

From Williamsburg to Hackney

The Underminer

Director: Todd Downing

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Based on the novel by: Mike Albo, Virginia Heffernan

Director of Photography: Jae Song

Grip: Joe Griffin

Cast: Mike Albo

United Kingdom/USA 2005, 6 mins

NYC Dilemma

Director/Producer: Todd Wilson

Production Company: De Stijl Music

Composer: Jack Curtis Dubowsky

Music Performed by: Organic Sound Experiment

Cast: Jack Curtis Dubowsky (main character);

Elizabeth Elson (potential client)

USA 2005, 5 mins

Exit Manhattan

Directors/Producers/Editors: Lena Corner,

Graham Clayton-Chance

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Additional Photography: Peter Brundle

With: Michele Maccarone, Scissor Sisters,

James Davis, Michael Reich, Elizabeth Streb,

Conrad Ventur, Shane Smith, Suroosh Alvi, Larry Tee,

Troublemakers, Secret Machines

United Kingdom 2004©, 23 mins

Sandra

Directed/Produced by: Hazuan Hashim, Phil Maxwell

Camera/Photography: Phil Maxwell

Editor: Hazuan Hashim

Music: Michael Nyman

With: Sandra Esqulant

United Kingdom 2005, 15 mins

Rock 'n' Roll Suicide

Director/Producer/ Puppets Made/Operated by:

Nathan Evans

Production Assistant: Efiba Amihyia

Assistant Director: Simon Brown

Director of Photography: Lucio Cremonese

Editor: Dan Haythorn

Song: David Bowie

Cast: Jonathan Simpson, Fernando Ramos,

Stuart Raine, Patrick Kessler

United Kingdom 2005, 3 mins

As Angry as Me

Director/Producer: Tom Sheahan

Production Company:

National Film and Television School

Directors of Photography: Ulrik Boel Bentzen,

Tom Sheahan

Additional Camera: Alex Hill

Editor: Agnieszka Liggett

Music: Peter Gosling

Sound Design: Markus Moll

Sound Recording: Sylvester Holm

With: Selfish Cunt

United Kingdom 2005, 31 mins

The Underminer Based on the book by Mike Albo (co-written with Virginia Heffernan), this short film reveals the insidious tactics of the quintessential New York 'underminer,' a master of passive aggression who throws his friend – or, rather, victim – into a spiral of self-doubt, destroying his hopes and dreams. Albo himself takes on the roles of both underminer and victim in the film.

Todd Downing: I saw Mike Albo perform the Underminer character quite a few times on stage, probably starting around 2002, and was always impressed by it. He taps into an unfortunate New York archetype: someone who can't see anything or anyone outside of himself – unless it involves celebrity or money – and is oblivious to his smugness and malevolence, and always at your cost. Mike makes this character seem so uncomfortably familiar that you begin to realize you are surrounded by Underminers in this city, and I get great pleasure watching him dig into such a deserving target.

NYC Dilemma In 2002-2003, San Francisco composer Jack Curtis Dubowsky moved to a fifth-floor walk-up in Manhattan's Lower East Side. This semi-*vérité* musical video by Todd Wilson, shot entirely in one day, documents the great dilemmas of NYC life. Go to the survival job, or attend a business meeting with a potential client (portrayed by real-life client and director Elizabeth Elson)? Eat lunch or scavenge? How hot is it outside? How to afford a gym? And, the greatest mystery of all, if this is an 'E train running on the F line,' is it an E or an F?

Exit Manhattan On the 4th July 2003, we trawled the streets of New York in search of Independence Day celebrations. From the street corner get-togethers of the Hispanic communities, to the fashionable parties in Williamsburg, *Exit Manhattan* features a host of characters drawn from the city's vibrant underground. With the fallout from 9/11 still weighing heavy, and a major police presence throughout, these celebrations took on a potent new meaning. In an interview with the Scissor Sisters, then on the brink of global success, Ana Matronic said: 'I liken it to the Weimar Republic era. There was a sense that it's going to end any day, so let's have fun while we can. There was a sinister undercurrent of lost innocence, terrorism and, I think, people waking up to the fact that outside of its borders, America is pretty much universally loathed.'

Sandra Produced and directed by Phil Maxwell and his partner Hazuan Hashim, this film celebrates the life of the iconic landlady of the Golden Heart pub, Sandra Esqulant. Adored by everyone around her the film captures a slice of her life in the Pub she has run continuously for over 25 years in the east end of London. Listed as an influential figure in the art world by the magazine *Art Review*, her wit and eccentricity leaps out of the screen.

Hazuan Hashim and Phil Maxwell: The Golden Heart Pub has been our local pub for the past ten to fifteen years. Hovering on the border between the East End and the encroaching City it has always attracted a diverse crowd and has more recently become known as a watering ground for artists. Filmmakers often have unfulfilled dream projects. For the past five years we have talked about making a film about Sandra, the larger than life landlady who has

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Sat 8 April 14.00 NFT2

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Sat 8 April 15.50 NFT3

Brief Lives

Sat 8 April 20.30 NFT3

The Ex-Factor

Sun 9 April 14.00 NFT2; Wed 12 April 18.20 NFT1

Bad Object Relations

Sun 9 April 20.30 NFT3; Mon 10 April 14.00 NFT1

Body Politic

Tue 11 April 20.40 NFT2

Why Do Straight Boys Do Gay Boys?

12 Apr 18.15 NFT2

managed the Golden Heart for over a quarter of a century through hard and the more recent good times. The closure of Spitalfields as a 'fruit and veg' market savaged Sandra's customer base but she hung on and now oversees probably the most famous pub in the East End.

Rock 'n' Roll Suicide On the third of July 1973 David Bowie killed off Ziggy Stardust. The last song he ever sang was 'Rock 'n' Roll Suicide'. This film brings Ziggy back from the grave for the Puppetry Promo Bowie never made... *Rock 'n' Roll Suicide* was originally created to cover a costume change (to Morrissey from Kate Bush) as part of *Puppetry of the Pops* at the Drill Hall Theatre in 2005.

As Angry as Me follows the rise of punk rock duo Selfish Cunt from their early gigs burning Union Jacks in protest at the war in Iraq, through critical recognition in the mainstream press to recording in New York and finally a concert at London's Brixton Academy. The film questions whether punk rock can be reinvented in the 21st century, whether performance can ever be political and what it really is that lead singer Martin Tomlinson is so angry about. The film paints a picture of London's underground art scene as it collides with the mainstream and questions whether any of these categories really mean anything at all.

Tom Sheahan has a background in overseas development and Social Anthropology. Before starting a career in television, he worked for three years as a youth trainer in war-torn Burma. This was followed by three more years making television films documenting the civil war he had witnessed there. This led on to a career researching, producing and directing documentaries for radio and television in over 30 countries around the world. He then decided to go to the National Film and Television School to hone his craft and develop his distinctive documentary voice.

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The NFT Café is open daily from 10am to 9pm offering morning coffee and cakes, lunch and dinner.

National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 8XT.
Box Office 020 7928 3232. www.bfi.org.uk/nft.

The NFT bar is open from 11am to 11pm Monday to Saturday and 12 noon to 10.30pm Sundays. Enjoy riverside views, fine food and drinks.

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