



512 West 19th Street New York, NY 10011
tel 212 255 5793 www.thekitchen.org

Press Contact: Blake Zidell & Associates
tel: 718.643.9052
fax: 718.643.9502
blake@blakezidell.com

For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents live performance screenings of Filmmaker Brent Green's *Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then*, Thursday and Friday, February 17 and 18

New York, NY, January 24, 2011—On **Thursday and Friday, February 17 and 18, The Kitchen** will present special screenings of *Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then*, the first feature-length film of self-taught filmmaker **Brent Green**. Depicting a fatal love story from the American South, the film will be accompanied by live music and narration by Green, **Brendan Canty** (Fugazi), **Drew Henkels** (Drew & the Medicinal Pen), **Donna K**, **Mike McGinley**, **Alan Scalpone** and cellist **John Swartz**. Performances of *Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then* will take place at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Tickets are **\$12**.

Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then is inspired by the true story of Leonard Wood, a hardware store clerk from Louisville, Kentucky, who built a house in hopes that it would save his wife Mary from terminal cancer. Throughout the 1970s, Wood worked on the house—a bizarre hodgepodge of unimaginably tiered floors, vaulted ceilings, and twisted, heaving walls. After Mary's death, Wood continued to fine-tune the home for twenty years until he fell from the roof, leaving himself incapacitated and broke.

For the film, Green draws upon this story of the discarded and disheveled to patch together a unique and personal vision of Americana. His heroes, played by Michael McGinley and Donna K. are presented as crooked and carved figures bathed in warm, flickering light. They speak and sing - from intone to exaltation—of American folklore, the final days of Beethoven and Thomas Edison, of deviant children trapped in Hell. Green's own lyrical narration, with his trademark cadence and swing, tremors through the film, closely recalling Bob Dylan.

The entire film, which combines live action with animation and stop motion, was shot in a full-scale version of the Woods' town that Green built in his rural Pennsylvania backyard. The Woods' home along with four other houses, a handmade piano, a sixteen-foot glowing moon and a giant, wooden God were constructed following crudely rendered plans Wood had scrawled on a piece of cardboard.

About the Artists

Brent Green is a self-taught animated filmmaker and artist who lives and works in rural Cressona, PA. His films have been shown at the Sundance Film Festival (2006-9), MoMA, the Getty Center, Warhol Museum, IFC Center, the Walker Arts Center, The Kitchen, Hammer Museum, EMPAC, the Rotterdam International Film Festival and a ton of other museums and festivals around the world. Green has had solo shows at the Andrew Edlin Gallery (NYC), Bellwether Gallery (NYC), the Sculpture Center (Cleveland), CAM St. Louis (St. Louis, MO), Site Santa Fe (Santa Fe, NM), The Berkeley Art Museum, Matrix program, the ASU Art Museum (Tempe, AZ), DiverseWorks (Houston, TX) and HallWalls (Buffalo, NY). Green's artwork is represented by the Andrew Edlin Gallery, NYC. He is a 2005 Creative Capital grantee. For more information, go to www.nervousfilms.com.

Donna K. lives in a rural Pennsylvanian barn where she makes a lot of stuff like art and cookies. She has made animations for the fiction journal *Electric Literature*, the band Drew & the Medicinal Pen and, more recently, for her own musical efforts. After working on artist/filmmaker Brent Green's first feature film, *Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then*, she can also add acting, hammering and writing to her list of current accomplishments. Also, Donna K. really wants a puppy.

Brendan Canty is best known as the drummer in the band Fugazi. Canty joined Fugazi in 1987, before which time he played in Rites of Spring, One Last Wish, Deadline, Insurrection and Happy Go Licky. In addition to producing records for many great band (the Thermals, Ted Leo, Garland of Hours, Benjy Ferree), Canty frequently composes soundtrack music, primarily for Discovery Channel and National Geographic Channel documentaries and independent features.

Canty is co-founder of the DVD label Trixie, which produces an ongoing series of beautiful music-related films entitled *Burn To Shine*. The series involves independent bands from a particular city showing up to perform one song each live, without overdubs or corrections, in a condemned house. The films and performances are urgent and inspired—the portraits of musicians and houses exposing the transient nature of our world. Trixie has also produced films about Bob Mould, Wilco, Death Cab for Cutie, Eddie Vedder and The Decemberists. Canty currently lives in Washington, DC with his wife and four children.

Drew Henkels is a daydreamer and late-sleeper with a (mostly) healthy obsession with the supernatural. His band, Drew & the Medicinal Pen, provides a soundtrack to the dust-bunny world of his dream logs, films and photographs. Henkels was recently featured in a *New York Times* article about young artists struggling in Brooklyn today. He has released two albums, toured the East Coast and Mid-West, and helped to create the *Homemade Music Video Festival* and Philadelphia-based art collective Adaptation. His songs have found their way to the silver screen of Tribeca Cinemas, and reached as far as Japanese FM airwaves. Drew currently resides in Bed-Stuy where he survives happily on a diet of tuna and spaghetti.

Mike McGinley's name was alternately spelled correctly then misspelled in Brent Green's film *Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then*, in which he played the leading character, Leonard Wood. He is the most important member of the indie-cabaret group The Bitter Tears.

Alan Scalpone is the other most important member of the Chicago indie-cabaret group The Bitter Tears.

John Michael Swartz is a cellist and composer of experimental computer music. His work draws from a wide range of inspirations: chance, improvisation and Fluxus-style happenings to generative algorithmic structures, granular synthesis and other math-y things. In turn, his interests in various philosophical topics like language, ethics and metaphysics inform these influences. Swartz lives in Brooklyn, where he also produces records with local bands.

Funding Credits

This program is made possible with generous support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Amphion Foundation, the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



ABOUT THE KITCHEN

The Kitchen is one of New York City's oldest nonprofit performance and exhibition spaces, showing experimental work by innovative artists, both emerging and established. Programs range from dance, music, and theatrical performances to video and media arts exhibitions to literary events, film screenings, and artists' talks. Since its inception in 1971, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape of this country and has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence.

Box Office Information:

212.255.5793 ext. 11

Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

The Kitchen

512 West 19th Street

New York, NY 10011

www.thekitchen.org

####