THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO TO CINEMA Parts 1, 2, 3

P Guide Presents A Lone Star / Mischief Films / Amoeba Films Production

> A film by Sophie Fiennes 2006 / 150 mins www.thepervertsguide.com

SYNOPSIS:

'Cinema is the ultimate pervert art. It doesn't give you what you desire - it tells you how to desire' - Slavoj Zizek

THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO CINEMA takes the viewer on an exhilarating ride through some of the greatest movies ever made. Serving as presenter and guide is the charismatic Slavoj Zizek, the Slovenian philosopher and psychoanalyst. With his engaging and passionate approach to thinking, Zizek delves into the hidden language of cinema, uncovering what movies can tell us about ourselves.

THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO CINEMA offers an introduction into some of Zizek's most exciting ideas on fantasy, reality, sexuality, subjectivity, desire, materiality and cinematic form. Whether he is untangling the famously baffling films of David Lynch, or overturning everything you thought you knew about Hitchcock, Zizek illuminates the screen with his passion, intellect, and unfailing sense of humour. THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO CINEMA applies Zizek's ideas to the cinematic canon, in what The Times calls 'an extraordinary reassessment of cinema.'

The film cuts its cloth from the very world of the movies it discusses; by shooting at original locations and on replica sets, it creates the uncanny illusion that Zizek is speaking from within the films themselves. Described by The Times as 'the woman helming this Freudian inquest,' director Sophie Fiennes' collaboration with Slavoj Zizek illustrates the immediacy with which film and television can communicate genuinely complex ideas. Says Zizek: "My big obsession is to make things clear. I can really explain a line of thought if I can somehow illustrate it in a scene from a film. THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO CINEMA is really about what psychoanalysis can tell us about cinema."

THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO CINEMA is constructed in three parts. Says Fiennes: 'The form of the Guide is a deliberately open one. There are three parts, but there could be more. Zizek's method of thinking is exciting because it's always building. Things relate forwards and backwards and interconnect into a mind-altering network of ideas. The film's title is something of a McGuffin – just a way to get you into this network.'

PART 1

What can the Marx Brothers tell us about the workings of the unconscious? And why exactly do the birds attack in Hitchcock's masterpiece of horror? Part 1 explores the fictional structures that sustain our experience of reality and the chaotic netherworld of wild drives and desire that undermine that very experience.

Providing a blueprint for approaching cinema through a psychoanalytical lens, Part 1 explores key Freudian concepts such as the psyche's division between Ego, Superego, Id, death drive and libido. Zizek shows how the visual language of films returns to us our deepest anxieties, arousing our desire while simultaneously 'keeping it at a safe distance, domesticating it, rendering it palpable!'

PART 2

Playing on cinema's great tradition for romantic narratives, Part 2 unlocks what these narratives tell us about the critical role that fantasy plays in sexual relationships. 'Why does our libido need the virtual universe of fantasies?' asks Zizek.

Zizek excavates the nightmarish truth behind Tarkovsky's dreamy sci-fi Solaris and its chilling reverberations with Vertigo, Hitchcock's great romantic epic. The consequences are alarming. For the male libidinal economy it appears, 'the only good woman is a dead woman.' Zizek argues that it is the very excess of female desire that poses a fundamental threat to male identity.

Fantasy can be both pacifying and radically destabilizing. From David Lynch's Lost Highway and Ingmar Bergman's Persona to Michael Haneke's The Piano Teacher, fantasy is the battleground of the war between the sexes. Part 2 interrogates the structure of fantasy that makes the sexual act possible. But it also asks whether this very plague of fantasies is finally staged - like cinema itself - as a defence against anxiety.

PART 3

Part 3 plays with appearances. Appearances are not deceiving, but extremely efficient. When Dorothy & Co discover The Wizard of Oz is actually an old man behind a curtain, they nonetheless expect him to work his magic. And so he does: the illusion persists. Says Zizek, 'There is something more real in the illusion than in the reality behind it.'

With iconoclastic gusto, Zizek evokes the Gnostic theory of our world as an 'unfinished reality' where 'God bungled his job of creation'. If film itself is structured through cuts, edits and missing scenes, then so too is our own subjective experience. This is perhaps why we can believe in cinema – as well as other systems of faith, paternal, religious and ideological.

Zizek shows us that the key to cinema is beyond the narrative, beyond the 'story' that we witness. What provides the density of cinematic enjoyment is material form beyond interpretation.

FILMS FEATURED:

Possessed (1934) / Clarence Brown

The Matrix (1999) / Andy and Larry Wachowski

The Birds (1963) / Alfred Hitchcock

Psycho (1960) / Alfred Hitchcock

Duck Soup (1933) / Leo Mc Carey

Monkey Business (1931) / Norman Z McCleod

The Exorcist (1973) / William Friedkin

Testament of Dr Mabuse (1933) / Fritz Lang

Alien (1979) / Ridley Scott

The Great Dictator (1940) / Charles Chaplin

Mulholland Drive (2002) / David Lynch

Alice in Wonderland (1951) / Clyde Geronimi, Wilfred Jackson & Hamilton Luske

The Red Shoes (1948) / Michael Powell

Dr. Strangelove (1963) / Stanley Kubrick

Fight Club (1999) / David Fincher

Dead of Night (1945) / Alberto Cavalcanti

The Conversation (1974) / Francis Ford Coppola

Blue Velvet (1986) / David Lynch

Vertigo (1958) / Alfred Hitchcock

Psycho Theatrical Trailer (1960)

Solaris (1972) / Andrei Tarkovsky

The Piano Teacher (2001) / Michael Haneke

Wild at Heart (1990) / David Lynch

Lost Highway (1996) / David Lynch

Dune (1984) / David Lynch

Persona (1966) / Ingmar Bergman

Eyes Wide Shut (1999) / Stanley Kubrick

Blue (1993) / Krysztof Kieslowski

In the Cut (2003) / Jane Campion

The Wizard of Oz (1939) / Victor Fleming

Frankenstein (1931) / James Whale

10 Commandments (1956) / Cecil B. DeMille

Dogville (2003) / Lars Von Trier

Alien Resurrection (1997) / Jean-Pierre Jeunet

To Catch a Thief (1954) / Alfred Hitchcock

Saboteur (1942) / Alfred Hitchcock

Rear Window (1954) / Alfred Hitchcock

North by Northwest (1959) / Alfred Hitchcock

Stalker (1979) / Andrei Tarkovsky

Kubanskie Kasaki (1949) / Ivan Pyryev

Ivan the Terrible, Part Two (1945) / Sergei Eisenstein

Pluto's Judgment Day (1935) / David Hand

City Lights (1931) / Charles Chaplin

NOTES ON MAKING THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO CINEMA:

For the shooting of the guide, there was no script in the conventional sense and neither was this an interview. However, work was done in advance to shape the film's agenda; an outline comprising of theories drawn from a document supplied by Zizek was augmented with further theories selected from his books, producing a document that served as a map during the shooting.

From this point on, shooting itself was quite free-wheeling. Space was given to let Zizek deliver a theory line in long takes of up to 10 or 15 minutes, often ending with a 'fuck it, but you can cut it!' Sometimes theory lines were re-delivered in different settings, to allow for cutting possibilities and at other times ideas emerged during conversations on set. The aim was to document Zizek's thinking on cinema and perhaps the process of thinking itself, as a performance, something caught, alive in its moment.

The result was 20 hours of material from which Parts 1,2 and 3 were constructed. Zizek did not take part in this process. Organising material in the off-line was done through cross-referencing theories with films; its hard to imagine such an editing process using pre-digital methods. The original written document was now obsolete, and in its place were files of transcription.

The primary factor that determined the tone and style of the cutting was clarity – to allow the critical reading to come through as fluidly as possible. It was miraculous to see how the images from these masterpieces of cinema that are featured in the Guide were transformed through interaction with the theories; the images and sequences seemed to fill up and take shape, like dresses revealed through the body that wears them.

Jump-cutting Zizek in picture was forbidden, as the detail and density of the ideas as they gather momentum seemed to call for precision, not pixilation; frames should work as visual anchors and make it possible to go seamlessly from one film into another, adapting to each film's own rhythm and language.

- Sophie Fiennes, 2006

PRODUCTION INFO:

The material for the film was created in three shooting periods; two separate weeks on location and one in the studio.

The first shooting week took place in April 2004 in Champaign, Illinois (material from this period is in the final film, in the 'Blue Velvet Garden', Part 2). The main purpose of this initial week was to develop the project with Zizek, and to create material with which to secure funding. This material was shot on a Sony PD150/PAL.

Following commissions from Channel 4 in the UK and WDR in Austria, the second location shoot took place in April 2005, in San Francisco. The crew stayed at the Cathedral Hill Hotel (formerly the Jack Tar Hotel, the location used in the film The Conversation) shooting footage on the balcony (room 771) and on the toilet (room 773) as featured in the original film.

Material was also shot on Bodego Bay, in San Francisco city and in front of the tree named The Father of the Forest. Material from the second location shoot was shot on Panasonic DVX 100/PAL.

All remaining interior footage was shot in Holland, in August 2006, on sets built to replicate those from the films analysed in the Guide. Material for the interior studio sets was shot on XDCAM/ PAL with pro 35 lens adaptor. Production was undertaken by Kasanderfilm, in Rotterdam, with the support of the Rotterdam Film Fund,

The major bulk of the editing period took place from September 2005 to April 2006 in London, using Final Cut Pro, and for colour correction, Final Touch. Final post production was carried out in Vienna and Bratislava, care of Mischief Films.

The initial TV commission (Art Shock Channel 4/UK and WDR/Germany) was for one film with a length of 48' and minimum 54' minutes respectively. The original TV commission comprises Part 1 of the Guide, Parts 2 and 3 were edited on spec and subsequently acquired by More 4. All three parts, with 6 minutes additional material, makes up the full theatrical version of part 1,2 and 3.

BIOGRAPHIES:

SLAVOJ ZIZEK (Presenter)

Widely acclaimed as one of the most original thinkers of our time, Slavoj Zizek is a dialectical-materialist philosopher. He is the author of more than fifty books on diverse subjects ranging from opera to religion, film, and the war in Iraq. He has taught at universities including Paris, London, Columbia, Chicago, Duke, Princeton and the New School in New York. He currently holds a post at the Department of Philosophy, University of Ljubljana and is Co-Director of the International Centre for Humanities at Birkbeck College, University of London. He has been the subject of numerous media profiles in various publications including the *Guardian, New Yorker, Liberation* (France) and *Asahi* (Japan). He contributes articles to the *Guardian, London Review of Books,* and *Le Monde* (France).

For a bibliography of Zizek's works visit www.lacan.com/bibliographyzi.htm

SOPHIE FIENNES (Director / Producer)

Sophie Fiennes received no formal education. She worked as an apprentice to film director Peter Greenaway from 1987 - 1992, managed the Michael Clark dance company from 1992-1994 and began making films in 1999. Fiennes' films play with notions of performance and identity. She is widely acclaimed for her unique observational eye as well as her strong sense of cinematic form. Films include Lars From 1-10 (1999) The Late Michael Clark (2000) Because I Sing (2001) and Hoover Street Revival (which was released theatrically in the UK 2003 by Metro Tartan and Tartan USA). She received a NESTA fellowship and The Pervert's Guide To Cinema was born out of research during this fellowship period.

REMKO SCHNORR (Director of Photography/studio)

Remko Schnorr was born (14-12-1974) and raised in the Hague, Netherlands. In the year 2000 Remko successfully finished film-school (Nederlandse Film & Televisie Academie, Amsterdam) and started immediately working as a cinematographer on short films, commercials and music video's. These job's created the opportunity to develop really fast. In 2004 Remko shot his first feature film "Pluk van de Petteflet" a children's film directed by Ben Sombogaard. In 2006 Kees Kasander gave Remko the opportunity to shoot his first documentary "The Pervert's Guide to Cinema" for Sophie Fiennes what was a great collaboration. This year also "Het woeden der gehele wereld" produced by Rob Houwer hit theatres. A feature film set in the period shortly after the second world war in Maasluis, Holland. Currently Remko is finishing post-production on 3 short films directed by Jochem de Vries that will premiere 30 September at the film-festival Utrecht.

BEN ZUYDWIJK (Production Designer/Studio)

15 years ago Ben started as a painter and decorator in the fields of film and theatre working on the sets of the famous Peter Greenaway features Prospero's Books, The Baby of Macon and The Pillow Book as on the for Production Design award winning film Orlando, by Sally Potter.

Since 10 years he has been making a name for himself as a Production Designer and Art Director working on National commercials, shorts feature films and photoshoots as on International productions as Claim, Fogbound, la Captive Kill Kill Faster Faster, Crusade in Jeans and The Pervert's Guide To Cinema.

KATIE KITAMURA (Creative Consultant)

Katie Kitamura was born in 1979. She attended Princeton and London Universities, and holds a PhD in Humanities and Cultural Studies. Her first book, Japanese for Travellers, was published in May 2006 by Penguin UK. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she is currently writing her second book.

MARTIN ROSENBAUM (Producer)

Martin Rosenbaum formed Lone Star Productions in 2000 and since then has produced a number of critically acclaimed feature-length documentaries for BBC Television and in co-production with other European and US producers. These films include Searching For The Wrong-Eyed Jesus (US theatrical release July 13 2005, IFC Waverly NYC, July 29 2005, Fairfax Theater, LA and 10 other cities), I Am From Nowhere (European Premiere Locarno 2003), The Room (a 2-part profile of Harold Pinter), Painting The Clouds: A Portrait Of Dennis Potter, Calling Hedy Lamarr (European Premiere Locarno, US Premiere LA Film Festival 2004).

Martin Rosenbaum's other productions for BBC Arena, BBC Music & Arts and Channel 4 include Last Supper by photographer Robert Frank, Placido Domingo's Tales From The Opera, The Last Soviet Citizen the story of the cosmonaut stranded on the Russian space station MIR when the USSR fell apart, Tony Bennett's New York And Looking For The Iron Curtain - the Iron Curtain ten years after its fall.

ETHEL SHEPERD (Editor)

Ethel Sheperd was born in the Outer Hebrides in 1957. She read Anthropology and Humanities at St Andrews University, Scotland and following this spent 20 years making ethnographic films in Papua New Guinea. She returned to the UK in 2000 and now lives in Norwood, South London, where she writes and works as an editor on selected projects.

KEES KASANDER (co-producer The Netherlands)

Berlin for the film Crush Proof, director Paul Tickell.

Kees Kasander entered the film industry in 1978 as Head of Distribution for a Dutch company called Film International. This company was also deeply involved in the organisation of the Rotterdam Film Festival and from 1982 until 1985; Kasander was the official producer of the Festival program. He has been an independent film producer since 1981 and as such has worked all over the world. Until now he has produced over 50 feature films. His collaboration with Peter Greenaway has brought him international acclaim. The film The Cook, The Thief, His Wife And Her Lover (1989) has also been a great commercial success. Kees Kasander has won both national and international prizes for his film productions. He won the nationally esteemed prize for best feature film at the Dutch Film Festival in Utrecht three times: Secret Wedding in 1988, director Alejandro Agresti and Prospero's Books in 1992, director Peter Greenaway and

Abeltje in 1999, director Ben Sombogaart. He received a prize (100.00DM) in

His most recently produced films are: Tempesta (director Paul Tickell), an adaptation of the best-selling Spanish novel by Juan Manuel de Prada, and The Tulse Luper Suitcases, Peter Greenaway's most ambitious project to date. As a co-producer he participated in films by Alexander Sokourov (Elegy Of A Voyage) and Philippe Garrel (Sauvage Innocence). Amongst the films in postproduction is Crusade In Jeans, based on the well-known Dutch children's book by Thea Beckman and to be directed by Ben Sombogaart. The premiere of this film will take place in November 2006. Amongst the films in production is Nightwatching by Peter Greenaway. A film about the creation of the famous painting 'The Nightwatch' by Dutch painter Rembrandt.

RALPH WIESER (Producer)

Ralph Wieser ran the Kino Filmbühne Mödling from 1988-1996. With his wife Judith Wieser-Huber, they founded After Image Production organising cultural events and film projects in Austria. www.afterimage.at. Their projects include Kino Unter Sternen (Cinema under the stars) an open-air cinema festival, Augarten Park, Vienna. EU-XXL Film a forum for professional filmmakers, The Aegina Academy and EAVE - workshops (European Audiovisual Entrepreneurs) for European film producers/Vienna.

In 2002 he founded Mischief Films with director Georg Misch with the intent to produce creative documentaries. Films include Edgar Ulmer – The Man Off Screen (dir: Michael Palm), Calling Hedy Lamarr (dir: Georg Misch) Miss Universe 1929 - Lisl Goldarbeiter, A Queen in Wien (dir: Peter Forgacs), No Name City (dir: Florian Flicker) Ich muss dir was sagen (dir: Michael Nguyen) The Pervert's Guide to Cinema (dir: Sophie Fiennes).

GEORG MISCH (Producer)

Born in 1970. Georg Misch is director and producer. He studied at the University of Stirling and the National Film School, NFTS in Great Britain. Misch works to date include documentary films for BBC, Channel 4 and ARTE as well as commercials: Calling Hedy Lamarr, I am from nowhere, Lines, Ere we go, Trautonium, Insight (selection). In 2002 he founded Mischief Films with Ralph Wieser.

CAST AND CREW:

Director SOPHIE FIENNES

Presented by SLAVOJ ZIZEK

Director of Photography (studio) REMKO SCHNORR

Gaffer ERIK DE WILDT

Best Boys IWAN CVITKO

CES MOSSEL

Light Assistant PATRICK DEKKER

Grip PETER VAN VUGT

Focus Pullers ARIEL CASTILLO

JASPER BAZUIN

Sound Engineer AB GROOTERS

Production Designer (Studio) BEN ZUYDWIJK

Set Dresser SIETSKE VAN LOON

Wardrobe HEDI LEGERSTEE

Make-Up SOPHIE VAN DER WINDT

Line Producer/ 1st AD (Studio) NATASCHA TEUNISSEN

Production Manager (Studio) LEANDER HUIZINGA

Production Assistant (Studio) ANNE DERKS

Production Co-ordinator USA SAMANTHA WEAVER

Camera (Location) SOPHIE FIENNES

Sound (Location) MARTIN ROSENBAUM

Post Production Manager PETER JANECEK

Post Production Assistant FRITZ OFNER

Post Production Accountant ELISABETH EISENWORT

Financial Controller (Studio) ALFRED NIEHAUS

Transcriptions PAPERTAPE

Additional Research ANDREW WRIGHT

Editor ETHEL SHEPHERD

Additional and On-line Editing MAREK KRALOVSKY

Creative Consultant KATIE KITAMURA

Graphics / FX JAKOB SCHINDEGGER

Colourist KLAUS PAMMINGER

Additional Sound BEATGURU

Sound Mix MARTIN MERC

Music BRIAN ENO

Weird Bird Call Carnival

Composed and recorded by Brian Eno

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Background ambient tracks:

Field of Ice

Backward Bell Harmonics

Big Thumpscape

Deep Indian Long (co-writer Robert Fripp)

Grain

Space Jam Fear x (co-composer Peter Schwalm)

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SCENE D'AMOUR

Muir Mathison, Bernard Herrmann Original Motion Picture Soundtrack

© Varese Records

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SUSAN BEALE MARINA GUINNESS

IFFR, SANDRA DEN HAMER JACQUES VAN HEIJNINGEN

SASKIA KAGCHEL, MARIEKE KOLET

SYLVIA ELIAS

STUDIO SCHIECENTRALE ROTTERDAM,

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R&S RENTALS

HOTEL STROOM ROTTERDAM,

MICHEL KOLENBRANDER LE MANS SUITE SUPPLY

Executive producer Channel 4 JAN YOUNGHUSBAND

Executive producer WDR REINHARD WULF

Co-Producer (Netherlands) KEES KASANDER

Development Executive (Netherlands) INEKE KANTERS

Producers MARTIN ROSENBAUM

GEORG MISCH RALPH WIESER SOPHIE FIENNES

A LONE STAR, MISCHIEF FILMS, AMOEBA FILM

production / © P Guide Ltd 2006

REVIEWS:

Following the lead of a Pervert

Jon Davies, Toronto International Film Festival Daily 7 September, 2006

Sophie Fiennes's epic three-part voyage through cinema - led by the virtuoso Slovenian philosopher-trickster Slavoj Zizek - ends with Zizek's impassioned response to the sentimental wallop delivered by the closing scene of Charlie Chaplin's City Lights. After the once-blind girl gazes into the tramp's eyes and realizes he is in fact the wealthy benefactor who has restored her sight, "We don't know what will happen," Zizek says. "We have the words 'The End' and the black screen. But the singing goes on, as if the emotion is now too strong - it spills over the very frame."

He continues, "In order to understand today's world, we need cinema; literally, it's only in cinema that we get that crucial dimension which we are not yet ready to confront in our reality. If you are looking for what is, in reality, more real than reality itself, look into cinematic fiction." How can any self-respecting cinephile argue with such a zealous assertion of the power and value of the moving image?

An insightful, indispensable and eye-opening love letter to the movies, THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO CINEMA is also an expedition into the furthest reaches of Zizek's Lacanian/Marxist theories, last on display at last year's Festival in Astra Taylor's wondrous Zizek! What makes the film so much more than a grad-school lecture is Zizek's glorious wit and sense of play, which sees the shaggy, lisping penseur maudit delivering his analyses while occupying the sets of his favorite films.

And so we find Zizek in the cellar with Mother in Psycho and crouching on the floor of the disturbing bathroom inspection scene in The Conversation. It is hard to adequately describe the acute joy of seeing Zizek attempting to steer a boat through Bodega Bay as Tippi Hedren did in Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds, losing control due to his giddy joking that he is Melanie rushing to screw Mitch.

Other than Hitchcock and Chaplin, Zizek's personal pantheon includes many of the canonical works of David Lynch, Andrei Tarkovsky and Stanley Kubrick but also rarely discussed novelties including the Stalinist musical Kubanskie kazaki and Clarence Brown's Possessed, with its heroine watching the scenes aboard a passing train as if they were projected on a movie screen - all her desires writ large.

In a discussion of The Matrix, Zizek goes so far as to claim that if you take away all the fictions that structure and regulate our reality, there would be nothing left - our so-called false consciousness is not a mask but rather our material being. Pure genius.

'A rare documentary of unabashed intellectual aggression . . . (Zizek's) assessment of a range of films, from The Birds and The Red Shoes to Blue Velvet is never less than eye-opening. Peeping Toms and plugholes, autonomous limbs and incestuous mothers: he focuses on diverse cinematic minutiae to explain how celluloid's 'fantasy space' holds our hidden thoughts. It's hard not to find such an unusually lofty television documentary a turn-on.'

-Victoria Segal, The Sunday Times, London

'The Pervert's Guide to Cinema . . . was a joy. Zizek is one part materialist philosopher, two parts Lacanian psychoanalyst, and three parts maverick. He is the closest thing philosophy currently has to a superstar – and this was a great introduction to his psychoanalytical work on film.'

-Hermione Eyre, Independent on Sunday, UK

'Enjoy the tour de force of Zizek's fascinating interpretations of fine cinematic moments.'

-The Guardian, UK

'An extraordinary reassessment of cinema.'

-James Christopher, The Times, London

'Oh, what a brilliantly entertaining host Zizek turns out to be.'

-Killian Fox, The Observer, UK

'This documentary will make you proud to call yourself a pervert'

Thom Powers, Toronto International Film Festival, Canada

CONTACT:

For general inquiries contact:

P GUIDE LTD 19 Hopefield Avenue London NW6 6LJ

Tel: +44 20 8968 1863

Email: contact@thepervertsguide.com

For UK press inquires contact:

EMFOUNDATION 91-95 Brick Lane London E1 6QN

Tel: +44 20 7247 417

For Austria press inquires contact:

Mischief Films Nicole Wolf Goethegasse 1 1010 Wien

Tel: +43 1 585232423

Email: nicole@mischief-films.com