

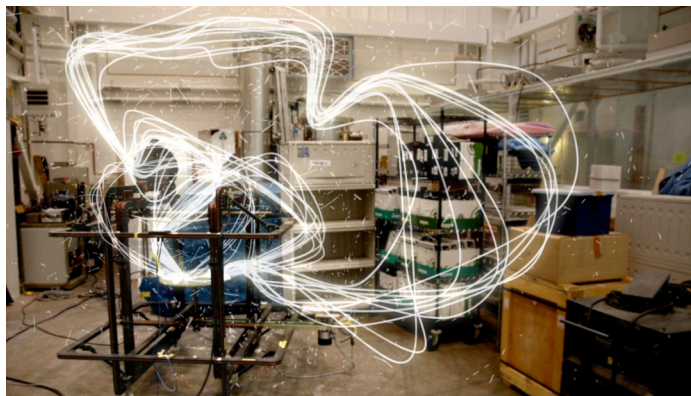
PRESS RELEASE

ANIMATE PROJECTS: NEW FILMS FOR 2007

Premiere screenings:

1 – 3 November	Flip Festival	Wolverhampton
7 – 10 November	Aurora 2007	Norwich
23 – 24 November	Encounters Festival	Bristol
29 November	Whitechapel	London

Channel 4 broadcast (date TBC)



Magnetic Movie Semiconductor

'Innovative, self-styled champions of manipulated moving images... the films are weird and wonderful portals into each artist's private universe, where they have the opportunity to recreate the bizarre, often radical worlds of their minds' *Time Out*

Acclaimed commissioning agency **Animate Projects** premieres its new films this Autumn, with a series of screenings and events showcasing six films, by an eclectic mix of visual artists working with animation. The films will be broadcast as part of **Animate TV** an hour long programme, presented by Stuart Comer, (Film Curator, Tate Modern), on Channel 4 towards the end of the year. The films will also be screened at a number of festivals across the UK including Encounters Festival, Bristol, where the second annual **Animate Award** will also be announced on 24 November.

Featuring a diverse range of artistic practices, from stop frame animation and typographics, to drawing, video and found footage, the programme features **Andy Martin's** *End of the Street*, which sets eclectic animated visuals to a poem by Ian McMillan, Poet in Residence at Barnsley Football Club; *Flat Earth*, a desktop expedition and documentary, woven from satellite imagery found online to make an extraordinary five-minute journey around the world by **Thomson & Craighead**; *Francis*, a disturbed young boy who is gradually brought to life on the page by London-based comic art project **Let Me Feel Your Finger First**; *Magnetic Movie*, a film charting the remarkable secret life of invisible interplanetary magnetic fields, by award-winning cross-platform artists **Semiconductor**; *The Life Size Zoetrope*, a one-shot film created by **Mark Simon Hewis**, which turns a fairground ride into a meditation on the cycle of life; and **David Alexander Anderson's** *The Tongue of the*

Hidden, created entirely from the letters and the written words of the 13th century Persian metaphysical poet Hafez.

Jan Younghusband, Channel 4 Commissioning Editor, Arts & Performance, said:

“We are delighted to support the work of Animate and their commitment to creative innovation. This is yet another inspiring new slate of artist-led projects.”

Animate Projects has also announced seven new commissions, including the first two online commissions for broadband, which are all currently in production, and will be broadcast and screened in Autumn 2008. The 2007 commissioned artists are Barnaby Barford, Suky Best, Emily Richardson, Tal Rosner, Christoph Steger, and, for online, Stephen Irwin and Michael Aubtin Madadi.

Animate Projects provides production funding up to £20,000 and a high profile national platform for artists working with animation. Since 1991, Animate has commissioned 90 films, and is the longest running broadcaster-linked scheme ever supported by Arts Council England. It is the most consistent commitment ever made by Channel 4 to the independent production of innovative, challenging films.

Notes to Editors:

Animate Films will be screened on Channel 4 towards the end of the year. Exact transmission date and time TBC.

www.animateprojects.org

<http://www.myspace.com/animateprojects>

www.animateonline.org

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About the Commissions and Artists:

End of the Street (Andy Martin)

With the weather increasingly at the forefront of our news and media together with the idea that someone somewhere has their hand on the volume knob, *End of the Street* takes the original 19th Century Beaufort Wind Force scale and conjures a response. Incrementally turning up the strangeness.

Andy Martin was Art Editor on the New Musical Express. His first film experiments screened in early onedotzero festivals. He recently produced stage visuals for the Rolling Stones *A Bigger Bang* world tour and produced the book, 'Ideas Have Legs – Ian McMillan vs Andy Martin'. www.andy-martin.com

Flat Earth (Thomson & Craighead)

A desktop expedition and documentary, woven from satellite imagery found online to make an extraordinary seven-minute journey around the world, encountering the splintered voices of bloggers which interleave and overlap as if to form a single conversation.

Jon Thomson & Alison Craighead trained in Electronic Imaging at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee and then worked briefly in video and sound design in the media industry. They have exhibited widely from Tate Britain to The New Museum in New York, and are among the leading UK artists using communications systems and technology in their work. www.thomson-craighead.net/

Francis (Let Me Feel Your Finger First)

An account of the creation of a 9-year old 'disturbed' animated character. As the draughtsman's hand goes to work and *Francis* attains animated consciousness, his behaviour is observed and assessed by a child psychologist.

Let Me Feel Your Finger First is a London-based comic art project set up in 1998 to disseminate comics, animations and web-based work. The animated short *Homo Zombies* has screened internationally and was released in 2005 on the European DVD compilation *Bloody Gays*. Forthcoming projects include *The Uncle Hans-Peter Party*, a LMFYFF live event coming in 2007. www.letmefeelyourfingerfirst.com

The Life Size Zoetrope (Mark Simon Hewis)

The celebratory life story of one man told via a one-take live-action shot of a giant zoetrope containing the film. We are taken through the cyclical journey the man has taken as it is presented to us through animated loops on pages and body parts of 36 riders on the wheel. Mixtures of emotions fill the film from the celebration of creativity to its eventual loneliness, regret and repetition.

Mark Simon Hewis studied Fine Art and Photography before gaining an MA in Animation at the Royal College of Art in 2003. He went on to make the hybrid *The Chihuahua Messiah* with Film London's Pulse scheme, which won the *Fortean Times* Film of the Year Award and was runner-up for the BBC Filmmaker of the Year Award. www.hewis.co.uk

Magnetic Movie (Semiconductor)

The remarkable secret life of invisible interplanetary magnetic fields, revealed as chaotic ever-changing geometries in man's visible environment. All action takes place around the NASA Space Sciences Laboratories, set to recordings of space scientists excitedly describing their visualisation techniques.

Since 1999 Semiconductor, comprising Ruth Jarman & Joseph Gerhardt, have exhibited, screened and performed digital animations which reveal our physical world in flux. Their work has been seen extensively, from Tate Britain and ICA London to the San Francisco International Film Festival, Transmediale Berlin and the Venice Biennale. Recent fellowships and residencies have supported site-specific work, including research and experimentation at the NASA Space Sciences Laboratories UC Berkeley, California. Semiconductor are based in Brighton. www.semiconductorfilms.com

The Tongue of the Hidden (David Alexander Anderson)

Characters and environment created entirely from the letters and the written words of the 13th century Persian metaphysical poet Hafez. An original and kinetic meditation offering insight into Iranian culture beyond the two dimensional popular view.

David Anderson's film work has encompassed experimental animation, drama, theatre and dance. He trained at Bath Academy of Art and the National Film and Television School, and his degree film *Dreamland Express* won a British Academy Award. Later films, including *Deadsy* and *Door* made in collaboration with the writer Russell Hoban, have gathered a multitude of awards. He has been visiting professor of animation at Harvard University, and now lives in Lewes, Sussex. www.animateonline.org/films/tongueofthehidden/all.html

Channel 4 Programme:

Stuart Comer (Presenter)

Stuart Comer is Curator: Film at Tate Modern, where he organises the Film Programme, oversees the acquisition and display of film, video and media works for the Collection, and curates large scale performance and film events in the Turbine Hall. He has written for *Artforum*, *Frieze*, *Afterall*, *Parkett*, *Art Review*, and *Untitled*, and has contributed to monographs on Gillian Wearing, Bik Van Der Pol, and Tom Burr. Recent freelance curatorial projects include a survey of Mark Aerial Waller's work in 'Videozone' at the Center of Contemporary Art in Tel Aviv; 'America's Most Wanted' for the Artists' Cinema at the Frieze Art Fair in London; 'Double Lunar Trouble' at Whitechapel, London; 'An American Family' at Kunstverein Munich and CASCO, Utrecht; and 'Rudy Burckhardt Films' for the Centre Culturel Suisse, Paris.

2007 Screenings schedule:

28 – 30 September	onedotzero_buenos aires <i>End of the Street</i> only
17 – 31 October	51 st London International Film Festival <i>The Tongue of the Hidden</i> only
1 – 3 November	Flip Festival, Wolverhampton Animate 2007 all titles
7 – 10 November	Aurora 2007, Norwich Animate 2007 all titles
8 – 11 November	San Francisco International Animation Festival <i>Magnetic Movie</i> only
November 23, 18.30 24, 17.30	Encounters Festival, Bristol Animate Artist Award shortlist, Watershed Animate 2007 all titles, Arnolfini
29 November	Whitechapel, London Animate Projects presents Jean-Gabriel Périot & six new Animate films
December	Channel 4 broadcast (date/time TBC)