



## Hauntings I

Guy Maddin,

Jody Shapiro, Darcy Fehr,  
Michael Maryniuk, Caelum Vatnsdal

2010, Silent

Super 8 and HD Video transferred to DVD,  
Black and White and Colour.

Production Design: **Richardo Alms**

Screenplay: **Evan Johnson, Robert Kotyk,**

**Guy Maddin & Caelum Vatnsdal**

Editor: **John Gurdebeke**

Principal Cast: **Louis Negin, Udo Kier,**

**Tattiawna Jones, Kim Morgan,**

**Suzanne Pringle**

Producers: **Phyllis Laing, Jean du Toit,**

**Jody Shapiro**

Production Supervisor: **Evan Johnson**

## Hauntings II

Guy Maddin,

Jody Shapiro, Darcy Fehr,  
Michael Maryniuk, Caelum Vatnsdal

2010, Silent

Super 8 transferred to DVD,

Black and White

Production Design: **Richardo Alms**

Screenplay: **Evan Johnson, Robert Kotyk,**

**Guy Maddin & Caelum Vatnsdal**

Editor: **John Gurdebeke**

Principal Cast: **Louis Negin, Udo Kier,**

**Tattiawna Jones, Kim Morgan,**

**Suzanne Pringle**

Producers: **Phyllis Laing, Jean du Toit,**

**Jody Shapiro**

Production Supervisor: **Evan Johnson**

Commissioned for TIFF Bell Lightbox, 2010

The ghosts of cinema loom large in Guy Maddin's body of work. *Hauntings*, a series of very short films commissioned for the opening of TIFF Bell Lightbox, makes explicit his fascination with these cultural spectres; his first comment upon seeing our building under construction was that "this place needs some ghosts." Both a cheeky commentary on the idea of an essential films list and a harrowing exploration of the regret and weakness felt by cinema's great masters, this is both Maddin's most expansive work in terms of the sheer size of its palette and his most personal. For years, he has been collecting tales of unrealized, half-finished or abandoned films. This impulse rhymes remarkably well with Maddin's thematic obsession with regret and the perils of wild abandon.

The series is deployed in two separate locations. *Hauntings I* involves eleven projections of reclaimed fragments of cinema's lost history. Maddin turned tales of lost films into actual scripts with lengths set between thirty seconds and five minutes, depending on the complexity of the found material. Shot in Winnipeg earlier this year and starring Fassbinder legend Udo Kier and Maddin regular Louis Negin, the fragments range from lost avant-garde projects by Hollis Frampton (left on a subway) and Michael Snow, to lush dramas from F. W. Murnau and Oscar Michaud. The projections crowd the front part of the new main gallery, like ghouls from an alternate reality confronting and questioning visitors as they enter and

exit the space that celebrates our "sanctified" Essential 100 films.

*Hauntings II* is an original work based on inspirational moments from the making of *Hauntings I*. (A fragment of fragments, if you will). It involves a vast, ethereal curtain that gradually reveals a siren of cinema, meant to beckon visitors to enter TIFF Bell Lightbox and become entranced by her cinematic offerings. *Hauntings II* spans the length of the building's northern bank of windows on the fifth floor every night of the Festival.

■ Noah Cowan

Guy Maddin has ten features to his credit, including the cult classic *Tales from the Gimli Hospital* (88) and *Archangel* (90), which won the US National Film Critics Award for best experimental film of the year. He has won many awards, including the Telluride Silver Medal for life achievement in 1995, an Emmy Award for *Dracula - Pages from a Virgin's Diary* (02) and the San Francisco International Film Festival's Persistence of Vision Award in 2006. His films include *The Saddest Music in the World* (03), *Brand upon the Brain!* (06) and *My Winnipeg* (07), which won the award for best Canadian feature film at the Festival. He is Distinguished Filmmaker in Residence at the University of Manitoba.

*Hauntings I* presented at TIFF Bell Lightbox, main gallery, September 12 to October 23

*Hauntings II* presented at TIFF Bell Lightbox, 5th Floor Window, exterior, September 9 to September 19

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Photograph: Jody Shapiro. Courtesy the artist.