



\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*

**Contact:** Mark Elijah Rosenberg  
Artistic Director, Rooftop Films  
[press@rooftopfilms.com](mailto:press@rooftopfilms.com)  
718-417-7362

## ROOFTOP FILMS SUMMER SERIES 2006

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006: WHAT IS PAPER MACHE?

*A teenager with a virgin/vixen complex brings a troubled older stranger to the prom.*

**Venue:** On the roof of The Old American Can Factory (Gowanus, Brooklyn)

**Directions:** 232 3rd St., corner of 3rd Ave. | F or G to Carroll; M or R to Union

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

**8:30PM:** Live music by **Just About to Burn** | **9PM:** Films

**Tickets:** \$8 available at the door or online at [www.rooftopfilms.com/tickets.html](http://www.rooftopfilms.com/tickets.html)



STILLS FROM WHAT IS PAPER MACHE?

### **What is Paper Mache?** (Jesse Malings | San Francisco, CA | 1:10:00)

*What is Paper Mache?* screened at Rooftop in 2002, and as part of our 10 year anniversary celebration, we are thrilled to revive this brilliant and little-known documentary. What began as an off-the-cuff short video grew into a feature with a cult following, kept out of distribution for legal reasons but circulating peer-to-peer. At the urging of Rooftop Films, the director replaced the score with original music and gave it a professional sound mix. This film is indicative of the type of movie we champion at Rooftop: the shooting budget was zero, but the filmmaking is deftly crafted; the story is simple, but the telling is rich; the characters are everyday people, but what they reveal is astonishing. Jesse Malings' documentary about a 17-year-old girl who takes a 27-year-old stranger to her prom is one of the most insightful, enjoyable and poignant films we have ever screened, and **the director will be on hand for this unique revival screening.**

*"This film is the future of documentary filmmaking."*

- Henry Rosenthal (producer of *The Devil and Daniel Johnston*), 1999.

First up in the film we meet 27-year-old Greg Serpa. He's going to the prom because "It's something I would never do and it's completely awkward." He's handsome, funny and stylish, a filmmaker who literally bleeds into his film processor. But he's tortured by his long-distance relationship, he's given two months notice till he quits his vintage clothing job, and lives in cycle of abandon and guilt. His recklessness is a source of amusement for his friends, but upon seeing footage of himself, just before the prom, he decides to totally change his life.

Tremaine de Senna is 17 years old and at school she's considered studious, unique, perhaps a bit nerdy. She's never really had a boyfriend, but hints to the camera that she wants to shake her "good girl" image. But, she says, "It's hard to be girly if you also want to have a future. It's hard to keep up with the gossip, the parties, if you're worried about what you're going to be when you grow up."

While 17 year-old Tremaine is trying to grow up, 27 year-old Greg is trying to settle down. But what makes the film so startlingly revealing are the subtle parallels which director Jesse Malings discovers and molds into a story of non-conformity. "You're losing the innocence of this," Greg tells the camera, as the film probes into the darker areas of his life, taking on deeper issues of self-esteem and personal pain. Filmed in just one week, the movie cuts back and forth between the prom itself and the days leading up to it, and from pre-prom jitters to late-night psychological games, *What is Paper Mache?* is a date movie filled with expectation and frustration, hilarious awkwardness, and culminating in a touching human connection.



\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*

**Contact:** Mark Elijah Rosenberg  
Artistic Director, Rooftop Films  
[press@rooftopfilms.com](mailto:press@rooftopfilms.com)  
718-417-7362

## ROOFTOP FILMS SUMMER SERIES 2006

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2006: WHAT IS PAPER MACHE?

*The feature will be preceded by the following short film:*

**L'ete de Nora** ( Pascal Tessaud | Saint Denis, France | 18:00)

While 18 year old Nora is awaiting the results of her high school finals, her mother is secretly arranging for her to marry a perfect stranger in North Africa. This beautiful story of a family in a new culture and young woman coming of age under new rules is a fascinating compliment to *What is Paper Mache?*.

#### THE MUSIC:

8:30 PM: **Just About To Burn** makes their own brand of feel good music—hooky, catchy acoustic tunes that still have something relevant to say. Their sound owes as much to traditional country-pop, R & B and pop rock as it does to front man and songwriter **Paleface**'s punk-rock New York City roots. Schooled personally by Daniel Johnston and a big influence on artists such as Beck and Kimya Dawson, Paleface's Tom Waits-inspired wilting croon adds a layer of authenticity to the sound. "Timeless, simplistic and warm, Just About to Burn are definitely worth looking out for." (*Exclaim!*, CA)

Visit them online at [www.justabouttoburn.net](http://www.justabouttoburn.net) or on MySpace at [myspace.com/justabouttoburn](http://myspace.com/justabouttoburn).

- 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](http://WWW.ROOFTOPFILMS.COM)