



Richard Kern, *Manhattan Loves Suicides*, 1985, 34 min.

**New Museum of Contemporary Art and The Pioneer Theater present:
East Village USA Film Festival: Films from New York City's East Village in the 1980s**

FEATURE FILMS

Friday February 18

10:30 PM: Beth B & Scott B, *The Trap Door*

Midnight: Richard Kern, *Manhattan Love Suicides*, Tommy Turner & David Wojnarowicz, *Where Evil Dwells*, and Matthew Harrison, *Apartment Eight*

Saturday February 19

2:30 PM: Beth B & Scott B, *The Trap Door* and Tommy Turner & David Wojnarowicz, *Where Evil Dwells*

4:30 PM: James Nares, *Rome '78* and Richard Kern, *Manhattan Love Suicides*

10:30 PM: Amos Poe & Ivan Kral, *The Blank Generation*

Midnight: Richard Kern, *Manhattan Love Suicides*, Tommy Turner & David Wojnarowicz, *Where Evil Dwells*, and Matthew Harrison, *Apartment Eight*

Sunday February 20

2:30 PM: James Nares, *Rome '78* and Richard Kern, *Manhattan Love Suicides*

4:30 PM: Amos Poe & Ivan Kral, *The Blank Generation* and Tommy Turner & David Wojnarowicz, *Where Evil Dwells*

The East Village USA film festival presents programs of shorts as well as features. These films typify the spirit of a time and place where a carefree, party lifestyle of sensation and fun was a given. Artists of all disciplines were finding jewels in the dirt, reveling within a somewhat derelict, burned out neighborhood. The production value of many of these films is low, yet they are vibrant and intense in their evocation of a particular explosive energy. This fast and ready approach came from an urgent need for instant creative gratification using whatever resources were readily available. Some films have a maniacal force, others a sublime beauty or a pop style, and often a decadent tone. Narrative, animated, experimental, or performative, these films fall within many genres.
Curated by Tessa Hughes-Freeland.

Beth B and Scott B, *The Trap Door*, 1980, 70 mins

Cast: John Ahearn, Coleen Fitzgibbon, Mary Fogarty, Robin Harvey, Jenny Holzer, Gary Indiana, Dani Johnson, Richard Prince, Marcia Resnick, William Rice, Jack Smith, Robin Winters, and more

A Nietzschean parable on the fate of innocence, *The Trap Door* follows the mishaps of Jeremy (John Ahearn) as he is fired by his boss (Jenny Holzer), gets laughed out of court by Judge Gary Indiana, loses his girlfriend to sleazy Richard Prince, is hustled by prospective employer (Bill Rice) and mauled by predatory bird-women. Finally, he seeks the help of a shrink (the legendary Jack Smith) who turns out to be the most demented of all. *The Trap Door* was originally shown as a 30 minute short at Max's Kansas City. The full-length, feature version premiered with an extended, six-week run inaugurating the second screen at Bleecker Street Cinema in New York City.

Richard Kern, *Manhattan Love Suicides*, 1985, 34 mins

Cast: Bill Rice, David Wojnarowicz, Adrienne Altenhaus, Nick Zedd, Tom Turner, and Amy Turner.

Music by: J.G.Thirwell, Wiseblood, and others

New York City 1985 – A churning world where the realities of poverty and sex among the desperate musicians, artists and scene makers dictates a mutated parody of normal lifestyles. Consumed with bitterness and hatred, the characters of *Manhattan Loves Suicides* stalk their objects of attention through the depths of the Lower East Side. They are obsessive and selfish but sometimes they “fall in love”. The results are sometimes funny sometimes sad, but always violent.

Tommy Turner and David Wojnarowicz, *Where Evil Dwells*, 1986, 33 mins

Written and Directed by: Tommy Turner and David Wojnarowicz. Cast includes: Scott Werner as Ricky Kasso, also Natz, Joe Coleman, Rockets Redglare, Richard Kleman, Baby Gregor, Charlotte Webb, Lung Leg, Michael Wolfe, Tommy Turner, David Wajnarowicz, Tessa Hughes Freeland, Cassandra Stark and others. Special effects by: Survival Research Laboratories and Mark Garborino. Theme song by: Foetus. Camera work by: Tommy Turner, David Wojnarowicz, Richard Kleman, and Tessa Hughes Freeland.

Where Evil Dwells is based on a real life story of a murder and suicide in 1984 Long Island. The filmmakers superimposed on this their own stories of teenage alienation and angst. Originally written to be a feature length film, a fire destroyed much of the footage. What remains is the epic trailer being screened at this show, which is a piece unto itself. Much of the film was shot hit and run style, poking into neighborhoods and corners where the filmmakers were unwanted.

Film Crash Presents, Matt Harrison, *APARTMENT EIGHT*, 1987, Super 8 mm, sound and color, transferred to DVD, Restored Cut, 33 min.

Written by: Matthew Harrison, Bob McGrath, and Michael Kaniecki. Produced, Photographed & Edited by: Matthew Harrison. Cast: Michael Kaniecki – Martin, Bob McGrath – Todd, Michael Kaniecki - voice of Todd's Mom and Dad. Original music by: Michael Kaniecki. Music recorded by: Su Bachemin, Michael Kaniecki, George M Daniel Zippi and the Ridge Street Orchestra. Music produced by: Mark Barnsley. First public presentation: July 1987 Film Crash at R.A.P.P Arts Center NYC. Awards: Best Comedy, 1988 Downtown Film Festival, Kenneth Anger Mystic Fire; Independent Film Award 1989, Ann Arbor 8mm Film Festival.

In Matt Harrison's 1987 Clinton Street comedy, RaveUps singer Michael Kaniecki (who also wrote the score) and theater director Bob McGrath play former roommates Todd and Martin, who in the early 1980s briefly led overlapping lives in Apt. 8. Shot in monthly installments over a one-year period, most of the scenes in *Apartment Eight* were done as single takes in the cramped tenement kitchen, as Todd and Martin re-enact some of the funnier episodes of their downwardly mobile, girlfriend-sharing past. Winner of multiple independent film awards, *Apartment Eight* is shown here in its full 33-minute version, with its infamous "glass of milk – tub of pee" scene restored. This is a rare opportunity to see the director's restored cut. Matthew@FilmCrash.com, www.FilmCrash.com

James Nares, *Rome '78*, 1978, 80 mins

Cast: David McDermott, Lydia Lunch, James Chance, Anya Phillips, Bradley Field, Arto Lindsay, Lance Loud, Tina L'Hotsky, Patti Astor and Eric Mitchell

"A 90 minute costume drama that looks like a toga party in Little Lulu's clubhouse. With one tooth blacked out, spindly David McDermott 111 plays the megalomaniac Caesar as a sniveling, screaming six year old ranting 'I am God!' on the steps of Grant's Tomb. Meanwhile, Mitchell – scratching his armor and mumbling 'pretty weird,' as though Stanley Kowalski had stumbled onto the set of QUO VADIS? – chain smokes through a tepid love scene with the coyly simpering Lydia Lunch. A black slip hiked over her thighs and a spiky mop of hair cascading onto her face, she rises from her mattress-on-the-floor divan to chase McDermott around the camera with a whip." (J. Hobermann, Village Voice)

Amos Poe and Ivan Kral, *The Blank Generation*, 1976, 56 mins

Cast: Richard Hell & TheHeartbreakers (Johnny Thunders, Walter Lure, Jerry Nolan), Patti Smith Group, (Richard Sohl, Lenny Kaye, Ivan Kral, Jay Dee Dougherty), Television (Tom Verlaine, Richard Lloyd, Fred Smith), The Ramones (Joey, Johnny, DeeDee & Tommy), Blondie (Debbie Harry, Chris Stein, Clem Burke, Gary Valentine), Talking Heads (David Byrne, Chris Frantz, Tina Weymouth), Wayne County, Lizzy Mercier Descloux, Tuff Darts (Robert Gordon), Marbles, Miamis, Harry Toledo, N.Y. Dolls, The Shirts, & more)

The Blank Generation is raw punk music delivered as fierce visual poetry, in essence, true cinema. It is crude, romantic, sincere, expressionist, emotive, nuanced, and nihilist – a Poe-Rimbaud-Bukowski-Burroughs-Hell-Smith-Verlaine poem, full of puke, guts, and charisma – it is NYC at its bottomless worst and Bowery best. What these artists did for music, this film did for cinema. It exploded the myth of professionalism like a child's balloon. Pop! Pop! Pop! Pure and simple. It is to transpose the immortal words Ms. County, not only "a rock n' roll enema!" – but a cinema enema as well. Copyright 1976 Poe/Krall

Film screenings at the Pioneer Theater (155 East 3rd Street, NYC). Tickets are \$9; available at the Pioneer Theater on the day of screening only. www.twoboost.com/pioneer - 212 591 0434

The exhibition *East Village USA* curated by Dan Cameron is on view through March 19, 2005 at The New Museum of Contemporary Art / Chelsea, 556 West 22nd Street, New York, NY 10011 (at 11th Ave). See the museum website for more information:

www.newmuseum.org

Tuesday-Saturday: noon-6:00 PM

Thursday: noon-8:00 PM

Closed Sunday and Monday