



** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **

Contact: Mark Elijah Rosenberg
Artistic Director, Rooftop Films
press@rooftopfilms.com
718-417-7362

ROOFTOP FILMS SUMMER SERIES 2006

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2006: TWINKLEBUM

*Hilarious home movies by the inimitable Lee Kern, plus the films of **ShootingPeople.org***

Venue: The lawn of **Automotive High School** (Williamsburg, Brooklyn)

Directions: 50 Bedford Ave (btw. N.12 & Lorimer) | L to Bedford or G to Nassau

Rain: In the event of rain, the show will be held indoors at the same location.

8PM: Live music by **Koester** | **9PM:** Short films

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

Preview: See one of Lee's hilarious films online via Rooftop's unique partnership with **Salon.com:**
http://www.salon.com/ent/video_dog/rooftop/index.html



STILLS FROM LEE KERN'S FILMS (L TO R): THE WOLVER; THE NYUGGLE; WHERE HAVE ALL THE INSECTS GONE?

Channel 4 UK writes: Lee Kern makes great documentaries with basic equipment and shoots and edits all his films at home in his bedroom. He believes in making docs about the everyday, especially the strange nuances of human existence.

Lee finished university and became a bum for two years, something he threw himself into whole-heartedly and with a level of commitment that has been described variously as 'ferocious', 'uncompromising' and 'stupid.' More interested in documenting times, places, feelings and internal landscapes, Lee doesn't think hating global corporations or George Bush should be a pre-requisite for being a documentary film-maker and believes that there is more to life than politics:

"It is in non-stories that the bulk of life is lived but this is not documented. Just hanging out with your mates chatting, being a bit tired on a bus, having a wicked salt-beef sandwich - this stuff matters. If you can capture the warmth, glory, excitement, whatever of life - then that to me is as important to the soul of the nation as making films trying to change their eating habits, or telling them that George Bush is stupid. Documentary should allow for every aspect of human existence to be up for grabs, to be celebrated in all its good and bad. A story is only as engaging as the person telling it. If you have a passion for kebabs, then document kebabs. I'm not negating those that seek to use documentary as a weapon/piece of propaganda/means for social change. I'm just saying there are more nuances of human existence that should also be committed to film and celebrated. Documentary seems to me the most immediate and spontaneous medium through which to do so."

"It's the spirit and soul of a film that's important, and even if your equipment is rubbish, that feeling will come through if honestly committed. Passion translates whatever the resolution. I can accept that some people are into technology and what have you, but if that's such a big issue in your life, are you actually engaging with your subject or are you just getting excited about knowing what on-lining means? If a cave-man can make something lasting on the wall of his home using only a pebble, then there's no excuse in the digital age. Anyone can make a film about anything these days. There's no excuse."

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THE FILMS:

Tales of the Creepy Crooked: The Selky Woman (Lee Kern | London, UK | 3:00)

In this opening film, Lee tries to get to grips with a story told to him about a woman that was half-seal, half-woman, and who had a boy who was half-human and half-seal, or maybe half-seal and three-quarters human? Or something? Even now he's not really sure, but it makes for entertaining viewing...

Tales of the Creepy Crooked: The Nyuggle (Lee Kern | London, UK | 3:00)

Travelers beware. This three minute film tells the tale of the Nyuggle - a bizarre horse like creature that appears to lull and trick unsuspecting, weary travelers. Once on things go okay - for a while - until the horse decides to flip and drown them in a loch. Lee's not entirely sure what happens here either. Why would a horse be so mean? And besides, the only things even vaguely resembling a horse in the Shetlands are Shetland ponies! They're only about two foot high and they all look like Tina Turner...

Tales of the Creepy Crooked: The Trowie Folk (Lee Kern | London, UK | 3:00)

Strange troll type people live in the hills - and once again it is the unsuspecting weary traveler who has to bear the brunt of the Shetland's mad, half-human-type characters. This time a night on the lash with these troll-type people transpires to have corresponded with twelve-months in actual, real time. Did they slip him a roofie?

Tales of the Creepy Crooked: The Wolver (Lee Kern | London, UK | 3:00)

A half-man, wolf-type creature lives in a meadow in the Shetlands. A newly wed-couple move there on account of being so poor. Having heard tales about the Wolver, the newly-weds are slightly apprehensive about having to share their new life with such a bizarre neighbor. However, the Wolver turns out to be a dab hand with a hammer and priming the roof. However Lee has only two questions - can he lay down a patio and is he any good with tax-returns?

The Edgeware Walker (Lee Kern | London, UK | 20:00)

This film represents a pertinent shift in tone for Lee, as he uses his comic sensibilities to make a poignant documentary about a legendary North-West London tramp who used to walk around in only his underpants. The film documents the decay of a suburban landscape, and uncovers the truth, tragedy and grandeur contained within a sticky web of urban legend.

House of Memory: Where have all the Insects Gone? (Lee Kern | London, UK | 2:00)

One of Lee's hilarious slots originally produced to be shown after the Channel Four evening news in the UK, *Where Have All the Insects Gone?* tells the story of Lee's destructive childhood escapades, many of which often involved tormenting the local insects that once populated his sleepy suburb outside of London. Looking back, Lee wonders where all the fireflies are and whether or not he played a hand in destroying his beloved, creepy-crawly playthings.

House of Memory: My Back Garden (Lee Kern | London, UK | 3:00)

A very driven dog embarks on a mission to discover all the long-buried contents hidden deep beneath a typical British backyard. Instead of stopping the dog, the filmmaker comes to appreciate his pooch's efforts as he slowly realizes how many good plastic men and monkeys he left behind so long ago.

House of Memory: Lofts (Lee Kern | London, UK | 4:00)

Lofts documents the dreams and memories stored away in the dusty roof-space above our heads.

Plus more films made by members of the online film community ShootingPeople.org, to be announced soon.

- 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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THE MUSIC:

8PM: Brooklyn-based **Koester** is fronted by singer/songwriter/guitarist Steve Koester, formerly of Punchdrunk and currently moonlighting with Maplewood (Tee Pee Records). Steve is joined by a group of crack NYC musicians: Don Piper on lap steel, Jason Mills on drums, Matt Durant on purple wurlitzer and Len Small on bass.

Koester has released two highly acclaimed CDs on Pitch-a-tent Records, David Lowery's label out of Athens, GA. *Oh! Turpentine* (2001) and *The High Highs, The Low Lows* (2003) both received rave reviews and placed in the top 50 on the CMJ college radio charts. The band has honed its slow-burning live show over the past several years, playing with the likes of Sparklehorse, The Wrens, Crooked Fingers, The Hold Steady and a host of others.

Visit them online at www.koesterrock.com or on MySpace at myspace.com/koesterrock.