Chicago culture. The 2009/2010 season includes the third annual Global Activism Expo (Saturday, April 17); The Legacy of Chess Records, taking place at the historic Michigan Avenue studios (Sunday, May 23); and more.
Welcome

The Third Coast International Audio Festival (TCF) was founded nine years ago by Chicago Public Radio to bring exceptional radio stories of all kinds to audiences worldwide and to support the producers creating this vital work. We have grown into a year-round organization, continually discovering new ways to engage listeners in the power of sound and story. In addition to hosting an annual competition and conference, we invite audiences to listen to beautifully crafted documentaries on our weekly radio program Re:sound on WBEZ (91.5 FM) to subscribe to our podcast, produce short stories for our annual audio challenge, or come out for an evening of radio and conversation at our Listening Rooms.

But until last year there was still something missing from the TCF . . . an actual festival! Today we welcome you to the second annual Chicago Public Radio Presents . . . the Third Coast Filmless Festival, a full day of listening nirvana. Not only will you hear a rich variety of audio documentaries throughout the day—stories that provoke, reveal and entertain—and meet some of the most innovative producers working in radio, you’ll do so as a community, something both rare and marvelous.

And while we’re in a festive mood, please join us in celebrating the launch of the TCF as an independent arts organization, with a new logo, mascot (keep an eye out for Pidgey!), and website. And when you leave today hungry for more stories, please browse our vast online library at thirdcoastfestival.org.

Our deepest thanks to WBEZ’s Chicago Public Radio Presents . . . series for believing in the idea of a “Filmless Festival” and to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, for sharing this amazing space.

Happy listening!
Johanna Zorn, Executive Director
Julie Shapiro, Artistic Director

On view today

Andrew O’Connor: Frequent Mutilations

Presented by the Third Coast Filmless Festival, this special installation consists of four reel-to-reel tape machines that play a series of large analog tape loops in different durations, from one of North America’s longest running radio art programs, Frequent Mutilations.

For almost 25 years, Frequent Mutilations aired original, hour-long audio art compositions every week on CKMS FM. For today’s installation, the artist Andrew O’Connor takes down a loop from the original tapings every few minutes and splices in new material. The resulting live mix weaves together different sounds and textures to create a slowly evolving, slightly random composition.

“Much like the radio show, there’s no telling what will happen.”
—Andrew O’Connor
Young Jean Lee’s Theater Company

The Shipment
Friday–Sunday, March 26–28
The long-awaited Chicago debut by this celebrated New York playwright and an all-star cast.

The strongest indication that the avant-garde isn’t dead, and has never been funnier.
—NEW YORK MAGAZINE

For tickets, call 312.397.4010 or visit mcachicago.org.
Program

11:30 AM
MCA Theater
Intimate Strangers
Stories of closeness—or the illusion of closeness—between people who barely know each other. Producer Jamie Yuenger takes questions following the program.

Relationship Hotline (Jonathan Goldstein and Mira Burt-Wintonick; CBC Radio: WireTap, 2009; Canada)
Just one phone call might mend your broken heart.

Dyana, Goddess of the Moose Hunt (Jamie Yuenger; Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, 2009; US)
Against all odds, Dyana wins a moose-hunting permit on her first try. But nothing else seems to go her way.

Lucy and the Bike Girl (Hillary Frank; Chicago Public Radio: This American Life, 2007; US)
Lucy and her best friend met in an internet chat-room. They have even the most unusual things in common, but meeting in person could be fatal.

Invisible Girl (Scott Carrier with Ira Glass; Chicago Public Radio: This American Life, 2007; US)
Back in 2002, Elizabeth Smart’s kidnapping made international news. Though her picture was everywhere, she and her captors roamed the streets of her hometown, unrecognized, for weeks.

Faux Bono (Roman Mars; American Public Media: Weekend America, 2007; US)
When Pavel looks in the mirror, he sees what most everyone else sees, or wants to see: one of the most beloved rock stars in the world.

Forgiveness (Michael O’Halloran with Lindsay Michael and Neil Sandell; CBC Radio: Outfront; Canada)
A repentant murderer reaches out to the daughter of the man he killed and seeks forgiveness.

noon
Kanter Meeting Center
Rhyme and Reason
Stories that draw strength from the elegance (and clumsiness) of words, the music (and dissonance) of voice, and the rhythms (and ruptures) of life. Producer Lu Olkowski takes questions following the screening.

Sum (Jonathan Goldstein and Mira Burt-Wintonick, written by David Eagleman; CBC Radio: WireTap, 2009; Canada)
Imagine a hereafter in which your whole life has been reshuffled, with similar moments and feelings grouped together and relived in one cumulative bunch.

Last Words From Hopi High (Brett Myers/Youth Radio; National Public Radio: All Things Considered, 2009; US)
Hopi teens in northeastern Arizona struggle to retain their culture and language as they immerse in modern American culture.

Responsibility in Metaphor (Tony Hoagland; The Poetry Foundation: poetryfoundation.org, 2009; US)
An extended metaphor captures a single charged moment between two adults.

Women of Troy: In the Office of Temporary Assistance
(Brenda Ann Kenneally, Lu Olkowski, and Susan B. A. Somers-Willett; Public Radio International: Studio 360, 2009; US)
Twenty-five-year-old Billie Jean Hill recently lost her job as a hotel housekeeper and pays a visit to the local assistance office to apply for help.

Women of Troy: Just a Girl (Brenda Ann Kenneally, Lu Olkowski, and Susan B. A. Somers-Willett; Public Radio International: Studio 360, 2009; US)
Troy, New York, claims to have the largest Flag Day
parade in the country. Everyone comes out for it, including Billie Jean, who has some big plans for the day.

**Hunting Poet** (Jesse Dukes; Public Radio International: *Studio 360*, 2009; US)
A poet pursues deer and inspiration in Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains.

**Thirteen Ways** (Pejk Malinovski; Public Radio International: *The Next Big Thing*, 2005; US)
A classroom of restless, imaginative 11-year-olds in Queens, New York, embrace the challenge of learning Wallace Stevens’s poem *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird*.

**Pumpernickel** (Philip Schultz; The Poetry Foundation: poetryfoundation.org, 2009; US)
Bread, sure, and Grandma, fortitude, cursing, mystery, splendor, risk, and passion.

Using a poetic retelling of *Romeo and Juliet* as its centerpiece, *Oakland Scenes* chronicles the tense summer of 2002 in Oakland, California, when an alarming number of youth homicides weighed heavily on the community.

**1:30 PM**
**MCA Theater**
**Against the Tide**
Enjoy tales of cultural curiosities, unconventional conduct, and a few proud exceptions to the rules. Producer Roman Mars takes questions following the program.

**Scrapper Bike Fever** (Jacob Fenston; National Public Radio: *Weekend Edition Saturday*, 2008; US)
In one of Oakland, California’s grimmest neighborhoods, some young people have found a way to brighten things up and cruise around town—with the help of spray paint, aluminum foil, and Oreo cookie wrappers.

**In Line With Saturday Night Klein** (Sean Cole; American Public Media: *Weekend America*, 2007; US)
Spend a night on a New York street with the “king of the line” as he camps out for prized standby tickets to *Saturday Night Live*.

**Fanatic Reactionary Pedestrian** (Abner Serd; Public Radio International: *Living on Earth*, 2005; US)
A self-proclaimed walking fanatic takes to the nation’s roadways to trace the paving of America and finds his share of potholes along the way.

**One Way Ticket to Mars** (Roman Mars; American Public Media, premiere; US)
NASA’s figuring out how to take the next great leap into space. The difficulty is, if we leap to Mars, we might not make it back. But that’s not a deterrent for everyone . . .

**Tom Girls** (Mary Beth Kirchner and Rebecca Weiker; Chicago Public Radio: *This American Life*, 2009; US)
Two lively eight-year-old girls meet at a conference for families with transgender children. They become best friends . . . at least for the weekend.

**Wild Crafting** (Emily Botein; Atlantic Public Media, 2007; US)
For more than 25 years, Nova and Les have made an unlikely living foraging for exotic mushrooms in the woods of northern Vermont.

**2 PM**
**Kanter Meeting Center**
**And the Envelope Please . . .**
Spend an unforgettable hour with the best of the best—past winners of the Third Coast/Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Competition. Producer Joe Richman takes questions following the program.
**Joseph Shabalala: In His Own Words** (David Schulman and Jeffrey Freymann-Weyr; National Public Radio: All Things Considered, 2003; US)
Joseph Shabalala describes how the vision for Ladysmith Black Mambazo came to him in a dream in four-part harmony.

**A Fragile Son** (Carma Jolly and Surjit Sachdev; CBC Radio: Outfront, 2007; Canada)
A family tradition is disrupted when an engineer’s son is born with a severe mental disability.

**Just Another Fish Story** (Molly Menschel; Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, 2005; US)
Residents of a small town in Maine recount the legendary story of a whale that washed up on its shores years ago, but no one remembers it quite the same way.

**Thembi’s AIDS Diary** (Thembi Ngubane, Joe Richman, and Anayansi Diaz-Cortes; National Public Radio: Radio Diaries, All Things Considered, 2006; US)
A resilient young woman living in South Africa keeps an audio diary for one year, sharing an intimate perspective of what it means to live with HIV/AIDS in her country.

**If** (Sherre Delys and John Jacobs; Deutschland Radio, 2001; Austria)
A young hospital patient responds to “What if?” questions, reinventing his experience through metaphor and allusion.

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**3:30 PM**
MCA Theater

**Willie McGee and the Traveling Electric Chair: A Work In Progress** (Bridgette McGee-Robinson and Joe Richman; National Public Radio: All Things Considered, 2010; US)
In 1951, a black man named Willie McGee was convicted of raping a white woman and sentenced to death. McGee was executed in Mississippi’s traveling electric chair—the only one of its kind in the country. A local radio station broadcast a play-by-play of the execution; today that obscure recording survives as an eerie artifact of a lost chapter of the history of civil rights in America.

McGee’s granddaughter, Bridgette, has been working with Radio Diaries to retrace the history of her grandfather’s life and death, uncovering the truth behind an episode shrouded in mystery. The story will be broadcast on National Public Radio’s All Things Considered in May. Join Bridgette McGee-Robinson and Joe Richman, producer of Radio Diaries, as they present a behind-the-scenes look at a documentary in progress.

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**4 PM**
Kanter Meeting Center

**Working Title**
Labor struggles, labors of love, labors of life . . . and robots in the workplace. Producer Dan Collison takes questions following the program.

For some, it’s just another way to store leftovers. For many, it’s a way of life.

**Entrepreneur** (Jesse Dukes; Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, 2005; US)
Worm digging in Maine isn’t what it used to be, but a self-styled entrepreneur can’t be picky.

**Si Se Puede** (Dan Collison and Elizabeth Meister; National Public Radio: Latino USA, 2009; US)
Workers from the Republic Windows and Doors Factory in Chicago relate the story of their successful strike in December 2008—the first American plant occupation since the sit-down strike of 1937, in Flint Michigan.
**Calcutta Typing** (Kevin T. Allen; quietamerican.org, 2005; US)

Typer for hire “perform” on the streets of Calcutta, India.

**Jonathan 2.0** (Jonathan Goldstein and Mira Burt-Wintonick; CBC Radio: WireTap, 2009; Canada)

WireTap host Jonathan Goldstein’s pal Howard is always calling him at the station with another hare-brained idea. This time, he’s created a monologue machine that can stand in as proxy while Jonathan takes a vacation.

**Selma Koch: Bra Fitter** (Emily Botein with Joe Richman; New York Public Radio: The Next Big Thing and All Things Considered, 2002; US)

“We know your size.” What else does a bra fitting shop really need to advertise? 94-year-old New Yorker Selma Koch shares some secrets of the trade.

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**8 PM**

**MCA Theater**

**Reality Radio: Words On Sound**

To celebrate the launch of Reality Radio, TCF presents *Telling True Stories in Sound*, a collection of essays written by some of the most accomplished radio producers working today. Re:sound’s Gwen Macsai joins Reality Radio contributors Ira Glass (This American Life), Joe Richman (Radio Diaries), and the Kitchen Sisters (Hidden Kitchens, Lost & Found Sound) for a lively discussion—with lots of audio, of course—about what makes radio stories so special. Audience members are invited to stay following the program for a book signing in the theater lobby of Reality Radio: Telling True Stories in Sound (UNC Press, 2010), edited by John Biewen, coedited by Alexa Dilworth, and published in association with the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University.

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**About the artists**

**John Biewen**

is Audio Program Director at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University. Biewen’s work has won many honors, including two Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Awards, the Scripps Howard National Journalism Award, and Third Coast’s Radio Impact Award. He founded Long Haul Productions in 1995. He teaches radio workshops, has contributed to books, and was recently named a United States Artists Donnelley Fellow.

**Alexa Dilworth**

has a bachelor of arts degree and a master of arts degree in English from the University of Florida, and a master of fine arts degree in creative writing from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. She is Publishing Director at Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University and also runs the awards program, which includes the Lange-Taylor Prize, the CDS/Honickman First Book Prize in Photography, and 25 Under 25: Up-and-Coming American Photographers.

**Ira Glass**

started working in public radio when he was 19 years old, as an intern at National Public Radio (NPR). During the next 17 years he held almost every production job they had: tape cutter, desk assistant, newscast writer, editor, producer, reporter, and substitute host. He launched This American Life, produced by Chicago Public Radio and distributed by Public Radio International, in 1995. The program is heard by more than two million people each week. In 2001, Glass was named Best Radio Host in America by Time magazine.
The Kitchen Sisters (Davia Nelson and Nikki Silva) are independent radio and multimedia producers. Their work includes the duPont-Columbia-award–winning Hidden Kitchens series on Morning Edition, the Peabody Award–winning National Public Radio (NPR) series Lost & Found Sound and the post-9/11 Sonic Memorial Project (coproduced with Jay Allison). They are the authors of Hidden Kitchens; Stories, Recipes and More and Hidden Kitchens Texas. Their new series exploring the secret life of girls around the world premieres this spring on NPR.

Roman Mars is an independent audio producer, reporter, and sound designer living in Northern California. His reporting and documentary work has aired on Snap Judgment, Morning Edition, Weekend America, KALW’s Crosscurrents, and the Third Coast International Audio Festival’s Re:sound. He is the remixer for the Public Radio Exchange’s experimental XM satellite radio channel PRX: Remix Radio (XM 136), and formerly worked at the Third Coast Festival.

Bridgette McGee-Robinson lives in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she was born to Mary McGee, the youngest daughter of Willie McGee. She holds a very special loving and caring relationship with her Auntie Della McGee-Johnson, Willie McGee’s oldest daughter. She started the research of her Grandfather Willie McGee in 1998, planning a family reunion event for her family in Las Vegas.

Andrew O’Connor is an independent radio producer and sound artist based out of Toronto who is active in public radio both on a national and local scale. He has contributed work to CBC programs The Signal, Metro Morning, and The Current, among others. His work as a sound artist has been featured at the Open Ears Festival, Vancouver New Music, and this summer at Sound Symposium XV in St. Johns, Newfoundland.

Lu Olkowski is a contributing producer to Studio 360 with Kurt Andersen. Her work has been heard on All Things Considered, Day to Day, Radio Lab, This American Life, and Weekend America. She has been honored by the American Women in Radio & Television, the literary magazine The Missouri Review, and the Third Coast International Audio Festival. Prior to a career in public radio, Olkowski was a creative director at Nickelodeon where she led a team of producers in exploring new ways of storytelling using emerging technologies.

Joe Richman is an award-winning independent producer and reporter for National Public Radio (NPR)’s All Things Considered and the founder of Radio Diaries, a nonprofit organization. Past productions include: Teenage Diaries, Prison Diaries, My So-Called Lungs, New York Works, Thembi’s AIDS Diary, and Mandela: An Audio History. Richman worked for many years as a producer on NPR programs All Things Considered, Weekend Edition-Saturday, Car Talk, and Heat. He teaches at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism.

Jamie Yuenger is an audio documentarian living in Brooklyn, New York. Folklore studies started her journey in sound, which eventually led to the magical Salt Institute for Documentary Studies in Portland, Maine. Yuenger received a grant in 2009 from the New York Council on the Humanities to produce a multimedia exhibition about mom and pop shops in New York. She is working on a documentary film about sustainable agriculture.
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To inquire about a lost item, please call the museum at 312.280.2660. Unclaimed articles are held for 30 days.

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Please switch off all noise-making devices while you are in the theater.

Late arrivals are seated at the management’s discretion. Food and open beverage containers are not allowed in the seating area.

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Program notes compiled by Yolanda Cesta Cursach

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