



Press dossier

Lapinthrope

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Synopsis

Lapinthrope is a 30-minute film that tells the story of a girl taken in as a foundling by wild rabbits. As she comes of age, she must return to humankind in the city, where she faces the pain and troubles of being different in a conformist society.

Sharp, high contrast images create a heightened magic realism that places the fairytale genre in the real world. The story is staged in a bustling city where the actors intermingle with un-staged pedestrians who react spontaneously to the drama with a range of emotions. The rabbit-woman tries to communicate with the people she meets through an expressive animal like physicality. The viewer experiences city life through the rabbit-woman's eyes and is enticed to see urban living from a new perspective.

Lapinthrope is a Canadian/Austrian co-production which includes diverse talent. Co-creators Alec Kinnear and Kathleen Rea have developed their creative relationship over several films. They have established a unique cinematic voice by drawing together their theatre and film expertise with a quirky sense of humor and a desire to address vital social issues. Alec Kinnear directed and edited the action sequences in



Lapinthrope so the viewer feels directly involved in the story. Kathleen's choreography captures the animal nature of the rabbit-woman and the emotional nuances that she experiences. Canadian musician Rachel Smith's album *the Clearing*, provides a powerful lyrical sound-track. Austrian dance star Anna Hein takes the viewer through forest, highway, city and hospital, breathing life into *Lapinthrope* each step of her journey. Close and intense interaction with the Anna Hein and supporting actors creates an emotional bond which allows *Lapinthrope* to engage audiences of all ages.

Lapinthrope breaks new ground in narrative film weaving together expressive movement, a live urban environment and fairytale in a visceral cinematic experience which questions modern urbanization and the nature of civilization.



Lapinthrope

Short Synopsis



Lapinthrope is a 30-minute film which tells the story of a girl taken in as a foundling by wild rabbits. As she comes of age, she must return to humankind in the city, where she faces the pain and troubles of being different in a conformist world. The viewer is enticed to see urban living from a new perspective as we see the bustling city life through her eyes. Lapinthrope weaves together expressive movement, a live urban environment and fairytale in a visceral cinematic experience which questions modern urbanization and the nature of civilization.

L a p i n t h r o p e

Synopsis [Waves]

Waves is a five-minute short film created from an excerpt of *Lapinthrope*. It explores the themes of human pain and survival, as the young woman in the film faces the loss and confusion of mental illness. She is shown frantically moving and searching the halls of a psychiatric institution, trying to find a sense of her former self. Her story and the emotional nuances she experiences are represented through expressive body language. Rachel Smith's composition *Waves* (from her album *the Clearing*) provides a haunting voice that carries the young woman along as she recollects her lost dreams.



Cast and Credits

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Anna Iapin	Anna Hein
Truck Driver	Brent Marale
Security Guard	Richard Yagutilov
Mother	Fionnuala Jamison
Little Girl	Ella Gladstone
Mother's Friend	Lisa Goldhart
Cops	Malgorzata Nowacka & William Yong
Pedestrian	Paul Steves
Homeless Man	Allen Kaeja
Nurse	Kathleen Rea
Psychiatrist	Alec Kinnear
Orderlies	Jonathan Neville & Nigel Wolf
DIRECTOR	Alec Kinnear
CHOREOGRAPHY	Kathleen Rea
STORY	Alec Kinnear & Kathleen Rea
MUSIC	Rachel Smith
PRODUCER	Alec Kinnear
CO-PRODUCER	Bravo!FACT
ADDITIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY	(Pas de Deux) Anna Hein & Allen Kaeja
CAMERA	Alec Kinnear, Brent Marale & Richard Yagutilov
LIGHTING DESIGN	Brent Marale
STEADICAM	Alec Kinnear
EDITOR	Alec Kinnear
EDIT ASSISTANTS	Kathleen Rea & Astrid Peterle
ART DIRECTION	Anna Hein & Alec Kinnear
COSTUMES	Kathleen Rea & Jamie Bracewell
MAKE UP	Susan Ott
PROPS	Hand Props & Thunder Thighs
GRIP AND LIGHTING EQUIPMENT	William F. White Toronto
SOUND	Pifagor Moscow, Leonid Dragilev
SOUND DIRECTION	Alex Kollo
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Jackie Benyes, Brent Marale,
PRODUCTION TEAM	Richard Yagutilov & Anthony Wong
PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS	Aden Bahadori, Ester Garnick,
CREW	Astrid Peterle & Ella Shmaiev
SPECIAL THANKS	Paul Steves
	Carolyn Acker, Benson Tangredy,
	Jamie Bracewell, Greg Barker-Greene,
	George Brown College, Stuart Cole,
	Ike Columbus, Brian Cunningham at Digital Prototypes,
	Charlotte Engel, JoAnne Fishburn, Judy Gladstone,
	Martin Gwynn-Jones, Fionnuala Jamison, Judy Inc.,
	Keihan and Keivan at KMR Mode & Kensington Meats
	Moses Znaimer and Jocelyn Girault
A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO	



Alec Kinnear
[Director and Co-Writer]

Honours Bachelor of Arts Trinity College University of Toronto in Modern Literature and Theatre. Film apprenticeship in advertising and music videos. Produced critically acclaimed documentaries for Radio-Canada's Le Point on the Russian bankers, the Kirov ballet and Russian street life. Wrote on Russian culture and society for the Economist, Business Central Europe, Canadian Business, Moscow Times, Vancouver Sun and Dance International.

After writing about dance for many years, Alec is devoting his film knowledge to work specifically with dance film. Last year he completed a highly regarded dance film Althea Frutex for Bravo! in collaboration with choreographer D.A. Hoskins and featuring Kristy Kennedy.

This year he is presenting Lapinthrope a longer dance film (30 minutes) co-funded by Bravo! and the Canada Council for the Arts, shot entirely on location in and around Toronto. Lapinthrope features choreography of acclaimed Toronto artist Kathleen Rea and Austrian dance phenomenon Anna Hein.

<http://www.decadencefilms.com>



Kathleen Rea
[Choreographer and Co-Writer]

Kathleen Rea is a graduate of the National Ballet School and has danced with the National Ballet of Canada, Tiroler Landestheater (Austria) and Ballet Jörgen Canada. In 2000, Kathleen formed REASON d'être productions, an organization that umbrellas her artistic endeavors.

Kathleen has choreographed over 20 original works for various organizations including the Bravo Television Network, Ballet Jörgen Canada, Canadian Olympic Association, Decadence Films, Dusk Dances, the fringe Festival of Independent Dance Artists, Good Hair Day Productions, the National Ballet of Canada, the National Ballet School of Canada, princess productions, Studio 303 and Toronto Dance Theatre. Her work was mentioned in the Now Magazine Top Ten Dance Shows of 2002 as being "Imaginative, richly theatrical...with a clown inspired whimsy...a delight" (Glenn Sumi).

Kathleen is a recipient of the prestigious Choo San Goh Choreographic Award and currently her full-length ballet, the Velveteen Rabbit, is being performed by Ballet Jörgen Canada on tour across North America.

<http://www.kathleenrea.com>

Rachel Smith [Music | *The Clearing* Album]



Once upon a time, in a land far away, lived a young girl named Rachel who was raised in a small village in the woods. She would serenade the empty streets of her village after dark, singing alone in front of her little stone house. Gradually, as word of her astonishing voice got around (which sounded like a mixture of honey and tequila), she upgraded her venues to festivals, cabarets, cable TV shows and church services (accompanied by her organist father). Rachel learned 3-chord guitar from her kind but very protective mother so that she could accompany her dreadful, morbid songs about death and the playground. She was classically trained in voice and piano, but took opera in order to sing like Sinead O'Connor.

One day, Rachel grew up and left her village and moved to Montreal. While studying English at McGill University, she played around with other musicians like Karl Mohr, Hawksley Workman, Andy Sheppard, Leon Kingstone and Lederhosen Lucil. When Rachel had read her fill, she took her guitar and moved to Washington D.C. to work at an AIDS hospice. There, Rachel sang in a local gospel choir and had the best musical experience of her life.

When Rachel came back to the Canadian forest twelve moons later, she brought with her memories and a sack full of songs to plant in the ground. When the songs grew up, she cut them down and put them into an album. What was left was a clearing. It was in *the Clearing* that the film *Lapinthrope* was created.

<http://www.rachelsmith.ca>

Anna Hein [Lead and Art Direction]

Born in Graz, Austria, Anna Hein started her dance education at the National Opera School of Vienna in 1993. To supplement her training Anna studied with Centre de Danse International Rosella Hightower, Santoro Theatre Brasilia, the Vaganova Academy in St Petersburg, the Contemporary Coaching Project with Jorma Votinen, and the Sommertanzwochen in Vienna.

Upon graduation from The National Opera Ballet School, Anna was awarded a Dance Web Europe Scholarship for contemporary dance. In the same year she became a member of Tiroler Landestheatre in Innsbruck Austria. Her natural aptitude for extremely physically demanding movement vocabulary and her theatrical presence won her many leading roles. In 1999 after her first year with the company she was awarded the Exceptional Artist Award by the Tiroler Landestheatre. This award is given yearly to a member of Tiroler Landestheatre (150 artists of cross disciplines) who shows extraordinary talent as an artist.



Anna Hein premiered in Toronto, Canada in Kathleen Rea's *Frauenmythos* at the 1999 Fringe Festival of Independent Dance Artists and received rave reviews: "The remarkable, Austrian-based Anna Hein is human and emotionally present" Rebecca Todd-Eye Weekly-Aug 1999.

Returning to Tiroler Landestheatre in the fall of 1999 Anna began to dance under the new directorship of notable choreographer Jochen Ulrich. Inspired by Anna's talent Jochen choreographed many leading roles on her such as the young Diagilev in *Diagilev and Juliet* in *Romeo and Juliet*. For her exceptional performances in these and many other roles Anna Hein received the Young Dancers of the Year Award from Ballet International Magazine.

In 2003 and 2004 Anna travelled abroad working with Carlyn Carlson, Vim Vandkeybus, Nigel Charnock and Joseph Nadj in Venice and the Trish Brown Dance Company in New York.





Allen Kaeja [Actor]

Allen Kaeja entered the field of modern dance in 1981 after nine years of wrestling and Judo. Allen recently received the UNESCO citation as a partner in the International Year for the Culture of Peace 2000. He is also the 1999 recipient of the prestigious Clifford E. Lee Choreography Award from the Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada), the Bonnie Bird Choreography Award (England), the K. M. Hunter Choreography Award and the Chalmers Fund Performing Arts Grant (Ontario). He has been creating dances since 1982 including Resistance (2000), Excavating ascent (1999)-Banff, Brutal Calm (1999) and Zummel (1996)-NorrDans-Sweden, Permafrost (1998)-England, Courtyard (1997), the Old Country Trilogy (1993-95), Lost Innocence (1992) and Savage Garden (1989). His works have been presented in major festivals and venues across Canada, and in 15 countries around the world including Japan, Sweden, England, USA, Finland and Venezuela.

<http://www.kaeja.org>



Malgorzata Nowacka [Actor]

Malgorzata Nowacka emerged on the contemporary dance front in 1999 when she founded the Chimera Project through which she dances and choreographs. Malgorzata trained with Debbie Wilson and the school of Alvin Ailey. Malgorzata's presence is full of energy and she "rivets the eye with her charisma" (The Globe and Mail). In addition to performing in her own works, she also has appeared in works by O.M.O., MOTUS O' dance theatre and William Yong. Her film credits include I Can Almost, Moments in Motion and Kathleen Rea's Lapinthrope.

<http://www.chimeraproject.org>



William Yong [Actor]

Currently a member of Toronto Dance Theatre William Yong was born in Hong Kong and completed his MA with distinction at the London Contemporary Dance School. Mr. Yong performed in Random Dance Company's Labrax, and in Matthew Bourne's Cinderella and Swan Lake, touring Europe and the USA. Since his arrival in Canada, Mr. Yong has worked for CORPUS, Chimera Project, Kathleen Rea, Peter Chin, Julia Sasso, Matjash Mrozewski and Yvonne Ng.

<http://www.williamyong.com/>

Selected Filmography of Alec Kinnear

[not including commercials or music videos]

<i>Lapinthrope</i> [Decadence Films & BRAVO!Fact, 2005]	Director Editor Co-Writer
<i>Fleeting</i> [Decadence Films & REASON d'etre productions, 2003]	Director Editor
<i>Althea Frutex</i> [BRAVO!Fact, 2003]	Director Editor
<i>Prom Fight: the Marc Hall Story</i> [Giant Productions, 2002]	Finishing Editor
<i>Swimming With Whales</i> [Arctic Kingdom, 2001]	Director Producer
<i>The Return of the Firebird</i> Marinsky/Kirov [Theatre St Petersburg & Radio Canada, 1994]	Producer

Filmography of Kathleen Rea

<i>Lapinthrope</i> [Decadence Films & BRAVO!Fact, 2005]	Choreographer Co-Writer Assistant Editor
<i>Pas de Trois 6</i> [John Oswald, 2004]	Co-choreographer Dancer Camera
<i>Fleeting</i> [Decadence Films & REASON d'etre productions, 2003]	Choreographer Assistant Editor
<i>Sprite</i> [BRAVO!Fact, 2001]	Choreographer Co-Writer Dancer

Festival Appearances

Pine Film Festival Environmental film festival Portland, Oregon, USA	<i>Lapinthrope</i> [30 minutes] Category – Short filmselection Oregon, premiere, February 2006
<i>Mumbai International Film Festival</i> International film/video festival <i>Mumbai I, India</i>	<i>Lapinthrope</i> [30 minutes] Category – International selection Indian, premiere, February 2006
<i>San Diego International Children's Film Festival</i> International children's film/video festival San Diego, USA	<i>Lapinthrope</i> [30 minutes] Category – Teen movie night USA premiere, October 2005
<i>El Festival de Cine Bogotá</i> International film/video festival Bogotá, Columbia	<i>Lapinthrope</i> [30 minutes] Category – International selection South American premiere, October 2005
<i>Evenement Danse 2D</i> Dance film festival Ottawa, Canada	<i>Waves</i> [5 minute short] Category –Shorts Ottawa premiere, October 2005
<i>eKsperim[E]nto!</i> Touring film video and new media the Philippines	<i>Waves</i> [5 minute short] Category – Program # 2: Love, Fear, Sacrifice & Displacement Philippine premiere, September 2005
<i>International Panorama of Independent Film</i> Independent film/video Athens, Greece	<i>Lapinthrope</i> [30 minutes] Category – International selection Greek premiere, September 2005
<i>Planet In Focus</i> Environmental film festival Toronto, Canada	<i>Lapinthrope</i> [30 minutes] Category – Short film North American premiere, September 2005
<i>Festival Der Nationen</i> International short film/video festival Ebensee, Austria	<i>Lapinthrope</i> [30 minutes] Category – Long film *GOLD AWARD WINNER* Austrian premiere, June 2005
<i>Dance Screen Brighton 2005 IMZ</i> Dance film festival Brighton, United Kingdom	<i>Lapinthrope</i> [30 minutes] Category – selected screening British premiere, June 2005
<i>Sopot Film Festival</i> International film festival Sopot, Poland	<i>Lapinthrope</i> [30 minutes] Category – Feature shorts Polish premiere, May 2005
<i>The International Television Festival Golden Prague</i> Television media festival Prague, Czech Republic	<i>Lapinthrope</i> [30 minutes] Category – Music and dance films World premiere, May 2005
<i>Exground Filmfest Wiesbaden</i> Short film festival Wiesbaden, Germany	<i>Waves</i> [5 minute short] Category – International competition World premiere, November 2004



All Audible or Visible Text

0:18 sec. Titles	-This is the story of a girl who was abandoned as a baby in the wilds. A family of rabbits found the swaddling girl and raised her to her eighteenth year as one of their own.
0:58 sec. Rabbits [subtitles]	-She has come of age. - We must tell her. It is time. - How sad. - Her heart will break. - Can't she just stay with us? - It must be done. - You are not one of us.... Come summer you must leave and find your own kind.
9:38 Restaurant owner [voice]	-You can't stay here. Get Moving.
10:20 Man with girls [voice]	- Hey how are you doing? What a funny little...
14:56 Hysterical mother with police [voice]	
Mother:	-Officers. excuse me, excuse me, there is a crazy woman, who tried to molest my child.
Policeman:	-Hey calm down, Ma'am.
Mother:	-She's there, she's right there, the creep is sitting right there.
Policewoman: [to little girl]:	-Are you alright?
Mother:	-Of course she's not alright.
Policeman: [to policewoma]:	-Okay, I'm going to go.
Mother:	-She's got black spiky hair, a ripped burlap sack on her....She definitely stands out.
Policewoman:	-We will call you as soon as we know something.
Mother:	-I am just a little bit emotional, maybe, which I think is perfectly understandable given the circumstances.
16:20 Police with homeless man [voice]	-Hey have you seen a girl run by?

