

**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

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ROOFTOP FILMS 2006 SUMMER SERIES - OPENING WEEKEND

THURS. JUNE 1: *GRETCHEN* (feature comedy, dir. Stephen Collins)

New York Sneak Preview!

An awkward high school girl must resist the seductive powers of the local dirt-bag.

@ Pier 63 Maritime (23rd St / Hudson River) Chelsea, Manhattan

FRI. JUNE 2: *THIS IS WHAT WE MEAN BY ROMANCE* (sexy short films)

Short films about love, loss and lewdness.

On the roof of 289 Kent (at South 2nd), Williamsburg, Brooklyn

SAT. JUNE 3: *THE REAL DIRT ON FARMER JOHN* (feature doc., dir. Taggart Seigel)

The epic tale of a maverick midwestern farmer.

On the roof of The Old American Can Factory (232 3rd St @ 3rd Ave) Gowanus, Brooklyn



L-R: *Gretchen*; *Phone Sex Grandma*; *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*

High resolution stills available upon request at press@rooftopfilms.com

8PM: LIVE MUSIC

9PM: FILMS

TICKETS: \$8 available at the door or online at www.rooftopfilms.com/tickets.html

In the event of rain, shows are indoors or under cover at the same location

SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR MORE DETAILS

- PREVIEW TAPES / DVDs & HIGH RESOLUTION STILLS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
- FULL PROGRAM NOTES, FILM DESCRIPTIONS, VENUE INFO, SCHEDULE OF OTHER EVENTS AND MORE AVAILABLE AT WWW.ROOFTOPFILMS.COM

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1 -- OPENING NIGHT

Gretchen (Steve Collins | Austin, TX | 1:20:00)

Narrative comedy feature

New York Sneak Preview

Venue: **Pier 63 Maritime** (at 23rd Street and the Hudson River), Chelsea, Manhattan

8PM: Live music by **Loren Dempster** and guests | **9PM:** Films

Rooftop Films is proud to kick off our 10th Anniversary Summer Series 2006 with *Gretchen*, the first feature film directed by Steve Collins. In 1997, when we first began showing movies on rooftops, we had an open projector section at the end of the night. The show ran long, and stranger named Steve was the only person who wanted to risk his 16mm print on our wind-blown projector. We have been showing Steve's uniquely droll, humorously heart-breaking shorts for the last 10 years, and so we are thrilled to get the opportunity to host the first New York screening of this beautifully understated, hilariously deadpan new film. Steve is a wonderfully promising director and we here at Rooftop Films feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to introduce so many people to his work.

Gretchen is the story of an awkward girl's struggle to overcome an obsession with Boone High Schools most powerful dirt-bag, Ricky Maraschino. Her affliction is so severe, she's banished to an emotional treatment center, where she begins to question why everything that she wants in the whole wide world is a boy. *Gretchen* is an extreme tale of ordinary things: prom, boys, and going second base, told with the unique gravity of a 17-year-old heart.

"I am an optimist. I think it's a very brave way to look at the world. I see a lot of sad around and I try to make comedy out of misery without betraying my characters. In Gretchen, I tell a story about what a girl goes through who doesn't like herself. I chose to take this journey into a very raw and personal area and still find laughter and lightness. It puts the film in a delicate balance, but I consider it the strength of the film: to make laughter out of pain without condescension."

--Director Steve Collins

Short films precede the feature:

The Four Kid Tenors (Ryan Junell | San Francisco, CA | 1:00)

Courtesy of SloMo Video Festival (www.slomovideo.com)

A little vocal warm-up to kick off Rooftop Films' Summer Series 2006.

The Braggart (David Andalman | Allston, MA | 13:00)

The melancholy tale of a lonely little girl being raised by a single mom who perpetually brags and exaggerates to get attention. When it matter most, no one believes her.

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ROOFTOP FILMS 2006 SUMMER SERIES - OPENING WEEKEND

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

This is what we mean by romance

Short films about love, loss and lewdness.

Venue: On the roof at **289 Kent Ave** (at South 2nd), Williamsburg, Brooklyn

8PM: Live music by **The Actual Facts** | **9PM:** Films

See a trailer at: http://www.rooftopfilms.com/show_06-shortsromance.html

On this opening weekend of Rooftop Films, what better topic to explore than the most basic element of our society, our intimate relationships. But romance isn't always romantic. It's dirty, it's vindictive and self-hating, it's weird and hilarious. At Rooftop Films, this is what we mean by romance.

THE FILMS:

Frank and Wendy: The Sausage Factory (Episode 1) (Kaspar Jancis & Ulo Pikkov | Tallinn, Estonia | 10:00)

Named the best Estonian animated film of 2005, this is the unbelievably weird story of two sexed-up CIA super-super-agents battling evil Latvians in the deadly streets of Estonia.

Undressing My Mother (Ken Wardrop | Dublin, Ireland | 5:30)

This gorgeous documentary explores a woman's unique take on her overweight and aging body, a memory map of her life and love. Official selection of the 2006 Sundance Film Festival.

Derek and Simon: "The Pity Card" (Bob Odenkirk | Los Angeles, CA | 12:00)

Everyone loves a good party. Have a drink, meet some girls, wrestle with a guy with feet rot and talk about the Holocaust. This brilliant comedy from "Mr. Show" co-star Bob Odenkirk questions our relationship to history, while also questioning the best ancestral reference to drop when trying to score chicks.

Phone Sex Grandma (Jack Truman | Lamar, MO | 7:00)

Time to spoil your fantasies. Jack Truman's real life mother, a former stripper, plays out all your dirtiest dreams while going through her daily routine.

Backseat Bingo (Liz Blazer | Glendale, CA | 5:25)

Perfect (Sally Arthur | Bristol, UK | 3:00)

Solnishka (Ruth Shahar | Jerusalem, Israel | 16:00)

Every Boy I've Fucked (Jennifer Matotek | Oakville, Ontario | 8:00)

Brent's Wondrous Balls (Jennifer Matotek | Oakville, Ontario | 1:30)

Sex and Coffee (Lee Isaac Chung | New York, NY | 13:00)

Fauna Sutra (Johan Klungel | Amsterdam, Holland | 4:00)

SloMo Video: Dildo Face (Ian Billet | San Francisco, CA | 1:00)

No More Sympathy For Bastards And My Lover (Patrick Tsai | Stockton, CA | 15:00)

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SATURDAY, JUNE 3

The Real Dirt on Farmer John (Taggart Siegel | Northern Illinois | 1:23:00)

Documentary feature

Venue: On the roof of The Old American Can Factory (232 3rd St @ 3rd Ave) Gowanus, Brooklyn

8PM: Live music by **Zeke Healy** | **9PM:** Films

Website: <http://www.therealdirt.net/index.html>

Trailer: <http://www.therealdirt.net/trailer.html>

The Real Dirt on Farmer John is the award-winning true story of third-generation American farmer John Peterson's hero's journey of success, tribulation, failure and rebirth, through his childhood in the '50s, the tumultuous '60s, the hippie-influenced '70s, and the farm-crisis '80s, culminating in his transformation-based creation of a biodynamic, organic CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm serving 1,500 families in the Chicago area with weekly fresh produce.

"This is a loving, moving, inspiring, quirky documentary.... visionaries like Peterson are finding a way back to the land." (3-1/2 stars out of 4)"

- Roger Ebert

"...terribly captivating and enlightening ... a rich and revelatory exploration."

- Palm Beach Daily News

"... a beguiling combination of agrarian ode and the Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test...."

- Chicago Reader

Short films precede the feature:

Bob Log III's "Pony Dick Story" (Sebastian Wolf & Tinka Stock | Berlin, Germany | 2:03)

A hilarious animated version of a story by legendary Doo Rag country-punkster Bob Log III.

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