

# All That She Surveys

Directed by Gary Mairs  
Written by James Benning  
Starring Amy Seimetz



OFFICIAL SELECTION  
**INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
ROTTERDAM**  
2012

OFFICIAL SELECTION, COURTISANE FESTIVAL (GHENT, BELGIUM) 2012

OFFICIAL SELECTION, LUME INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
(SÃO LUÍS DO MARANHÃO, BRAZIL) 2012

OFFICIAL SELECTION, DOWNTOWN FILM FESTIVAL LOS ANGELES 2012

OFFICIAL SELECTION, ZINEBI 54 - INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF  
DOCUMENTARY AND SHORT FILM BILBAO NOVEMBER 2012

Screened in LIGHT AND SOUND MACHINE series, THIRD MAN RECORDS,  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE MAY 2013



## SYNOPSIS

*All That She Surveys* is about a woman who likes to watch.

It is the third film in a series of five interconnected shorts, all directed by Gary Mairs and starring Amy Seimetz or David Nordstrom and written by different screenwriters. Each film is stylistically unique and when screened together, they form a feature length narrative. The first is *Say It* (2008), written by Theron Patterson (*Dark Cloud*, 2010 Toronto International Film Festival) and the second is *The Hemingway Night* (2009), written by Tom Block. Production begins on the fourth film in June 2012. *The Hemingway Night* premiered at the 2009 Palm Springs International Shortsfest. *All That She Surveys* premiered at the 2012 International Film Festival Rotterdam.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When I say that I'm not at all sure what *All That She Surveys* means, I'm not being disingenuous: the film remains fundamentally mysterious to me. When James Benning approached me with the idea for the film, he related it as a series of five short episodes in a young woman's day. There was less a sense of a story being told than of fragments of time, some events with no overarching psychological significance, an attempt to show the experience of looking and listening.

In each of the films in this series, I have strived to be true to the spirit of each screenplay, adapting the style of shooting and editing to best tell the story. In this case, I tried to respect the mystery of Benning's initial impulse. I encouraged the actors to find their own way into their scenes rather than impose a scenario, and to stress the time taken, the glances exchanged, the sounds overheard. To my eyes (and ears), a story eventually *is* told – Amy Seimetz takes in a great deal in these moments, and what she sees and hears touches her in ways that she doesn't yet understand.



# Biographies

## CAST

### AMY SEIMETZ

Amy Seimetz recently completed a starring role in *9 Full Moons*, directed by Tomer Almagor, which is set to hit the festival circuit in early 2012. Amy wrapped a supporting role amongst an all-star cast in Chadd Harbold's *Revenge For Jolly*, where she reunites with Kristin Wiig and Garrett Dillahunt, her co-stars from the 2009 film *One Night Only*. On the directing side, her first feature, *Sun Don't Shine*, won the 2012 South By Southwest Chicken and Egg Emergent Narrative Woman Director Award.

*LA Times* called her the MVP of the Sundance film festival for her acclaimed performance in Megan Griffith's *The Off Hours*. Seimetz also has received a great deal of attention for her performance in *A Horrible Way to Die* and has a supporting role in Adam Wingard's *You're Next*, which is premiering at the Toronto Film Festival.

Other notable credits include *Myth of the American Sleepover* (Cannes), the Noah Baumbach-produced *Alexander The Last* (SXSW) and Lena Dunham's *Tiny Furniture* (SXSW). She has been a producer on several notable projects, including the indie fave *Medicine for Melancholy* (directed by Barry Jenkins), *The Dish & The Spoon* (directed by Allison Bagnall) and *Silver Bullets* (directed by Joe Swanberg). Seimetz also performs in the avant garde multimedia comedy duo, MachuPicchu, appearing at Comedy Deathray, UCB, Comedy Store, and the HBO comedy fest in Las Vegas.

### NATHAN TUCKER - crying man

Nathan Tucker has been performing regularly in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2006. His recent credits include the ethically challenged political operative Tom Duffy in *Farragut North*, Vanek in Vaclav Havel's *Audience*, and Dionysus in *The Frogs* by Aristophanes. In 2009 he was awarded Best Actor at the San Francisco Fringe Festival for his portrayal of the tormented homeless schizophrenic leading role in Dark Porch Theater's *Cockroach*. *All That She Surveys* is Mr. Tucker's first foray into the thrilling world of screen acting. He has since made appearances in *Pool Pirates* and *Chekhovian Run*. A recent reading of chicken entrails by a nameless street Gypsy suggests that there will be more in his future.

### JOHN RUSSELL - gallery patron

John Russell moved to New York last year from San Francisco, where he worked with the Berkeley Repertory Theater, Cutting Ball Theater, the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, the Pear Avenue Theater, Dark Porch Theater and the Exit Theater. He recently appeared in *Redemption* off-Broadway and will appear in the films *Excuse Me for Living* with Jerry Stiller and Lucille Hansen's *Awake* in 2011.

**MARGERY FAIRCHILD - woman in café**

Margery Fairchild is an actor, choreographer, playwright and director based in San Francisco. She is the Artistic Director and Founder of Dark Porch Theatre, a Company in Residence at the Exit Theater in San Francisco and has written and staged such original works as *The Whipping Hand* (2002), *Les Petites Rats* (2003), *Hen!* (2005), *Under the Bed...A Fairytale Set In Purgatory* (2007), *The In Betweens* (2009), and *Cockroach* (written by Martin Schwartz and directed / choreographed by Fairchild), which won three "Best of" Awards including "Best New Play" at the 2009 SF Fringe Festival. She produced and choreographed Martin Schwartz's *Comedy Ballet* (2010) and has recently staged *Eleanor*, which she wrote and directed for the 2011 Divafest. Margery has also danced, acted, directed and choreographed for many other troupes and companies including No Nude Men, The Thrillpeddlers (Hypnodrome), Last Planet Theatre, Fou Fou Ha!, Borts Minorts, Karin Offerein's Union Square Musical, SF Boylesque, Elastic Future, Robillard Theatre Works and The Extra Action Marching Band. She has also starred in the independent film *City on a Hill* written and directed by Amy Seimetz. Margery is honored to have appeared in *All That She Surveys* and will next be working on Amy Seimetz's new film *The Sun Don't Shine*.

**RYAN BEEBE - waiter**

Ryan Beebe plays banjo, guitar and sings with The Gomorran Social Aid & Pleasure Club.

**GEORGE P. SCOTT - man in café**

George P. Scott is proud to be part of *All That She Surveys*. His Theatrical credits include: *Hairspray*, *Cinderella* (Royal Tailor), *La Cage Aux Folles* (Jacob), *Singin' in the Rain*, *Some Men* (West Coast Premier), *S.F. FOLLIES*, *How to Survive the Apocalypse: Burning Man Opera*, *The Nutcracker* (Rat King) w/ Ballet Califia, *Our Lady of 121<sup>st</sup> Street* (Flip), *Aida* (Mereb), *A Chorus Line* (Gregory Gardner), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey II), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lefou), 8 Reindeer Monologues (Cupid), *Aladdin* (Giraffe Puppeteer) Missoula Children's Theatre. Additional credits include *Fossettes & S.F.boylesque*. George has won the West Coast Regional Costume Design Award at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for *Electricidad* and he's currently working on owning his own Juke Joint someday. He wants to thank God for all the FABULOUS people that has put up with his "redonkulousness".

## FILMMAKERS

### **GARY MAIRS – Director, producer, co-editor**

Gary Mairs has been teaching in the School of Film/Video at the California Institute of the Arts since 1997. In 2005 he became Co-Head of the newly revamped Film Directing Program.

*All That She Surveys* is the third in a series of interrelated shorts that, when screened together, tell a feature length story. *Say It* (2008) was written by Theron Patterson (*Dark Cloud*, Toronto International Film Festival 2010) and stars Amy Seimetz (*The Off Hours*, Sundance 2011) and David Nordstrom (*Sawdust City*, Los Angeles International Film Festival 2011). *The Hemingway Night* (2009) was written by Tom Block and stars Nordstrom and Jan Johnson. *All That She Surveys* (2011) stars Seimetz, was written by James Benning (*Small Roads*, International Film Festival Rotterdam 2012). Production begins on the fourth film in June 2012. *The Hemingway Night* premiered at the 2009 Palm Springs International Shortsfest. *All That She Surveys* premiered at the 2012 International Film Festival Rotterdam.

### **JAMES BENNING – Writer**

James Benning has been making films since 1971. Before that he did political organizing.

### **JAY KEITEL – Director of Photography**

Jay Keitel was born in Northern California, and raised in the Pacific Northwest where he learned to appreciate the seasons, the rain and hard work. He attended the Northwest Film Center in Portland, Oregon and holds a BFA in Film/Video from CalArts. He has travelled extensively throughout the US and abroad and lives in Los Angeles, CA where he works as a cinematographer and assistant cameraman. Jay is currently shooting the feature *Sun Don't Shine* on super 16mm for Amy Seimetz.

### **LEE ANNE SCHMITT – Co-editor**

Lee Anne Schmitt is a writer and director of essay films and performances, work that exists in the juncture between fiction and documentary.

A versatile multidisciplinary artist whose practice extends from film and performance to photography and writing, she creates evocative, deeply felt works that consider everyday elements of American life as cultural ritual, including a series of cinematic investigations of the intersections of landscape with personal memory (*Las Vegas*, 2000), with the history of the American Left (*Awake and Sing*, 2003), and with urban development (*The Wash*, 2005). Her features *California Company Town* and *The Last Buffalo Hunt* (made in collaboration with filmmaker Lee Lynch) have screened worldwide, including venues such as the Rotterdam Film Festival, Marseilles International Documentary Festival, The Documentary Fortnight at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Full Frame Documentary Festival, Buenos Aires Festival International Festival of Independent Cinema, and the Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival.



**JAMES HAYWARD – Paintings**

The large-scale abstract paintings of James Hayward have been described by the critic Dave Hickey as “stepping into liquid.” Hayward’s monochromatic canvases display the fluid and malleable properties of oil paint, and present a rich, undulating yet unified field. Hayward’s work has been exhibited extensively throughout the U.S. Hayward was born in San Francisco in 1943. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts at San Diego State, and then studied at the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Washington, where he received his Master of Fine Arts in 1972.

**JEREMY PROTZ – Location sound**

Jeremy Protz is a freelance sound recordist based in the Bay Area.

**LUKE SHOCK – Location sound**

Luke Shock is a Colorado native, but has been living and working in San Francisco for the past three years. He is a graduate of The Academy of Art University and currently works as a freelance editor in the bay area.

**JERRY SUMMERS – Post-production sound**

Jerry Summers has been doing production and post-production sound and composing music for film and video since the mid 1970s.

**NATHAN JONGEWAARD – Grip**

Nathan Jongewaard is a freelance video producer living in Alameda, CA. He is the creator of TV.com’s Teletrivia (<http://www.tv.com/>) and has a master's degree in film directing from CalArts.

**PAUL HERNANDEZ – Grip, catering, Aide de camp**

Paul spends his weekdays working at a small library in Berkeley and weekends making photographs. ([http://www.flickr.com/photos/paul\\_a\\_hernandez/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/paul_a_hernandez/))

**HEATHER HERNANDEZ – Assistant catering, catering**

Heather loves the sea and everything in it, spends her days organizing and caring for books about it, and when it's too cloudy to observe Saturn or Mare Crisium stays indoors with needlework.



# CREDITS

## CAST

Amy Seimetz  
Ryan Beebe – waiter  
Margery Fairchild – woman in cafe  
George P. Scott – man in cafe  
Nathan Jongewaard – man with carpet  
Paul Hernandez – man with carpet  
Nathan Tucker – crying man  
Robert Lewis – gallery patron  
Barbara Lewis – gallery patron  
Eric Gillet – gallery patron  
Sophie Gillet – gallery patron  
Nancy Mizuno Elliott – gallery patron  
John Russell – man at gallery

## CREW

Gary Mairs – director, editor, producer  
James Benning – writer  
Jay Keitel – director of photography  
Lee Anne Scmitt – co-editor  
Nathan Jongewaard – grip  
Paul Hernandez – grip, catering  
Heather Hernandez – assistant director, script supervisor, catering  
Jeremy Protz – location sound  
Luke Shock – location sound  
Jerry Summers – post-production sound

Paintings by James Hayward, courtesy of Modernism Inc., San Francisco  
<http://www.modernisminc.com>

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@2011



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