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## A Boy Needs a Friend

### Steve Reinke

2015, DCP, black/white & color, 23 min., English. **Production** Steve Reinke (Chicago, USA). **World sales** Video Data Bank.

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In this latest installment of his ongoing video essay, "Final Thoughts," Steve Reinke ostensibly turns to the subject of friendship. *A Boy Needs a Friend* delves into its topic head on, in particular investigating the notion of queer Nietzschean friendship. Using his signature dry voice-over monologue to tie together an eclectic array of disparate images, ranging from found footage collages to digital animation and cell phone video, Reinke sets forth theories about the identity of Stephen King and Joyce Carol Oates, needle point doodles, the upsides of owning both US and Canadian citizenship, and the ability of corpses to have sex.

"Final Thoughts" was begun in 2004 as a life project: it will be complete upon Reinke's death. It is a collection of video essays, a stream of ongoing thoughts and provocative engagements. Forum Expanded screened *The Tiny Ventriloquist: Final Thoughts, Series Two* in 2012. *A Boy Needs a Friend* is part of *The genital is Superfluous: Final Thoughts, Series Four* (2016).

Steve Reinke, born in 1963 in Eganville, Canada, lives and works in Chicago, USA. He is currently associate professor of Art Theory & Practice at Northwestern University. His work is widely screened and exhibited. Two books of his writing have been published, "Everybody Loves Nothing" and "The Shimmering Beast".

### Films

1996: *The Hundred Videos* (1989–1996, 289 min.). 1996: *Andy* (9 min.), *Everybody Loves Nothing (Empathic Exercises)* (12 min.). 1998: *Echo Valley* (8 min.), *Incidents of Travel* (10 min.), *How Photographs Are Stored in the Brain* (8 min.), *Spiritual Animal Kingdom* (26 min.). 1999: *Fireball* (5 min.), *Afternoon (March 21, 1999)* (24 min.). 2001: *Sad Disco Fantasia* (24 min.), *Amsterdam Camera Vacation* (11 min.). 2002: *J.-P. (Remix of Tuesday and I by Jean-Paul Kelly)* (7 min.), *Anal Masturbation & Object Loss* (6 min.), *The Chocolate Factory* (28 min.). 2004: *Anthology of American Folk Song* (26 min.). 2005: *Ghosts of Gay Porn* (4 min.), *Ask the Insects* (8 min.). 2006: *The Mendi* (11 min.), *Picnic (with Dani Leventhal)* (4 min.), *Regarding the Pain of Susan Sontag (Notes on Camp)* (4 min.). 2007: *My Rectum is Not a Grave (To a Film Industry in Crisis)* (7 min.), *Hobbit Love is the Greatest Love* (14 min.), *Election Defeat* (4 min.). 2008: *Boy/Analysis: An Abridgement of Melanie Klein's 'Narrative of a Child Analysis'* (6 min.). 2009: *Everybody* (co-directed by Jessie Mott, 4 min.). 2010: *Vomit Star* (co-directed by John Marriott, 4 min.), *Disambiguation* (co-directed by James Richards, 46 min.). 2011: *Blood & Cinnamon* (co-directed by Jessie Mott, 5 min.). 2012: *The Tiny Ventriloquist: Final Thoughts, Series Two* (Forum Expanded, 62 min.), *A Day for Cake and Accidents* (co-directed by Jessie Mott, 5 min.). 2014: *Rib Gets In the Way: Final Thoughts, Series Three* (53 min.), *The Natural Look* (36 min.). 2015: *A Boy Needs a Friend*.