

The Infamous T

www.theinfamoust.com



Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor: Melissa Koch
Music Composer & Producer: Graham O'Brien
Sound Mix: Joe Demko
Sound Recordists: Gander Bohley & Ella Kearney

Run Time: 30-minutes **Documentary Film**

- **WORLD PREMIERE** - Frameline 37 San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival
WHERE: Victoria Theatre San Francisco, CA
WHEN: Saturday, June 22, 2013 @ 3:30pm

Sneak Preview Screenings

- Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival – SNEAK PREVIEW
- University of Minnesota Transgender Commission Celebration- SNEAK PREVIEW
- OUT Twin Cities Film – SNEAK PREVIEW
- Morphologies: Queer Arts Festival Tuesday, November 13, 2012, Minneapolis, MN SNEAK PREVIEW
- Del Mar Theatre June 14, 2012, Santa Cruz, CA SNEAK PREVIEW

Logline

After a lifetime of experiencing homelessness, Jonathon moves in with queer host parents & discovers that home is more than four walls through his story of family and culture-clash.

Short Description

Homeless, bullied, and failing out of high school — 18 year old Jonathon moves in with queer host parents, joins an alternative school, and forms a J-sette dance crew. *The Infamous T* chronicles Jonathon's struggle for a stable life as he discovers that home is more than four walls, everyone needs a family, and friendship can transform us.

Story

Homeless, bullied, and failing out of high school – 18 year old Jonathon is ready for a big change—maybe. After enduring a lifetime of homelessness and unstable housing with his loving mother and brothers, Jonathon wants to make the transition to a new house and family and all the promise that idea seems to hold. The Avenues for Homeless Youth GLBT Host Home Program matches him up with a queer host family Alex and Mike and their 7-year-old daughter, but Jonathon finds himself in a middle-class household, beset by culture-clash, and haunted by a lifetime of homophobia and poverty. Blaming everything from veggie burgers to school bullying, Jonathon is on the verge of losing it all, until his chosen family and friends intervene. They dare him to get it together – before it's too late. As he struggles to mesh with his new household, stay in school, and be his most authentic self, Jonathon discovers that home is more than four walls, everyone needs a family, and friendship can transform us.

Production Personnel

Melissa Koch (Director/Producer/Cinematographer/Editor): Koch is a Minneapolis based independent documentary filmmaker who tells stories about the human condition from marginalized points of view. Her feature-length directorial debut, *The Red Tail* (2009), has screened at numerous international film festivals

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including the Galway Film Fleadh, Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival, Reel Work Labor Film Festival and DocuFest Atlanta, and has been broadcast on PBS affiliates across the US. Koch has also directed several short documentary films and has a Master of Arts in Social Documentation/Documentary Filmmaking from the University of California, Santa Cruz. In addition to filmmaking, Koch has worked with community & arts organizations for over a decade including the genderBLUR collective, Femme Mafia Twin Cities, District 202, Youth Farm and Market Project, and In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre.

Graham O'Brien (Music Composer & Producer): Graham O'Brien is a drummer, producer and composer of music that is made with a "dark" aesthetic, using layers of synthesizers and samples and rounded out with his live drumset percussion. As a producer and composer he has released work in collaboration with artists around the Twin Cities and nationally, including *Eyedeas*, *Sadistik*, *Kristoff Krane*, *No Bird Sing*, *Guante*, *Carnage*, *Kill the Vultures*, *Alicia Wiley*, and officially released remixes with *Halloween*, *Alaska*, *Sadistik* and *Sole*. In 2011 Graham released his solo debut as a producer & composer entitled "Live Drums". It was warmly received and released on *NoEcho Records* out of the UK. Graham is a busy gigging drummer in the Twin Cities area and is a recipient of the 2012 Minnesota Emerging Composer Award.

Joe Demko (Sound Designer) – Three-time regional Emmy Award winner for Audio, Demko has been on the Twin Cities Public Television Audio Team since 1989. As part of the Audio Team, Demko has sweetened, mixed and mic'd countless shows for TPT. In addition to his audio work, he has composed music for history documentaries, *NewsNight MN*, on-air brand spots and created the TPT Music Library. His current project is *Minnesota Original*, now in its fourth season. He recently wrapped audio post on the new *SciGirls* series for PBS. After hours, He leads "*Radio Joe and The JazzBo's*" a vintage swing band and is a guitarist /vocalist for *The Bruce Henry Band*. In his off hours he also has *ReelAudible*, a post audio suite for video projects. Projects include "*Polka Time*" aired on Independent Lens/PBS, *Make 'Em Dance: The Hackberry Ramblers* (Fretless Films) and *K 9 to 5* episodes on Animal Planet/Discovery.

Director's Statement

The Infamous T is the story of Jonathon trying to build a stable life after a lifetime of unstable housing and homelessness, but his story also gives rise to the theme of queer family. The film is set in Minneapolis, MN. Named 2011's "gayest city in America" by *The Advocate*, Minneapolis has been a recent target of the Christian Right's agenda to protect their notion of family values. In a confusing time when there are more non-traditional families than ever, alongside a push from the left and right towards "family values", Jonathon's story challenges the dominant "family-values" narrative that renders nuclear family as the only viable option.

The Infamous T highlights the role of unconventional family in queer life and allows a complex world of queer politics to emerge out of the contradictions of assimilation and resistance that intersect in Jonathon's life. While the battle over same-sex marriage takes center stage in the national political arena, Jonathon's story reminds us that racial inequality, poverty, homelessness, and educational disparity are central issues in queer communities, and that stories about family take all forms.

The Infamous T is ultimately Jonathon's story, and his alone; but it also asks us to look at the ways that white and heteronormative assimilation are demanded of queer people of color in American society. Jonathon is a queer, African American youth who grew up in Louisiana and takes great pride in his cultural heritage, and yet, in order to access housing, education and employment he must negotiate the whiteness and heteronormativity that permeate these spaces. With each turn Jonathon takes throughout the film, he brings his entire self, which I find inspiring as an artist and as a person.

It takes a great deal of courage on Jonathon's behalf to share such a personal story with the world. I feel honored to have been a part of Jonathon's journey, and to have been given such complete access to this moment in his life.

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