

For Immediate Release

FLicKeR

A Film By Nik Sheehan

World Premiere at Hot Docs

Wednesday April 23 – The Royal – 7:00pm

608 College Street

Saturday April 26 – Isabel Bader – 7:00pm

93 Charles Street West

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(Toronto – March 18, 2008) The “light fantastic” takes on a whole new meaning in Nik Sheehan’s phantasmagoric **FLicKeR** – the story of an artist who invented a drug-free way to achieve altered states of mind -- through dancing pulses of light.

FLicKeR is the story of the influential Canadian artist and mystic Brion Gysin (1916-1986), and his amazing invention, the dream machine, which he believed would revolutionize human consciousness.

Featuring greats like William S. Burroughs and Brion Gysin (in archival footage), singer Marianne Faithfull, rocker Iggy Pop, singer/artist Genesis P-Orridge of Psychic TV, poet John Giorno, filmmaker Kenneth Anger, and artist/turndablist DJ Spooky, **FLicKeR** is a hypnotic documentary that asks fundamental questions about an individual’s freedom to dream and create.

The concept is simple - a bright light is placed inside a rotating cylinder with patterned holes until a pulse of between 8-13 Hz is achieved. This is the exact frequency of alpha waves in the brain – the brain waves associated with creativity and dreaming. Subjects report seeing shapes and images, sometimes full-blown hallucinations.

Gysin saw his machine as a replacement for the television and the cinema, where everyone could make “their own spiritual movies.”

He and his friends tried to market the machine, attempting to place it in every suburban living room, The forces of control soon put a stop to their plans, but the dream machine continues to intrigue everyone who encounters it.

With a custom-made dream machine in hand, director Nik Sheehan takes us from Toronto to New York, London, Paris, Marseilles and Morocco, painting a fascinating picture of Brion Gysin. Soulmate of the great Beat writer William S. Burroughs, he is most famous as the inventor of the “Cut Ups” -- which has influenced countless artists and musicians. Gysin was involved with the Paris surrealist artists of the 30s, worked in counter-espionage in WWII, and saw himself as a reincarnation of a 10th Century King of the Assassins. His friendship with

Brian Jones of the Rolling Stones lead to the wide influence of Morrocan Jajouka music, a major influence on rock musicians.

Gysin's influence as a multi-media artist continues to grow. The magic of the dream machine remains eternal.

Based on the book *Chapel Of Extreme Experience* by John Geiger, ***FLicKeR*** is written and directed by Nik Sheehan and produced by Maureen Judge (Makin' Movies) and Anita Lee (NFB). Silva Basmajian is Executive Producer for the National Film Board of Canada. Director of Photography is Harald Bachmann, editors are Caroline Christie and Miume Jan Eramo, and Original Music is by Edmund Eagan.

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For more info, request copy of book, set up interviews, test The Dream Machine, get GAT:

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