

# ROOFTOP FILMS SUMMER SERIES 2005



ROOFTOP FILMS presents

## New York Non-Fiction

Friday, August 12, 2005

8:30 -- Live music by Subway Musicians

9:00 -- It's your city. Take a look.

At Automotive High School (50 Bedford Ave. @ N.12th, Williamsburg, Brooklyn)

Dress warmly (it's cooler when you're sitting still).

In the event of rain the show is indoors at the same location.

Tickets are \$8.00 and are available at [www.rooftopfilms.com](http://www.rooftopfilms.com)

Press: contact Dane Smith at [press@rooftopfilms.com](mailto:press@rooftopfilms.com)

email [dan@rooftopfilms.com](mailto:dan@rooftopfilms.com) for other details.

Check out the Trailer at [www.rooftopfilms.com](http://www.rooftopfilms.com)!

### The Program

We New Yorkers are pretty damn proud of where we live, so it stands to reason that there'd be so many great films made about our amazing city. Always one of our most popular shows, our New York Non-Fiction show focuses less on the history of our city then on the lives of the people who live here, from the performers dancing in the subway to the people raising pigeons on the roof, from the kids skateboarding in the street to the luncheon owners shooing them off the sidewalk...

### THE FILMS:

#### What I'm Looking For (Shelly Silver / New York, NY / 15:00)

A series of still photos of people in NYC, with a voice over about the filmmaker's obsession with shooting strangers, seeing small truths and many lies. In her searching, she gets at many of the essences of New York: a place where strangers watch each other without looking, and show each other a face, a gesture, an attitude, without revealing anything. This wonderful film captures the pathos, the toughness and loneliness, the cockiness and desperation, of this city.

#### Wet Dreams and False Images (Jesse Epstein / Brooklyn, NY / 11:18)

Brooklyn barber and self-confessed "booty expert," Dee Dee was only too happy to show documentary maker Jesse Epstein the collection of tits'n'ass pin-up pictures that he salivates over. Convinced that their flawless, big-butt beauty is the "real deal", he and his posse get a rude awakening when she brings a digital

retouching expert in to show the boys how their 'perfect' women are re-proportioned by computers, and how cellulite, stretch marks and spots are airbrushed away.

**Grand Luncheonette** (Peter Sillen / New York, NY / 4:47)

Grand Luncheonette documents the final days of one of 42nd streets unforgettable lunch counters. The closing of Fred Hakim's hot dog stand marks the end stage of Times Squares much publicized gentrification.

**Playground** (Lauren Madow / TK / 13:00)

Playground is a film about three New York City teenagers with limited resources and how they use the urban environment for their own purposes. Rio, a skateboarder, Ashley, a basketball player, and Alex, a break-dancer, spend every spare moment playing in ways inspired by the city.

**Coop** (Lisa Whiteman / Brooklyn, NY / 3:30)

Using an antique camera Lisa captures fluttering images of pigeon flocks flying above the ever changing Brooklyn cityscape.

**Carfire** (John Furgason & John Ayala / TK / 17:00)

On the deserted streets of East Williamsburg, the burnt-out remains of carfires have become a familiar neighborhood landmark. Rooftop revisits its Bushwick roots with this artful documentary about the site of the highest concentration of auto arson in North America, known as the 'Dead Zone' by locals.

**Latitas** (Sol Aramendi / Long Island City, NY / 4:40)

Sol Aramendi shows us a day in the lives of poor Latin American women who collect cans and bottles from all over New York and redeem them for nickels at a depot in Long Island City.

**The Man Who Walked Between the Towers** (Michael Sporn / New York / 10:00)

A sweetly nostalgic animated remembrance of Phillippe Petit's daring tightrope walk between the late Twin Towers. Based on the children's book by Mordecai Gerstein.

**The Kings of Christmas** (David Katz / New York, NY / 10:27)

The flashy yet underground outer borough phenomenon of elaborate, ornate Christmas exterior house decorations is given a human face in this documentary short. You'll meet the obsessed, quirky people behind the biggest, brightest, and most over-the-top holiday decorated houses in New York City, including Steve Pancini who owns 600 animated dolls for his lawn and takes an entire month off from work to maintain his display.

**Three Times Oppressed** (Lyell Davies / New York, NY / 10:00)

A short portrait of a homeless New Yorker who considers himself thrice oppressed due to his Irish, Cherokee and African heritage.

**Manhattan Canyon** (Gregory King / New York, NY / 2:30)

Gregory King is a painter and an experimental filmmaker who plays keys and percussion with the indie-chamber music band The Rachel's and designs the band's intricate album art. For two full days in the summer of 2004, Greg strapped three cameras (two Super-8 and one video) onto his body and trekked up and down the length of Manhattan, taking one picture at each intersection. Set to the Rachel's music, Greg created a visual diptych representing the east and west sides of Manhattan, creating the effect of being whisked down the bottom of an urban canyon.

**Rules of Engagement** (Noeman Samdani and the Lab Sponsored by HBO / New York / 7:00)

16 year old Muslim American filmmaker Noeman Samdani confronts his issues with arranged marriages and his problems maintaining his faith while growing up in America.

**Storyboard of My Life: Coming To New York** (Robert Castillo / New York / 3:00)

Professional storyboard artist Robert Castillo tells the story of his life in clips of sped up video that capture his drawing process. In this chapter he tells of first meeting his mother and father in Queens at the age of 7 after having been raised by his Grandmother in the Dominican Republic.

**Main Street** (Seth Wochensky / Springville, NY / 5:00)

A quick cataloguing of the small tragic steps that led to the demise of a central strip in a small downtown in upstate New York.