

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

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Season Premiere of ‘The Territory’ Film Series on KEDT-TV Highlights Short Works by Local Independent Artists

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – “The Territory,” a weekly series of four one-hour programs featuring screening and discussion of films by independent media artists, begins its 19th season on Saturday, July 4, at 10 p.m. on public television station KEDT-TV, Channel 16 with a showcase of works by five local filmmakers.

Saturday, July 4, “Showcasing Local Filmmakers” – On the premiere program, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi film professor and series host Bill Huie will be joined Rob Perez who will discuss his short films “El Indio de Cotulla,” an eye-opening documentary about curanderos, traditional Hispanic folk healers in Cotulla, Texas, and “Liebespuppe,” an offbeat “mocumentary” on Barbie dolls.

Bobby Lewis will also be in the studio for a discussion of “A Finch that Flew Beyond the Sky,” his musical tribute to a dear friend. Other films to be screened include two films by Cody Jones, “The Calf,” an autobiographical meditation on the challenge of starting a long, difficult journey, and “Dragonfly,” a visual evocation of the artist’s struggle to avoid creating predictable, boring art.

Saturday, July 11, “A Sense of Place” – Family members recall a honeymoon that included a shipwreck in “A Very Nice Honeymoon” by New Zealanders Jeff and Phill Simmonds. In the Irish film “A Simple Piece of Cloth” by Roisin Loughrey, a young Muslim woman explains why she likes the tradition of covering her head with a scarf. Another Irish offering, “Farewell Packets of Ten” by Ken Wardrop, records two elderly women, one of them the filmmaker’s mother, who light up while chatting about the evils of smoking.

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“No Mail” by Australians Kenn and Simon MacRae is a story of a Muslim mail carrier who becomes the target of religious bigotry. In the Iranian film “Horn” by Rohalah Mansrour, a young man is urged by the other passengers to honk the horn to summon the tardy bus driver. And in “Absolutely Afro” by Dorothee van den Berghe of the Netherlands, a young girl with a big afro struggles with issues of hair and acceptance by her peers.

Saturday, July 18, “The Perilous World” – A series of dramatic moments frozen in time are seen as one continuous shot in “Apnée” by French filmmaker Claude Chabot. In “Red Wednesday” by Nazanine Shirazi, a girl rekindles her mother’s spirits when she celebrates a traditional Iranian holiday at their Austin, Texas, home. “The Nautical Education” by Canadian Christian Laurence reveals how mysterious instructions given to a young boy gradually coalesce into the keys to success.

The Australian film “The Girl Who Swallowed Bees” by Paul McDermott is a fanciful animated story about overcoming the blues. “Things Fall Apart” is an animated film by Englishmen Rob Chiu and Chris Hewett about a 10-year-old boy’s reactions to death and parental words of comfort. The Canadian film, “Scène Primitive” by Daniel Faubert is a suspenseful animated fable featuring fugitive human figures in business suits and giant predatory birds.

Saturday, July 25, “Animation” – “Tyger” by Brazilian filmmaker Guilherme Marcondes magically transforms nighttime Sao Paulo into a glittering forest in this tribute to William Blake’s “The Tyger.” In the film “Separate Vacations” Texan Anne S. Lewis gives a hilarious account of how a dog owner boarding her dog before leaving on vacation is thrown a curve by the kennel’s required form.

The French film “Telerific Voodoo” by Paul Jadoul depicts human social evolution, complete with culture wars, violence, modern media, and a countdown to doomsday. Austrian filmmaker Bady Minck explores the process of musical composition and performance in “Being and Nothingness.” The film “Herzog and the Monsters” by Scotland’s Lesley Barnes tells the story of a how a young boy creates fantasy with letters cut out of books.

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Other animated films to be screened include “*The Tale of How*,” a visually enchanting fantasy story by South Africans Marcus Smit and Ree Treweek with a mouse as the hero; “Sold Out,” a story by Marie José van der Linden and Gerrit van Dijk of the Netherlands that tells the story of a long-time family grocery that is forced to close by competition from a supermarket; and the Oscar nominated “I Met the Walrus” by Canadian Josh Raskin based on 14-year-old Jerry Levitan’s 1969 interview with John Lennon.

The four-program series is produced at public television station KEDT-TV, Channel 16, in Corpus Christi. It represents a joint project of the Art Museum of South Texas and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The series is produced and hosted by Bill Huie, Professor of Communication and TV-Film; Ethan Thompson, Assistant professor of communication; Cheryl Spaniol, instructor of communication, all at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and by Deborah Fullerton, associate curator of temporary exhibits and adult education at the Art Museum of South Texas. Series producer at KEDT is Jeff Felts.

Works of media art are provided by the Southwest Alternate Media Project, Mary Lampe, director. Major funding for the series is provided by the Texas Commission on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding is provided by the Art Museum of South Texas, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and the Arts and Cultural Commission of the City of Corpus Christi.

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