

***Kairos Dirt & the Errant Vacuum*, 2017**

Director and Contact: Madsen Minax

madsenwashere (at) gmail (dot) com – <http://www.kairosdirt.com>

TRT: 90 minutes

Color, Stereo Sound

16:9 Aspect Ratio

Production Format: HD, Exhibition Format: ProRes 422

LOG

A disparate group of mystical misfits intertwine with an otherworldly, genderless apparition through fantastic and carnal dreamscapes.

SYNOPSIS

Kairos Dirt & the Errant Vacuum follows the strange happenings of two middle school lunch ladies, an androgynous student, a lesbian hospice provider, a grieving ministry worker, a mystical mortician, and an astrologer/life coach/phone sex operator. Through a series of collective dreams an otherworldly being invades the characters' dream spaces, revealing an alternate realm of wanton, subconscious desires. Amid the post-industrial decay of the American south, interconnected relationships unfold in unusual and fantastical landscapes as television monitors, radio frequencies, orifices and dreams all become portals to access this alternate dimension of carnality and desire.

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

I began conceptualizing the film *Kairos Dirt* four years ago. I wanted to make a film that examined ideas of nonlinear time, youth, growth and death within a framework of sexuality and desire. I wanted to focus around the erotic aspects of consumption, using dreamscapes, alternate realities and magical realism to do so. I wanted to make a queer film that showed differently sized bodies, trans and gender ambiguous bodies engaging beyond the politics of queerness. As a trans and queer person, this desire was not only personal, but deeply political. Most importantly, I wanted to do this in a way in which these issues were not isolated, but fluid, floating in a larger mix of seemingly ordinary and extraordinary human struggles. *Kairos Dirt* successfully interrogates many complex themes through the blending of cinematic narrative trajectory and visual tactics from video art and experimental cinema.

Characters go largely nameless until over 30 minutes into the film, setting a tone of insignificance and mundanity. However, through venturing into this alternate realm they become anything but insignificant and mundane, as each discovers a place where memory and future meet, where death and sexuality co-habitat. At its core, *Kairos Dirt* is a film about love and longing, beginnings and endings, utopian and dystopian

imaginaries. It is a film that reflects and is inspired by human relationships to media and technology, erotics and power, history and the archive, identity and relationality, magic and myth. *Kairos Dirt & the Errant Vacuum* is a film that is both profound and whimsical, coherent and absurd.

In directing this film, I took performance inspiration from filmmakers like Gregg Araki, John Waters, George Kuchar, and others, calling in the history of "camp" in filmmaking. I was also inspired by character-based exploration and the motif of an ensemble cast. The performances and deliveries are sometimes very grand and exaggerated (referencing physical theatre), while other times so flat as to come off completely un-acted. At no point in this film should viewers forget that they are in fact watching a film. The performances prevent a viewer from slipping into over identifying with the characters, or misinterpreting the imagined for the real. This mode of filmmaking allows the process of making the film to align with some of the film's narrative concerns: the line between fantasy and reality. Because of these interests I chose largely to cast non-actors.

Once the idea for this film was conceived in 2012, I invited co-writer Paul Kruse (Pittsburg) to collaborate with script development. In 2013 we locked ourselves inside my one-bedroom apartment in Chicago for three days developing the skeleton of *Kairos Dirt*, looking at hours of films and images like *Tank Girl*, *Holy Mountain*, *Twin Peaks*, *La Jette*, *Desperate Living*, *Dandy Dust*, and others; listening to oldies and sound art projects; and reading about near death experiences and brushes with "the other side." We brainstormed how our symbols would function, molding abstract visions of human traits and eccentricities into playable characters, many of which were based off of our friends and lovers. We pulled deeply from personal experiences and memories to solidify the situations and events that would cyclone through this web of characters. This intensive period was followed by a year of long distance writing collaboration before the script for *Kairos Dirt* was born.

In the fall of 2014 I moved to Memphis, TN where the principal production would take place. The grit, earnestness and breath of the city brought our mise-en-scenes to life. From this point we gathered crew, maxed out 3 credit cards, and got a lot of folks together who were willing to lend hands (and locations and food) and shot the film between May and September of 2015. In 2016 I began the post production process. Post is one of the most excited stages for me, and where my practice as an artist really transpires. I spent countless hours editing, soundscaping and composing, performing and recording the original score for this film. Writing, directing and editing the same project poses its own set of challenges, however editing my own films is something I am completely invested in. The union of the music and image is a deeply rewarding and creative process, where things that were not imaginable in the scriptwriting stage can manifest. After four years in the making, with a starting budget of personal funds and a ton of community support, this film was made. I believe it will be an archival document of this social and artistic moment in time for generations to come. It has truly been a communal and individual labor of love.

AWARDS

Honorable Mention, Los Angeles Underground Film Forum, 2017

Best Experimental Film, Trans Stellar Film Festival, 2017

Best Feature, Indie Memphis Film Festival 2016

SCREENINGS

2017

European Media Arts Film Festival, Osnabrück, Germany

San Francisco Sex Workers Film Festival, Roxie Theater, San Francisco, CA

Transcreen Film Festival, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Philadelphia Community Media Access, Philadelphia, PA

EMP Collective, Baltimore, MD

Sediment Arts, Richmond, VA

EyeDrum Gallery, Atlanta, GA

BeBe Theatre, Presented by Mechanical Eye Microcinema, Asheville, NC

The Carrack Modern Art, Durham, NC

University of Florida, Department of Photography, Gainesville, FL

La Esquina Gallery, Presented by PLUG Projects and Charlotte Street Foundation,

Kansas City, MO

The Nightingale Microcinema, Chicago, IL

Zeitgeist Arts Center, New Orleans, LA

University of Colorado, Denver, CO

Rice Cinema, Presented by Dramatic Arts, Rice University, Houston, TX

Vermont International Film Festival, Burlington, VT

London Fringe Film Festival, London, UK

The Nightingale Microcinema, Chicago, IL

Public Space One, Presented by Vertical Cinema, Iowa City, IA

The Yellow Wallpaper Project, Presented by the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival,

Milwaukee, WI

Pix Gallery, presented by Pleasure Dome, Toronto, ON

London Media Arts Association, Presented by the Toronto Queer Film Festival, London,

ON

Cave Gallery, Presented by Mothlight Microcinema, Detroit, MI

Pittsburgh Filmmakers, Presented by Pitt Art, Pittsburgh, PA

2016

Indie Memphis Film Festival, Memphis, TN

PRESS for KAIROS DIRT

"Kairos Dirt is a film that had a very distinct vision, a lot of surprises and established a really specific tone that is still hard to describe." -- Indie Memphis Juror, Ted Speaker

"...Plunges the viewer into a dreamlike state." -- The Memphis Flyer

"Kairos Dirt gleefully elides genre and gender categories" -- Brooklyn Magazine

"The most unusual film... "Kairos Dirt" is an unclassifiable mix of far-out metaphysics (think "Donnie Darko") and the occasional startling upsetting image (think John Waters)." – The Commercial Appeal

Full Articles:

Brooklyn Magazine, "Politics and DIY," Paul Dallas

<http://www.bkmag.com/2016/11/18/indie-memphis-film-festival/>

The Commercial Appeal, Film reviews, "Indie Memphis Announces Award Winners," John Beifuss, November 6, 2016

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/story/entertainment/movies/2016/11/06/indie-memphis-announces-award-winners/93305834/>

Memphis Flyer, Film reviews, "The Predictably Unpredictable Kairos Dirt & the Errant Vacuum," Chris McCoy, November 4, 2016

<http://www.memphisflyer.com/FilmTVEtcBlog/archives/2016/11/04/indie-memphis-saturday-the-predictably-unpredictable-kairos-dirt-and-the-errant-vacuum>

Filmmaker Magazine, "Religious Fervor in Precarious Times," Whitney Mallett

<http://filmmakermagazine.com/100535-religious-fervor-and-precarious-times-the-2016-indie-memphis-film-festival/#.WEh1H6lrLyo>

Posture Magazine, "Kairos Dirt Pushes the Politics of Queerness," Winter Mendleson

<http://posturemag.com/online/new-feature-film-kairos-dirt-pushes-the-politics-of-queerness/>

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Madsen Minax's film, video, sound and music projects reflect interests in the occult, strange desires, notions of belonging and becoming.

Madsen toured the United States as part of the queer bluegrass music performance duet Actor Slash Model from 2006-2012, co-founded the Threat Level Queer Shorts bi-monthly screening series that ran from 2008-2010, and performed with The Homoticons from 2009-2011. Since 2006 his projects have screened and exhibited at spaces including Lincoln Center (NYC), the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, Anthology Film Archives (NYC), The British Film Institute, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and REDCAT, Los Angeles. Festival screenings include the European Media Art Festival, London Fringe Film Festival, Outfest, Newfest, Frameline, and BFI Flare, with awards from Reeling LGBT Film Festival, Philadelphia Independent, Transcreen Amsterdam and others. Additionally, Madsen's film *Riot Acts: Flaunting Gender Deviance in Music Performance* aired on PBS (2013) and FreeSpeech TV (2012). It is now widely available through Amazon, iTunes, Fandor and the like.

Madsen was a Berlinale Talents DOC Station participant in 2016, was awarded the Memphis Arts Accelerator Grant in 2015, and has been a recipient of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Long Prize (2014), the Warhol Foundation's Idea Fund (2013), The Chicago Instructional Technology Fund (2012), and multiple Chicago Artist Assistance grants from the Chicago Cultural Center and the Illinois Arts Council.

Kairos Dirt & the Errant Vacuum is Madsen's first feature length narrative film.

FILMOGRAPHY

Kairos Dirt & the Errant Vacuum, forthcoming (TRT 90 minutes)
The Bowels of the Universe (With Shining Knees), 2015 (TRT 3:24)
To Summon and Chase Away, 2015 (TRT 8:10)
My Most Handsome Monster, 2014 (TRT 13:10)
Forward Into The Afternoon, 2014 (TRT 5:10)
The Year I Broke My Voice, 2012 (TRT 47 minutes)
Revise/Disguise, 2011 (TRT 4:07)
Riot Acts: Flaunting Gender Deviance in Music Performance, 2010 (TRT 70 minutes)

FILM/VIDEO SCREENINGS

The Bowels of the Universe (With Shining Knees), 3:24, SD/HD video, 2015
2016 Onion City Experimental Film Festival, Chicago, IL
Magickal Charm, Anthology Film Archives, New York, NY
Amarcord Arthouse Video and Television Festival, Chicago, IL

Platinum, Outfest International Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA
Normcore Narratives, Porto International Queer Film Festival, Porto, Portugal
Quartz Queer Arts Salon, Memphis, TN
Blood Moons, with Macon Reed, Roots & Culture, Chicago, IL
San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, San Francisco, CA

To Summon and Chase Away, 8 minutes, HD video, 2015
2015 Moviate Underground Film Festival, Harrisburg, PA
Chrysalis, Subterranean, Chicago, IL
Sprit Quest Film Festival, Erie, PA
Indie Memphis Film Festival, Memphis TN
Columbus International Film and Video Festival, Columbus, OH
Firestone Experimental Film Festival, Moscow, Russia
Signes De Nuit International Film Festival, Paris, France

My Most Handsome Monster, 13 minutes, HD video, 2014
2016 Trans Temporalities Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada
2014 Museum of Contemporary Art, Solo Screening, Chicago, IL
Cinema Scaffold, Curated by Posture Magazine, Brooklyn, NY
INFRARED V: New Visions from the Queer Avant-Garde, Seattle, WA
New Jersey Media Arts Center, Best of the Festival 2014, New Brunswick, NJ
Walter Reade Theater, Lincoln Center, NewFest International Film Festival, New York, NY
REDCAT, Outfest International Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Houston, TX
ARTSFEST Film Festival, Harrisburg, PA
Failure To Identify: works by CA Conrad and Madsen Minax, part of *Antena* at Blaffer Art Museum, University of Houston, TX
Impossible ____scapes (land, sea, cloud, city, moon, e), Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA
Moviate Underground Film Festival, Harrisburg, PA
New Jersey International Film Festival, New Brunswick, NJ
Athens International Film and Video Festival, Athens, OH
San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, San Francisco, CA

The Year I Broke My Voice, 47 minutes, HD video, 2012
2014 CANTV, Chicago Cable Access, Chicago, IL
Richard Hoggart Cinema, Goldsmiths University, London, UK
Glimmers and Limbo, with Julia Brown and Anahita Ghazvinizadeh, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
The Years to Come, with Anahita Ghazvinizadeh, 14 Pews, Houston, TX
Impossible ____scapes (land, sea, cloud, city, moon, e), Antenna Gallery, New Orleans, LA

Museum of Contemporary Art, Solo Screening, Chicago, IL

- 2013 *The Year I Broke My Voice*, Spectacle Theater, Brooklyn, NY
Artists' Television Access, San Francisco, CA
The Block Museum, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Transcreen Film Festival, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Fringe! Film Festival, London, United Kingdom
Bangalore Queer Film Festival, Bangalore, India
Chicago Filmmakers, Chicago, IL
Alabama Song Art Space, Houston, TX
University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL
Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival, Herron School of Art, Indianapolis, IN
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY

Revise/Disguise, 4 minutes, HD animation, 2011

- 2014 Northwest Animation Film Festival, Portland, OR
Northwest Animation Film Festival, Eugene, OR
2013 Aurora Picture Show, Houston, TX
Transcreen Film Festival, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2012 Athens International Film and Video Festival, Athens, OH
Translations Film Festival, Seattle, WA
Experimental Film Festival Portland, Portland, OR
Northern Lights, Parlour on Clark, Chicago, IL
Infrared 3: New Visions from the Queer Avant-Garde, Seattle, WA
San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, San Francisco, CA
2011 Minneapolis Underground Film Festival, Minneapolis, MN
Denver Underground Film Festival, Denver, CO

Riot Acts: Flaunting Gender Deviance in Music Performance, 72 minutes, 16mm, Super 8mm, DV, 2010

- 2014 *OPEN*, Sumzeig Cinema, Barcelona, Spain
Leeds City Art Gallery, Leeds Queer Film Festival, Leeds, UK
2013 Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), Madison WI
Llamale H International Film Festival, Montevideo, Uruguay
Shades of Gay, part of Q Fest Houston, Rice University, Houston, TX
2012 Free Speech TV, Cable Television World Premiere
Filmhuis Cavia, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Bangalore Queer Film Festival, Bangalore, India
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
London Fringe Film Festival, London, UK
2011 Transcreen Film Festival, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival, Austin, TX
Cinema Trans Sous les Etoiles, Montreal, QU, Canada

Kansai Queer Film Festival, Osaka, Japan
Kansai Queer Film Festival, Kyoto, Japan
Werftheater, Utrecht, The Netherlands
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL
MIX Festival Brazil, Sao Paulo, Brazil
2010 Chicago International Movies and Music Festival, Chicago, IL
London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, British Film Institute, London, UK
SENE Film, Music & Arts Festival, Providence, RI
Mezipatra Czech LGBT Film Festival, Prague, Czech Republic
Boston LGBT Film Festival, Boston, MA
Translations: Seattle Transgender Film Festival, Seattle, WA
International Youth Film Festival, Wales, United Kingdom
Out On Screen: Vancouver Queer Film Festival, Vancouver, Canada
Frameline International LGBT Film Festival, San Francisco, CA
Queer Lisboa Film Festival, Lisbon, Portugal
Independent Media Center, Urbana, IL
Pink Screens Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival, Milwaukee, WI
Cinema St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
Philadelphia Independent Film Festival, Philadelphia, PA
Chagrin Falls Documentary Film Festival, Chagrin Falls, OH
Park City Film Music Festival, Park City, UT
Los Angeles Transgender Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA
Pittsburg LGBT Film Festival, Pittsburg, PA
Sacramento Film and Music Festival, Sacramento, CA
The Rogatka, Tel Aviv, Israel
Indianapolis GLBT Film Festival, Indianapolis, IN
ImageOut Rochester, Rochester, NY
Vinokino Film Festival, Helsinki, Finland
Out on Film Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
Bloomington LGBT Film Festival, Bloomington, IN
Seattle Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Seattle, WA
Hamburg LGBT Film Festival, Hamburg, Germany
MIX Mexico Film Festival 2010, Mexico City, Mexico

KEY CREDITS

Principle cast:

Rosie
TJ
Sully

Eve Minax
Henry Robert Love Greene
Spree Star

Kairos
Ebel
Edna
Tippi
Mr. Millay
Charles

Teddy B. Valenta
Madison Brown
Linley Schmidt
Diedre Chewning
Bill Baker
Ben Siler

Principle Crew:

Writer/ Exec. Producer/Director
Writer/Producer/Asst. Director
Director of Photography

Second Asst. Directors

Key Grip/Second Camera
Associate Producers

Sound Supervisor
Production Manager
Assistant Production Manager
Editor/VFX/Original Score
Music Supervisor

Madsen Minax
Paul Kruse
Meredith Zielke
Cameron Gibson
Jules Roskam
Cortney Andrews
Lyle Kash
Eileen Townsend
J. Gregory Swendsen
Lyle Kash
Brett Hanover
AJ Jennings
Alexa Zabella
Madsen Minax
Rosie Howe