



**Welcome to the Sixth Annual Takoma Park Film Festival!**

This year's festival programming showcases the local in relation to the national and the international, the "amateur" in relation to the "professional," and the didactic in relation to the aesthetic. Films and videos in six different languages produced in thirteen countries represent a diversity of experiences and points of view. The themes and strategies of the presented work speak to the ethical values of the Takoma Park community and nod to an intellectual and aesthetic curiosity. We hope you will enjoy this year's offerings and will continue to support this free, community media arts event.

-A. Moon, Festival Director

**Major Sponsors:**

Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County  
The Carl M. Freeman Foundation

**Contributing Sponsors:**

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**Voice**

Robbi Kimball,  
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**Thursday, November 15, 2007  
Opening Night Screening  
Including Reception and Special Guest Speakers**



Photo of Joe Glazer courtesy Susan Levi, VS Photographers

*Speaking Truth to Power* (2007)  
Melissa Mergner (Silver Spring MD)  
10 min.  
Documentary

A youth-produced short documentary about labor rights activist Baldemar Velasquez and the organization he founded in Ohio in the 1970s. He devoted his life to changing wages and working conditions for farm workers and his organization FLOC represented farm workers in labor actions against large corporations such as Campbells and Heinz.

*Labor's Troubadour* (2005)  
Hope Moskowitz (Santa Monica CA)  
37 min.  
Documentary

A portrait of the legendary labor folk singer and social historian Joe Glazer--a 40 year resident of the Washington DC area who often performed in Takoma Park. The documentary is a celebration of Joe's life and his contribution to the American labor movement.

**Friday**  
**7:15pm Women Behaving...**  
**Part 1: Shorts (63 min.)**



*LadyLike* (2006)  
Safiya Songhai (New York NY)  
Narrative short, 06:00  
A devout Muslim and a daring exhibitionist form an uncommon friendship during a chance encounter on the street.

*Ladies' Tea* (2001)  
Paula Durette (Fresno CA)  
Animation, 2:30  
A comic deconstruction of social space at a lesbian bar in Baltimore.

*Kitchen* (2005)  
Alice Winocour (France)  
35mm narrative short (shown on video), 14:30  
The preparation of an evening's dinner becomes chaotic and then violent for a French housewife. In French with English subtitles.



*Madame Bovary, C'est Moi* (2003)  
Katrina Heiser (Gaithersburg MD & London UK)  
Three mock film trailers, video, 6:00  
What cinematic and social space will permit the articulation of female desire? The artist uses the tragic figure of Madame Bovary to inquire.

*Untitled Affair* (2003)  
Chi-Jang Yin (Chicago IL)  
Video 7:00  
The artist is witness to an adulterous encounter.



*The Invalids* (2005)  
Mary Billyou (New York NY)  
16mm experimental film, 9:00  
A mostly silent film recreating the plight of women consigned to Victorian insane asylums. This short film prompts consideration of the maladies once ascribed to women, such as hysteria, and the belief that too much intellectual or physical stimulation might prove harmful to the fairer sex.

*Secret: The Josephine Baker FBI Files*

Kathy Corley (St. Louis, MO)

Documentary, 18:00

Drawn from over a thousand FBI files and archival material, *Secret* tells the story of entertainer Josephine Baker and two men who pursued her: media personality Walter Winchell and FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. Mixing old and new sound and images to link the present and past, *Secret* uncovers Baker's little known identity as a global human rights activist.

Maryland premiere.

**Program sponsored by The Big Bad Woof, [www.thebigbadwoof.com](http://www.thebigbadwoof.com)**

*(brief intermission)*



*Enemies of Happiness*, Courtesy of Women Make Movies, [www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com).

**8:30 Women Behaving...**

**Part 2: *Enemies of Happiness* (2006)**

Eva Mulvad and Anja Al-Erhayem (Denmark)

Documentary, 58:00

A portrait of the courageous and controversial Afghan politician Malalai Joya and her 2005 campaign for a parliamentary seat during Afghanistan's first parliamentary elections in 35 years.

In Farsi, Arabic and English with English subtitles.

*Nina Gilden Seavey, Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and Founding Director of SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival will introduce the film and lead a post-screening discussion.*

**Program sponsored by Sue Scott of Coldwell Banker, [www.cbmove.com/Sue.Scott](http://www.cbmove.com/Sue.Scott)**

**10:00 After-party at Glad Rags, 7306 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912**

**All are welcome—but bring a stamped flyer (available at festival) for entry.**

**Food and wine will be served.**

**Saturday, November 17, 2007**  
**2.00 pm Short Shorts (47 min.)**  
**(Including Animations & Youth-produced Work)**



*Sports and Diversions* (2005-6)

Bum Lee (Pittsburgh PA)

Animation, 4:00

Elegant black and white animations inspired by the music of Erik Satie.

*Thunderia* (2006)

Lantz Barbour (Silver Spring MD)

Animation, 6:00

An intense animated epic of a hero on a journey to battle the God of Thunder and reclaim his lost love.

*Potato Song* (2006)

Lantz Barbour (Silver Spring MD)

Animation, 3:00

A singing and dancing potato!

*The Jabberwocky* (2007)

Isaac Axtmann, Aziza Afzal, Julian Boilen, Bazi Johnson, Austin Johnson, Celeste Robinson. Laurie Stepp, Coordinator. (Silver Spring MD)

Animation, 1:30

A student-led claymation piece that gives Lewis Carroll's famous poem a silly twist.

Collaborators in person

*A Short* (2007)

Isaac Axtmann, Aziza Afzal, Julian Boilen, Bazi Johnson, Austin Johnson, Celeste Robinson. Laurie Stepp, Coordinator. (Silver Spring MD)

Experimental video, 0:15

An experimental exploration of pixilation.

Collaborators in person

*The Runaway Carriage* (date)

Sofia Zocca & Ariela Sirota (Takoma Park MD)

Animation, 2:00

A youth-produced stop-motion animation.

World premiere

Directors in person

*When We Leave* (2007)

Julian Boilen and Ezra Wexler (Silver Spring MD)

Narrative video, 6:00

Luke sits down to watch tv and ends up in a parallel universe. He seems to be the same but things are different...

World premiere.

Directors in person

*The Lone Trombonist* (2007)

Jonah Novek (Silver Spring MD)

Narrative video, 7:00

Desmond is an assassin on a mission. He encounters a young trombone player with something to hide. A whirlwind chase results.

World premiere.

Director in person.

*Overcoming Doom 3* (2006)

Casey Drogin (Silver Spring MD)

Narrative video, 4:00

A boy tries to overcome his fears of the horror video game Doom 3.

*A Day in the Life of Casey Drogin* (2006)

Casey Drogin (Silver Spring MD)

Narrative video, 4:30

A mock self-portrait.

*Teen Jobs* (2007)

Silver Spring Youth Collaborative

narrative video, 3:00

*Teens Jobs* makes the case that jobs are the antidote to gangs and drugs.

*Silver Spring Town* (2007)

Silver Spring Youth Collaborative

Documentary, 6:00

An advocacy documentary that makes the case that Silver Spring needs a local, teen-run skate park.

**Saturday, 3:00-4:00 pm**

**Youth Reception, Azalea Room**

**Open to all youth artists, their families, and fans.**

**Saturday, November 17, 2007**  
**3:30 pm Around the World (73 min.)**



*Mexico Painting* (2007)

Vin Grabill (Ellicott City, MD)

Experimental video, 3:00

Using his video camera as a brush, the director creates an abstract painting.

Director in person.



*The Expeditionists: La Ciudad Dorada* (2007)

Sabine Gruffat (Madison WI)

16mm film presented on video, 14:00

A chronicle of The Expeditionists' live use of Advanced Recording Technology to record a sonic map of the Columbian heartland en route to La Ciudad Dorada. The footage survives as testimony to the impractical capabilities of their electronic gadget equipped with twelve light sensors that triggered erratic sound responses to the diverse topography they wandered through.

*Good Faith Effort* (2006)

Joanna Raczynska (Baltimore MD)

Documentary, 12:00

*Good Faith Effort* asks young Poles in Warsaw to remember the pivotal moment of the first free post-WWII elections in 1989. Fragments of public space in Warsaw offer reflective moments between the personal stories, forming a complex portrait of change and transition.

In Polish with English subtitles.

Maryland premiere.

Director in person.

*ISAHN* (2004)

Soon Mi Yoo (Syracuse NY)

Experimental video, 16:30

ISAHN tells stories of displacement—it's about places one cannot go back to anymore. Inspired by the story of an elderly man who killed himself after failing to reunite with his family in the north, the video features testimony from other North Koreans exiled to Burma and Thailand. The split screen depicts state-sanctioned images from the stereoscopes in Imjingak in South Korea, intended for tourists and exiles. For those who are not allowed to go back home, the sights of exile are just ersatz landscapes.



*The Beautiful* (2006)

Peter Pizzi (East Boston MA)

Video, 3:00

Inspired by the poem by Michelle Tea, the short video tells the story of one young woman's disillusionment with her family and her country.

Maryland premiere.



*El Canto del Grillo*

*El Canto del Grillo/The Song of the Grasshopper* (2006)

Danny Campos (Madrid, Spain)

Narrative video, 17:00

Joseba Perurena wants to enjoy a new life together with his girlfriend. However, cutting ties with the past is never an easy thing to do especially when the consequences have not been fully considered.

In Spanish with English subtitles.

*Hiyab/Hijab* (2005)

Xavi Sala (Madrid, Spain)

35mm narrative short (shown on video), 8:00

Fatima, a Muslim girl who persists in wearing a head scarf, is confronted by her high school teacher.

In Spanish with English subtitles.



**Saturday, November 17, 2007**

**5:00 pm Moving Through Time and Space (77 min.)**



*L'Arrivée* (1997/98)

Peter Tscherkassky (Austria)

16mm experimental film, 2:00

A tribute to one of the Lumière brothers' best-known actualities.

*Da Capo* (2000)

Guy Sherwin (London UK)

16mm experimental film, 9:00

Variations on a train with Anna.

*Londres - London* (2006)

Eva Tang (Singapore)

Narrative film presented on video, 11:00

A woman travels between Gare du Nord in Paris and Waterloo Station in London to meet and then part from her lover.



*Seven + or - Two* (2004)

Justin Plakas (Wilmington NC)

Experimental video, 6:00

Constantly in motion between DC and Baltimore, the artist feels disconnected from both cities.  
Director in person.



*LineAge* (2005)

Jody Oberfelder (New York, NY)

Dance video, 7:00

*LineAge* contrasts the lines of our bodies with the lines in the landscape--imprints of time in nature and human natures from tabula rasa to wrinkles.  
Maryland premiere.



*Count Backwards from Five* (2007)

Tony Gault (Denver CO)

Experimental video, 8:00

The video combines new and old footage to tell the story of the director's brother, a man struggling with the fine line between life and death.

Maryland premiere.

*Self-Made Maps* (2006)

Nathan Duncan (Baltimore MD)

Experimental video, 9:00

A short that follows the fragmentary recollections of four acquaintances, their meetings, and eventual departures.

Director in person.

*A Year* (2006)

Mark Street (Brooklyn NY)

Experimental video, 25:00

A tattered diary film. Middle age concerns swirl around the artist in Brooklyn and follow to North Carolina and New Orleans and back home again.

Saturday, November 17, 2007

6:30 *L'enfer c'est les autres/Hell is Other People*(107 min.)

VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED



*Antes y después de besar a María*

*Antes y después de besar a María/Before and After Kissing Maria* (2007)

Dir. Ramón Alós (Madrid, Spain)

Narrative video, 8:00

A young boy experiences his first crush--on his cousin Maria. He vows to kiss her before the end of the summer, and he will, but under unexpected circumstances.

In Spanish with English subtitles.

*The Gym* (2006)

David Jaffe (Chevy Chase MD)

Narrative video, 5:00

Alex, a fitness obsessed teenager, finds himself trapped in a circle of self improvement to prove himself to his fellow classmate.

Maryland premiere.

*Weekends in Brooklyn* (2007)

David Canady (Washington DC)

Narrative video, 21:00

*Weekends in Brooklyn* tells the story of a British black man and woman finding love when they meet one evening in Brooklyn--a love that gets put to the test when they find out she's pregnant.

Director in person.

*Cleave* (2001)

Hollie Lavenstein (Auburn, Alabama)

16mm narrative film, 14:00

An autopsy of a recently-deceased marriage that reveals the simultaneous urge to both cling to and sever the relationship.

*Scratch's Cabbage* (2001)

Lantz Barbour (Silver Spring MD)

Animation, 5:00

A business transaction with the devil goes awry.

Director in person.



*La Parabólica/The Parabolic Dish* (2006)

Xavi Scala (Madrid, Spain)

Narrative video, 12:00

An elderly man constructs a satellite dish to improve his television reception in anticipation of a papal visit.

*F*

Perry Sachs (Los Angeles CA)

Narrative video, 33:00

A 1940s film noir dark comedy about a decent man's indecent desire.

Maryland premiere.

*My First Film Noir* (2004)

Neil Ira Needleman (Katona NY)

Experimental video, 9:00

Mayhem, violence, and dames. The essence of noir--stripped down to words and music.

Maryland Premiere

**Saturday, November 17, 2007**  
**8:30 pm Displeasure (75 min.)**  
**VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED**



*The Blood of the Earthworm*



*Concrete*

*Shaved (At a Loss)* (1998)

Patty Chang (New York NY)

Video, 5:30

"A compelling and challenging work utilizing prop, costume, and action to challenge ideas of beauty and stereotypes of Western women and Asian girls" -Annie Buckley, *Zero Degrees Art*

*Concrete* (2007)

Rebecca Reynolds (Baltimore, MD)

16mm experimental film, 8:00

The past and present, the sacred and erotic, and the real and imagined collide as a woman reworks narrative fragments into a final simplified conclusion.

*Passage a l'acte* (1993)

Martin Arnold (Vienna, Austria)

16mm experimental film, 12:00

The message which lies deep under the surface of the family idyll, suppressed or lost, is exposed - that message is war.

*Sixties Teen Dance Party* (2006)

Gordon Nelson (Pittsburgh PA)

16mm experimental film, 16:00

The simple, systematic distortion of an anonymous three-minute-long piece of 16mm film "becomes by turns sexy, comic, foreboding and borderline demonic." – Bill O'Driscoll, *Pittsburgh City Paper*

*A Film About Violence* (2006)

Ethan Knecht (New York NY)

Performance/experimental video, 1:00

A provocation about violence, media, and reality.  
Maryland premiere.



*Sixties Teen Dance Party*

*The Blood of the Earthworm* (2006)

Brittany Gravely (Jamaica Plain MA)

16mm experimental film, 32:00

An anti-climactic barrage of original footage and found extractions from horror, science fiction, and educational films, all of which feature the contemporary maladies of civilization including ecological devastation, bio-terrorism, consumerism, and government conspiracy.

Maryland Premiere.

**Program sponsored by Colorlab, [www.colorlab.com](http://www.colorlab.com)**

Sunday, November 18, 2007  
All Activism, All the Time



Alex White Plume in *Standing Silent Nation*, Prairie Dust Films

**1:00 pm**

*The Easter Bunny Eggsposed* (2007)

Erica Meier (Takoma Park MD)

Mock newscast video, 3:00

An exposé on the confinement of egg-laying hens in wire battery cages.

Festival premiere.

Director in person.

Special sneak preview of local in-progress documentary on activism  
(Washington DC)

Documentary, 59:30

A portrait of four different activists, their motivations, their differences, and their hidden commonalities.

Director in person.

Q&A on methods, fundraising, & post-production.

*VIEWER DISCRETION—graphic imagery*

**2:30 pm**

*The Children Left Behind* (1995)

Leon Seltzer (Takoma Park MD)

Documentary, 27:30

*The Children Left Behind* tells the story of mothers from El Salvador who left their children behind in the midst of civil war to find work in the U.S.

In Spanish and English with English subtitles.

Director in person.

*Propaganda* (2007)

Lisa Jaeggi (Silver Spring MD)

Documentary, 23:00

In the summer of 2007, seven teens, a recent college graduate, and an old guy set out to see if they could change public opinion through a propaganda poster campaign on the topic of immigration.

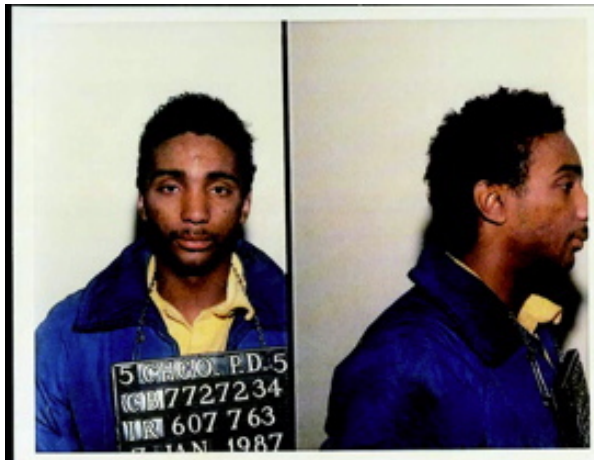
Participants in person.

**3:30 - 5:00 pm Panel Discussion: Community-building, Activism, and Media**

Participants:

- Rudy Arredondo, President, The Hispanic Organizations Leadership Alliance (HOLA)
- Noelle Callahan, Compassion Over Killing
- Gandhi Brigade members
- Chris Intagliata, Writer, *Race to Execution*
- Joe Uehlein, Strategic Action Center

Moderator: Steve Mencher, Mensch Media



**5:00 pm**

*Race to Execution* (2006)

Rachel Lyon (Boston MA)

Documentary, 53:00

*Race to Execution* is a provocative and haunting portrait of two death row inmates: Robert Tarver of Russell County, Alabama and Madison Hobley of Chicago, Illinois, exposing how race infects America's death penalty system.

Writer Chris Intagliata of Takoma Park in person

**6:30 pm**

*Standing Silent Nation* (2006)

Suree Towfighnia and Courtney Hermann (Chicago IL & Portland OR)

Documentary, 52:30

In 2000, Oglala Lakota Alex White Plume and his family planted industrial hemp on the Pine Ridge Reservation. When federal agents raided their fields, the White Plume family was swept into a struggle for their nation's sovereignty.

**Screening sponsored by Robbi Kimball of Long and Foster, [www.robbi-sells-homes.com](http://www.robbi-sells-homes.com)**