

Flatpack Festival 23 - 27 March 2011 www.flatpackfestival.org



Flatpack Festival celebrates its fifth birthday with parties, live scores, AV performances, a restored 60s mobile cinema, plus feature film previews including *Self Made*, *Marwencol* and *Meek's Cutoff*, an archive renaissance and adolescent metalheads from Loughborough...

"An idiosyncratic and ultra-cool event that brings the area to life, embracing everything from art in pigeon lofts to devoutly independent film art and music events" *The Guardian*

"The UK's most creatively curated film festival." - *The Independent*

"Suggesting Londoners go to Brum for a weekend doesn't come naturally. But the Flatpack Festival might make us break the habit of a lifetime." - *Time Out*

"It's their determination to look outside the usual cinematic setting that makes Flatpack such an attractive proposition." - *Virgin Hotline*

An ever growing highlight on the UK's cultural and film calendar which received major national recognition in 2010, Birmingham's **Flatpack Festival** returns in March 2011 with another roller-coaster ride across the frontiers of film.

The festival's signature mix of the quirky and eccentric alongside forgotten gems and brand new talent is taken to new heights in 2011 with the promise of unmissable features, a vintage mobile cinema, live scores, experimental film, late night parties and more. Exciting new work from across the spectrum of cinema will be on offer, including psychedelic animation, immersive multi-media performance, prize-winning documentaries, offbeat films for kids and interactive projections.

From its hub on the Eastside of Birmingham, Flatpack Festival spills across the city, from shop fronts to converted warehouse spaces, art galleries and the 100 year old Electric Cinema. Inventive pop-up offerings and a real sense of occasion for cinema-going pervades every inch of this joyous visual adventure.

Full programme information goes online and bookings open end of February!
www.flatpackfestival.org



Flatpack Festival 2011 Feature Films include:

Self Made – Birmingham born Turner prize-winner **Gillian Wearing**'s hugely-anticipated first feature has been rapturously received by critics and audiences alike, and was one of Time Out's top picks of the London Film Festival. This film needs no highbrow qualifications to connect to its highly charged emotional journey, which started with the placement of a local advert 'Do you want to be in a film? Would you play yourself or a fictional character?'

Marwencol – already assuming cult status, director Jeff Malmberg's unmissable feature documentary follows the 'stranger-than-fiction' story of Mark Hogancamp. After a vicious attack left him brain-damaged, Hogancamp retreated into 'Marwencol', a meticulously self-created world of dolls populating miniature sets which bring to life a WWII Belgian village in his backyard. Touching and mind-bending.

Rubber – the new feature from the multitalented Quentin Dupieux (aka Mr Oizo) is a one-of-a-kind B-movie about a psychotic car tyre who goes on the rampage.

Piercing, I - the critically acclaimed animated feature by Liu Jian was generated over three years on a WACOM graphic tablet and heralds **China's** arrival at the forefront of animation.

Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then – debut feature by director and animator Brent Green. Shot entirely on the full-scale town he built in his backyard, Green combines animation, stop-motion and live-action to create an ethereal opus to lovers and tinkerers everywhere.

A Useful Life - Uruguay's submission to the Oscars and shot in black and white at Montevideo Cinematheque, it offers a compelling insight into the struggles of running an art house cinema venue.

Music and Film – including documentaries **We Don't Care About Music Anyway** - ear-opening portrait of Japan's experimental music scene, accompanied by a live set by **Sakamoto Hiromichi**; **Kinshasa Symphony**, the moving story of the Kimbanguist Symphony Orchestra and their efforts to master Beethoven's Ninth; **Strange Powers: Stephin Merrit and the Magnetic Fields** – this portrait of the inscrutable, hugely influential songwriter and his merry band was a decade in the filming. Label Mordant Music also present **The Nesst 2**, a rescored selection of public information films. The Nesst is a bunker installation which places these films in a suitably creepy context: www.mordantmusic.com

Other highlights include:

Pram – Shadow Shows - first full UK performance of a deliciously creepy 'experiment in surreal horror' using projections and silhouettes to summon up nightmarish fairy tales www.dominorecordco.com/artists/pram/

Every Minute, Always - immersive headphone performance in a cinema for two people, using sound, projections and a faint trace of *Brief Encounter*. By Melanie Wilson and Abigail Conway. www.melaniewilson.org.uk/projects/every

In Bed With Chris Needham – the trials and tribulations of an adolescent metal fan are laid out in painful detail by this legendary Video Diary, presented as a taster for this year's **Home of Metal** celebrations www.homeofmetal.com

Paper Party – Saturday night antics include a live performance by audio-visual duo **Sculpture** who use video zoetrope record decks, tape loops, cassettes, samples, computer programming and lo-fi electronics. (www.tapebox.co.uk) Plus **Origamibiro** live (www.origamibiro.com) and a VJ set from animator **David Wilson**.

Patron Saint of Flatpack – this year's celebration of film pioneers past focuses on Birmingham resident **Iris Barry**, founder of the Museum of Modern Art's film archive – featuring a special event exploring her life & legacy, plus screenings of work she preserved – including Buster Keaton's **Sherlock Junior**, to be screened at Birmingham Town Hall with live organ by Nigel Ogden.

Keystone Cut Ups - an amazing kaleidoscopic voyage through early cinema by cut-up connoisseurs People Like Us and Ergo Phizmiz, taking in everything from mannequins to hats: www.peoplelikeus.org/2010/the_keystone_cut_ups.html

Vintage Mobile Cinema – the magical 22-seater cine bus, perfectly restored from its 1960s hey day, will be touring across the city throughout Flatpack with a range of shorts, home-movies and archive clips. www.vintagemobilecinema.co.uk/

The Invisible Cinema – following the success of 2010 tour of the original 1930s Art Deco Odeon cinemas, this year's heritage offer will bring back to life some of the city's ex-picturehouses and forgotten celluloid landmarks.

Loft in Translation – screenings in partnership with MACE's Full Circle project, which encourages people to retrieve home-movies from their attics.

Archive Revival - Artists and filmmakers who appropriate and repurpose archive material including work by **Thom Andersen**, **Duncan Campbell** and **Peter Tscherkassky**.

Mind Bombs - pulsing, psychedelic eye candy in the form of shorts and music videos by a host of upcoming filmmakers including 'cell animator' Mirai Mizue. Try some here:

<http://vimeo.com/14844291>

<http://vimeo.com/16245334>

<http://vimeo.com/12622016>

<http://vimeo.com/15425583>

For further information, interviews and images please contact John Dunning and Emma Pettit at Margaret on 020 7033 6868 / john@margaretlondon.com / emma@margaretlondon.com

Flatpack Festival is produced by 7 Inch Cinema and supported by UK Film Council, Arts Council England and ScreenWM: www.flatpackfestival.org

The worlds of Flatpack and Fierce Festivals will collide in spaces across Birmingham from 22 – 27 March 2011