carnivalesquefilms

PRESENTS

Choreography

by David Redmon & Ashley Sabin

8:43 minutes – 16x9 – Stereo – Color – Not Rated

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ABOUT THE FILM

Choreography emotes observation, confrontation, trust, curiosity, and vulnerability through a stampede between species, the donkey and the human. We record acts of looking, encountering hesitations, and curiosities between filmmaker and donkeys.

Donkeys actively look back at the filmmaker's gaze in **Choreography**, an experiential documentary that inverts a verite or observational approach by showing everyday moments of how donkeys avoid becoming 'caught' and transformed into an 'unaware' or 'natural' image. A donkey's awareness strips the independence of the filmmaker's sense and makes the watchers aware of themselves, thereby temporarily disrupting the human centered gaze. Donkeys look back sharply with perhaps sensorial awareness, indifference, or curiosity. Sometimes this double recognition of sudden awareness startles the watcher (both donkey and human), other times it creates a gulf of ambiguity. Is this look a shared moment between human and donkey, a gap of incomprehension, or a comical encounter? Are you watching donkeys, or are donkeys watching you? Silence fills that gap; it is the common language between filmmaker and donkey as each listens to the other with their ears. The audience fills in this silent gap, thereby joining the relationship between filmmaker and donkey.

Through an experience into an interval of foreign sounds and images, **Choreography** shows how donkeys respond to brief encounters of filmmakers who watch and listen to them. It also demands that the viewer comes to grips with how they respond to their own observations of the animal involved in this relationship.

Credits:

Directors, Producers, Cinematographers: David Redmon & Ashley Sabin
Producers: Deborah & Dale Smith
Editors: David Redmon, Ashley Sabin
Still Photographer: Meghan Brosnan
Colorist: Daniel Stuyck
Sound Editor: Douglas Moffat
Designer: Jesse Bussey

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

David Redmon and Ashley Sabin have produced, directed, edited and photographed ***Mardi Gras: Made in China*** (2005), ***Kamp Katrina*** (2007), ***Intimidad*** (2008), ***Invisible Girlfriend*** (2009), ***Girl Model*** (2011), ***Downeast*** (2012), ***Kingdom of Animal*** (2012), ***Night Labor*** (2013), and ***Choreography*** (2014). Their intimate and intricately crafted documentaries have won a variety of film festival awards and their work has aired on television stations throughout the world. Redmon received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University at Albany, State University of New York and is an alumni of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard University. Sabin received her B.A. in Art History from Pratt Institute and is currently obtaining an M.F.A. on a Fulbright scholarship.