



© Rhombus Media

Bring Me the Head of Tim Horton

Guy Maddin, Evan Johnson, Galen Johnson

2015, DCP, black/white & color, 31 min., English. **Producer** Niv Fichman, Jody Shapiro, Kevin Krikst, Fraser Ash. **Production companies** Rhombus Media (Toronto, Canada), Everyday Pictures (Toronto, Canada). **Director of photography** John Gurdebeke, Jody Shapiro. **Sound** Graham Rogers. **Music** Galen Johnson. **Sound design** Galen Johnson. **World sales** WTFilms. **With** Michael Kennedy.

Contact: info@rhombusmedia.com
<http://rhombusmedia.com>

Internationally renowned film director Guy Maddin finds himself lying on his back on a movie set in the dust of the Jordanian desert, posing as a dead Taliban soldier in the far background of an action sequence. Originally hired to shoot a making-of documentary about the film in production – Paul Gross’s Afghan war drama *Hyena Road* – Maddin, flat broke and discontented, takes to musing about his role on the set, Canada’s role in Afghanistan, and cinema’s role in political and violent conflict.

Part cine-essay and part behind-the-scenes documentary, *Bring Me the Head of Tim Horton* repurposes footage captured on the set of *Hyena Road* into a psychedelic, darkly comical tale of alpha men, cartoonish violence, and one forlorn artist’s quest for meaning.

Betreff: Re: your film ...

Hi, Stefanie. So sorry for the extra-slow response. I was traveling all day yesterday. I'm truly delighted you like the film. It was originally supposed to be a feature, but Niv Fichman and Paul Gross just couldn't raise enough money for us to completely destroy their parent project, *Hyena Road* -- what an ungrateful child this film was! I know you think the film is long enough at 30 minutes, but we were ready to shoot months before the parent film, so we got the *Hyena Road* script early and planned to cast American actors in "pre-creations" of the movie -- I had Jason Patric all lined up to play Paul Gross. He's far more alpha! Then we were going to graft Jules Verne's "Mysterious Island" into the story, have the "Canadian" soldiers, including hockey legend Guy Lafleur, and Patric as Gross, escape a Taliban prison in a stolen balloon and drift back to colonial times and a war between Metis "insurgents" in the great Canadian west, led by the father of Manitoba, Louis Riel, who ended up getting hanged for his resistance to the British. But shortly into shooting this we'd be in violation of Canadian actors quotas so we'd switch Jason Patric out for his Canadian lookalike, a guy out of Montreal named Anthony Lemke -- his resemblance is uncanny! -- and then, finally, when Paul Gross wrapped *Hyena Road* and had more available time, we'd get him to replace Lemke, so that Gross would play Lemke playing Patric playing Gross! I had no idea what it all meant, but our bullshit always added up to truth somehow on this film. I really wanted that feature! Enough, you're crazy busy! Sorry.

Much love,
Guy

E-mail from Guy Maddin to Stefanie Schulte Strathaus, December 2015

Guy Maddin was born in Winnipeg, Canada in 1956. He studied economics at the University of Winnipeg. He is an autodidact and shot his first short film, *The Dead Father*, in 1985. Maddin is an installation and internet artist, lecturer at Harvard, writer, and filmmaker, the director of eleven feature-length movies and innumerable shorts. He has also mounted around seventy performances of his films all over the world featuring live elements – orchestra, sound effects, singing, and narration. Maddin is a member of The Order of Canada & The Order of Manitoba.

In April 2016 he and co-director Evan Johnson will launch their major internet interactive work, "Seances", which will enable anyone online to 'hold seances' with randomly combined fragments of canonical, lost films remade by Maddin & Johnson on sets installed in public spaces, most notably during three weeks of shooting at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.

Films

1985: *The Dead Father* (26 min.). 1988: *Tales from the Gimli Hospital* (72 min.). 1989: *Mauve Decade* (7 min.). 1990: *Archangel* (90 min.). 1991: *Indigo High-Hatters* (34 min.). 1992: *Careful* (100 min.). 1993: *The Pimps of Satan* (5 min.). 1995: *The Hands of Ida* (30 min.). 1997: *Twilight of the Ice Nymphs* (91 min.). 2002: *Dracula – Pages from a Virgin's Diary* (73 min.). 2003: *The Saddest Music in the World* (100 min.). 2004: *Cowards Bend the Knee* (60 min.). 2005: *My Dad Is 100 Years Old* (16 min.). 2006: *Brand Upon the Brain!* (Berlinale Forum 2007, 95 min.). 2007: *My Winnipeg* (Berlinale Forum 2008, 80 min.). 2008: *97 Percent True* (51 min.). 2009: *The Little White Cloud That Cried* (13 min.). 2009: *Night Mayor*

(Berlinale Forum Expanded, 14 min.). 2011: *Keyhole* (94 min.). 2012: *Mundo Invisível* (70 min.). 2015: *The Forbidden Room* (Forum 2015, co-director: Evan Johnson, 130 min.). 2015: *Bring Me the Head of Tim Horton*.

Evan Johnson was born in 1983 in Winnipeg, Canada, where he lives and works as a writer and filmmaker. He studied film and philosophy at the University of Manitoba and worked at Winnipeg's Rug Doctor chemical bottling plant before being discovered there by Guy Maddin. He co-directed his first feature, *The Forbidden Room* (2015), with Maddin, and has made a handful of his own short films.

Films

2014: *Cold* (4 min.). 2014: *Colors* (2 min.). 2014: *Elms* (3 min.). 2014: *Puberty* (2 min.). 2015: *The Forbidden Room* (Forum 2015, co-director: Guy Maddin, 130 min.). 2015: *Bring Me the Head of Tim Horton*

Galen Johnson, born in 1981, is a composer and designer based in Winnipeg, Canada. He has exhibited his work both nationally and internationally, and completed work as production designer and composer on Guy Maddin and Evan Johnson's film *The Forbidden Room*. In addition, he composed for Johnson's short films *Cold*, *Colors*, *Elms*.

Films

2015: *Bring Me the Head of Tim Horton*