

Brent Green

God Builds Like
Frank Lloyd Wright

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THE CURTIS R. PRIEM EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



EMPAC Rensselaer

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God Builds Like Frank Lloyd Wright

Best known for his darkly humorous stop-motion animated films that touch on themes of love, death, salvation and the underworld, filmmaker Brent Green will perform live with a series of his recent short films.

Guest musicians, including the extraordinary Brendan Canty (Fugazi), Howe Gelb (Giant Sand) and Jim Becker (Califone) will accompany Green's intense narration, which ranges from quiet, vulnerable storytelling to cathartic fumes bordering on the evangelistic.

The self-taught animator is part 21st-century folk artist, part rock star, part confessional poet and part Blakean visionary. In live performance he screens a stop-motion autobiography of rich, idiosyncratic symbology to an accompaniment of raw Americana, harrowing and beautiful in its fragility.

Green's work lives in, exemplifies and tests that very trait, human fragility: "We are by no means sound," he keens over Telecaster strain, "not even weatherproof."

Green writes, directs, builds and narrates his short film animations, combining handcrafted figures with drawings and found props to create haunting, atmospheric backdrops for his alluringly twisted stories. For this evening, Brent will premiere several new films and screen related recent works, including Old Country Songs, Louisville/Gravity, Walt Whitman's Brain, Carlin and Paulina Hollers.

For more information about Brent Green, visit www.nervousfilms.com

Performers

Brent Green, video, vocals, guitar
Rodney McLaughlin, Foley

Jim Becker (Califone), Guitar, vocals
Brendan Canty (Fugazi), Percussion
Howe Gelb (Giant Sand), Piano, guitar
Thøger Lund (Giant Sand), Bass

Bios

Brent Green is a self-taught animator, musician and artist who lives and works in rural Cressona, PA. His work has been seen at the last four Sundance Film Festivals, the Rotterdam International Film Fest, the Getty Center, Warhol Museum, Walker Arts Center, the Kitchen, DiverseWorks and all kinds of other museums and festivals around the world. He's had "An Evening with Brent Green" at the IFC Center in NYC, a Hammer Project at the Hammer Museum in LA, solo shows at Bellwether Gallery, NYC, CAM St. Louis' Front Room and an upcoming one at Site Santa Fe in Santa Fe, NM. Green's work has been written about in Artforum, ArtNews, Filmmaker Magazine, Art in America, Bomb Magazine and countless other film, art and culture magazines and papers. The New York Times hailed Green's work as "Some of the most original animations we have seen in years." He is a 2005 Creative Capital grantee.

About EMPAC

The Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) is a place and a program where the arts, technology and science will challenge and transform each other. Founded by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, EMPAC draws strength from being part of a great research university. It offers artists, visiting scholars, researchers, engineers, designers, and audiences opportunities that are available nowhere else under one roof, providing unsurpassed facilities for creative exploration as well as for research in fields ranging from visualization to immersive environments to large-scale interactive simulations. EMPAC operates nationally and internationally, attracting creators from around the world, and sending new artworks and innovative ideas onto the global stage.

EMPAC's new 220,000 square-foot building—the Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center—designed by the renowned British firm Grimshaw, is both a signature work of architecture and a unique facility that combines many specialized venues under one roof, including a 1,200-seat concert hall; 400-seat theater; two black-box studio spaces; and artist and researcher work spaces.