

PRESS KIT JULY 2015

The Creeping Garden

Production details

Directed & produced: Tim Grabham, Jasper Sharp
Original soundtrack: Jim O'Rourke
Genre: Documentary - Science / Art / Nature
Running Time: 82 minutes
Year of Production: 2014
Contact: info@creepinggarden.com www.creepinggarden.com

Synopsis

A real life science fiction movie exploring a world creeping right beneath our feet, where time and space are magnified and intelligence redefined.

The Creeping Garden is a multi award winning feature length creative documentary exploring the work of fringe scientists, mycologists and artists, and their relationship with the extraordinary plasmodial slime mould. The slime mould is being used to explore biological-inspired design, emergence theory, unconventional computing and robot controllers, much of which borders on the world of science fiction. But as well as exploring the slime mould in the lab, the film also travels out into the wild, hunting for the organisms in their natural habitat.

Co-directed by artist film-maker Tim Grabham and writer and film curator Jasper Sharp, the film follows in the unconventional footsteps of Grabham's previous feature 'KanZeOn' and Sharps fascination with the extended world of mycology.

With an original soundtrack composed by celebrated musician and producer Jim O'Rourke (Sonic Youth, Werner Herzog's 'Grizzly Man') this is a unique exploration into a hitherto untapped subject matter, observing and immersing the audience into the worlds of the observers and the observed.

Press

'An improbably delightful documentary... Full of trippy visuals'
Dennis Harvey, Variety

'The movie hums as if it was shot by aliens visiting Earth for the first time, and that's a high compliment'
Jordan Hoffman, The Guardian

'A vibrant cinematic cabinet of curiosities that will leave you giddy and delirious with wonder'
Eli Horwatt, Hot Docs International Documentary Festival

'Stupendously fascinating and individualistic documentary masterpiece... see it and be forever altered.'
Mitch Davis, Fantasia International Film Festival

'The Creeping Garden is, cinematically, the reflection of its subject... a masterpiece... An absolute must - see.'
Joseph Elfassi, Voir Montreal

'Imagine if Stanley Kubrick and Douglas Trumbull were tasked with making a 1970s educational science film about the pods from Don Siegel's Invasion of the Body Snatchers and you're some way to understanding The Creeping Garden.'
James Marsh, Twitchfilm

'An out-of-left-field nerdy delight'
John DeFore, The Hollywood Reporter

'An enthralling delve into the world of plasmodial slime moulds deserving to be served up at a series of other festivals... A unique documentary to be sure.'

Mark Adams, Screen International

'an essential reminder of how smart docs about peculiar subjects can be as entertaining as any psycho thriller... Who knew fungal gunk could be so rapturous to behold?'

Steve Dollar, Indiewire

'This is a documentary that transcends its form and creeps, mold-like, into your subconscious. And so far as unusual experiences go, *The Creeping Garden* is one I'd recommend wholeheartedly.'

BloodyUnderrated.net

Awards

Outlier Film Festival - Winner Best Documentary

Morbido Fest - Winner Bronze Skull Special Mention

Fantastic Fest - Winner Best Directors Documentary

Screenings

North American theatrical release begins 30th September 2015 at Film Forum, New York

New Horizons Festival, Poland, July 2015

Revelation International Film festival, Australia, July 2015

DOXA Documentary Film Festival, May 2015

Cinemarfa Film festival, US, May 2015

Toronto Hot Docs, April 2015

Flatpack Festival, UK, March 2015

Cleveland International Film Festival, March 2015

Offscreen Film Festival, Belgium, March 2015

Peninsula Arts Contemporary Music Festival, February, 2015

Outlier Film Festival, November 2014

Morbido Fest, Mexico, November 2014

Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, November 2014

28th Leeds International Film Festival, UK, November 2014

CPH:DOX, Copenhagen, November, 2014

STATE Experience Science Festival, Berlin, October, 2014

Imagine Science Film Festival, New York, October 2014

SpectreFest, Los Angeles, October 2014

Fantastic Fest, Austin, Texas, September 2014

Fantasia International Film Festival, Montreal, Canada July 2014

Contributors

Heather Barnett, an artist inspired by biological systems who uses the species *Polycephalum physarum* to communicate sophisticated scientific and social ideas to the general public.

Mark Pragnell, an amateur mycologist with a keen interest in slime moulds.

Bryn Dentinger, Head of Mycology at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, who introduces the viewer to the Fungarium, the largest archive of fungi specimens in the world, which has its own special section devoted to *myxomycetes*.

Dr. Tim Boon, Head of Research & Public History at The Science Museum, London, and the author of *Films of Fact: A History of Science Documentary on Film and Television*, who details the history of cinema and its characteristics of time and image magnification to explore and explain science to the general public, specifically the film *Magic Myxies* (1931) by the pioneering scientific filmmaker Percy Smith.

Professor Andrew Adamatzky of the Centre for Unconventional Computing at University of the West of

England in Bristol, whose research into slime moulds as a biological substrate for computation has led to further research at the university into using slime moulds to perform complex computational tasks and to model road transport networks and human emotional expressions.

Dr Klaus-Peter Zauner of the University of Southampton, who has constructed a robot controlled by slime moulds.

Professor Eduardo Miranda, Head of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Computer Music Research at Plymouth University and an experimental composer who creates beautiful musical collaborations with these living organisms.

The Film-makers

Tim Grabham

A film-maker, visual artist, and animator based in the United Kingdom. His background of music performance recording and composition is instrumental in the approach, subject matter and audio aesthetics of his work.

After 10 years of live visual and analogue projection installations and experiments across the UK and Europe, he established the independent studio 'cinema iloobia' www.iloobia.com in 2003. He has been directing independent short films for over 20 years which have screened at festivals and gallery events internationally, as well as more recently editing feature documentaries including *Bassweight* (2010), award-winning films *Soka Afrika* (2011) and *The Fade* (2013).

His first feature film, *KanZeOn* (2011), www.kanzeonthemovie.com a sensory exploration of sound in Japan co-directed with the academic and musician Neil Cantwell, has screened widely at prominent international festivals and events globally, including the International Buddhist Film Festival (USA, Canada, Thailand, London), 27th Warsaw Film Festival, Nippon Connection Germany, Camera Japan Festival Rotterdam, Houston Cinema Arts Festival, KinoBeat Brazil, Osian's Cinefan Festival India, and Images and Sounds of the World, Italy.

He also co-authored the award-winning children's book *Movie Maker: The Ultimate Guide to Making Films* (2010) and his illustrations contribute to five of the the ever growing Stickerbomb book series (2008 - 2014).

Jasper Sharp

An author, film critic, curator and film historian based in London, internationally regarded for his specialist interest in Japanese cinema. He is the co-founder and joint-editor of the Japanese cinema website Midnight Eye www.midnighteye.com.

His book publications include *The Midnight Eye Guide to New Japanese Film* (2003), co-written with Tom Mes, *Behind the Pink Curtain: The Complete History of Japanese Sex Cinema* (2008) and the *Historical Dictionary of Japanese Cinema* (2011). His writing on film has appeared in a number publications all over the world, including *Sight and Sound*, *Variety*, the *Japan Times*, *Film International* and *3d World*, and he has contributed liner notes, commentaries and interviews to numerous DVD releases.

As a film programmer, he has curated numerous touring retrospectives and film seasons across the world, in collaboration with such organisations as the British Film Institute, the Deutches Filmmuseum, the Cinematheque Quebecois, New Horizons International Film Festival (Wroclaw, Poland), Austin Fantastic Fest and Thessaloniki International Film Festival.

As well as possessing a keen amateur interest in mycology, his research interests include the history of production and exhibition technologies, for which he received his PhD from the University of Sheffield in 'Japanese Widescreen Cinema: Commerce, Technology and Aesthetics'.

Original Soundtrack

Jim O'Rourke

A musician and producer based in Tokyo, known for his work with Brise-Glace, Gastr del Sol, Sonic Youth. As well as numerous producing credits, he has released albums in the genres of jazz, noise, electronica and rock music. His solo work includes the album releases *Bad Timing* (1997), *Eureka* (1999), *Insignificance* (2001) and *The Visitor* (2009).

His film soundtracks includes Shinji Aoyama's *Desert Moon* (2001), Olivier Assayas' *Demonlover* (2002), Werner Herzog's *Grizzly Man* (2005), Koji Wakamatsu's *United Red Army* (2007), and Kazuyoshi Kumakiri's *Sketches of Kaitan City* (2010), for which he won the Best Music award at the 65th Mainichi Film Awards. He has also collaborated on several occasions with the award-winning experimental film-maker Takashi Makino.