

THE PARLIAMENT FILM COLLECTIVE

Press Contact

Parliament Film Publicity November Wanderin

t. 011-972-54-696-5051

World Sales

The Film Collaborative Orly Ravid

t. +1.323.610.8128

t. +1.323.908.4012

orly@thefilmcollaborative.org www.thefilmcollaborative.org



november989@gmail.com owls.2009@hotmail.com

FILM SPECS

Film Title:	The Owls
Year of Completion:	2010
Country:	USA
TRT:	65:30 mins.
Originally shot on:	HD
Film Process:	HDCAM
Screen ratio:	1:1,78
Frames / Sec:	23,98
Colour / Black & White:	Colour
Sound-Format:	Stereo
Original Film Language(s):	English
Subtitles:	None

URL: http://www.TheOwlsMovie.com



The OWLs will have its **World Premiere** in the **PANORAMA** Section of the **Berlinale 2010**.

The OWLs: 2010 Screening Dates

DATES:	VENUES	<u>TIMES</u>
02.22.10 / Fri. Feb.12 [,] 2010	CineStar 3	10:45pm.
02.17.10 / Wed. Feb.17, 2010	Colosseum 1	10:30pm.
<u>WORLD PREMIERE SCREENING</u> 02.18.10 / Thur. Feb.18 [,] 2010	CinemaxX 7	8:00pm.
02.19.10 / Fri. Feb.20, 2010	International	2:00pm.



LOG LINE

The OWLs. A generational anthem for Older Wiser Lesbians, aging revolutionaries in a world they cannot control. A funny, humane look at the bonds that restrain, and the dreams that remains.

INTRO

The OWLs is a generational anthem for Older Wiser Lesbians. Raised in the shadow of "the pathological lesbian" films like *THE FOX, THE CHILDREN'S HOUR* and *THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE,* these women embraced the utopian vision of Lesbian Nation and came out with great optimism in their relationships, work, and daily lives. Now, approaching middle age, the revolution has eluded their dreams. Caught between a culture that still has no place for them, and a younger generation of lesbians and queers who are indifferent to their contributions, OWLs are facing a unique set of circumstances that have yet to be compassionately or truthfully addressed.

SYNOPSIS

Ten years ago, *The Screech* was the hottest lesbian band on the scene. IRIS and LILY fronted, MJ produced, and their one hit record bought two houses in the desert. When Lily's drug use got out of hand, she found CAROL and sought refuge in the privacy and isolation of that relationship. Iris and MJ, however, never fully retired from the rock star lifestyle. Even though they broke up two years before, they just can't get away from each other. Sexy, seductive Iris, hides behind the bottle while dreaming of a comeback that is never going to happen. MJ, still in love with her, spends her days having Internet sex and staring at the ever-empty shimmering pool. Carol and Lily are so bored in their relationship that they can't think of anything to do but plan to have a child.

Into this timber box stumbles CRICKET, a belligerent lost twenty-something who is looking for trouble, and finds it. A coke-filled drunken pool party at Iris and MJ's deteriorates into the usual scenario. Iris gets plastered, comes on to a convenient stranger and MJ suffers in silence in a corner. But this night MJ just had too much to drink, and lunges at Cricket, who is not the type to cower. When Cricket throws a punch, MJ finally has the excuse she's been longing for to let out her rage & the ensuing chaos results with Cricket ending up dead on the pool's deck.

Despite their conflicts, these four women still have a bond, somewhere between family and gang. They work together to hide the body, burying it in a ditch under the pool, and filling in the grave with cement. Now linked by more than the ties of time, they are conspirators in a dangerous game. This all comes to a head, one year later when Iris finds Cricket's face on Missing Persons signs taped up outside her favorite liquor store. Soon after, SKYE, a mysterious butch stranger appears at Lily and Carol's door. Revenge is her goal and seduction is her strategy. Lily, who still has a pull towards a more dynamic life, lets her fantasies run wild, and Skye manages to change these four lives forever.

Intercut with the scripted drama, are the actresses own experiences of the desires and disappointments at play in the film, as they too become part of the extended community of experience that has so influenced that generation.

CONCEPT: THE PARLIAMENT

In response to the limitations and frustrations of corporate filmmaking, filmmakers **Cheryl Dunye**, **Alex Juhasz**, **Candi Guterres** & **Ernesto Foronda** invited a diverse but inter-connected group of lesbian & queer artists to come together as **The Parliament Film Collective**. They attracted a large queer, multi-racial community, at all levels of professional & artistic development, interested in working together to engage in a group experience and create great art. Together they developed a tale of desires gone awry, the pain of hindsight, and the ever-present tension between acceptance and rebellion.

Building upon Cheryl Dunye's signature narrative/documentary hybrid style, the "Dunyementary," *The OWLs* flows from the scripted dramatic action, enhanced by the actresses own takes on how these same questions play out in their lives. In this way, the literal collective of lesbian/queer artists who made *The OWLs* also influence the meaning of the film, reflecting the community relationships that have been so defining in the growth of this generation.

DIRECTOR: BIO

CHERYL DUNYE – Writer / Director / Producer



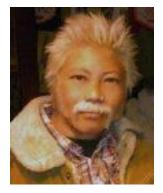
Cheryl Dunye, a native of Liberia, holds an MFA from Rutgers University. Her 3rd feature film, *Miramax's My Baby's Daddy*, was a box office success. Her 2nd feature, *HBO Films Stranger Inside*, garnered her an *Independent Spirit Award nomination* for *Best Director*. Cheryl Dunye's debut film, *The Watermelon Woman*, was awarded the *Teddy Bear* at the *Berlin International Film Festival*. Her other works have premiered at film festivals & museums worldwide.

Dunye served on the boards of *Outfest*, the *DGA*, and *IFP*. She has been honored with a *Community Vision Award* from *National Center for Lesbian Rights*, a *Creative Excellence Award* from *Women in Film & Television*, and a *Fusion Award* from *Outfest*.

Cheryl was selected as one of the 2008 Power-Up Top 10 Women In Showbiz and one of the 2009 Go Magazine's 100 Women We Love. Cheryl has just completed work on The OWLs, a lesbian noir thriller about butch menopause, relationships & murder, which has been the first feature to come out of The Parliament Film Collective. <u>http://www.cheryldunye.com</u>

THE PARLIAMENT: PRODUCERS BIOS

CANDI GUTERRES – Producer / Production Designer



Candi Guterres' multi-cultural and diverse upbringing spanned 3 continents, from Portugal to Japan and Nicaragua. After attending boarding school in New England, Guterres moved to NYC to study **Architecture** at **Columbia University.** Soon after, Guterres went to work in Miami's award-winning architectural design firm, **Arquitectonica Int'I. (AIA)**. After traveling extensively, Guterres finally landed in Los Angeles, and switched focus from Architecture to the Fashion Industry, as a prop stylist for **Vogue, Elle** and **GQ**. It was not long before Fashion, became an easy segue into Film.

As Production Designer, Guterres' extensive design/construction experience ranged from studio films such as, *Chasing Papi (20THC.Fox)* to indie features like *Stranger Inside (HBO Films)* directed by Cheryl Dunye and *Between (Opus Films)* - both Sundance films; multiple award-winning TV series as *The Brothers Garcia (Nickelodeon), Noah's Arc, Exes & Oh's, Shirts & Skins (Logo/MTV Networks)*; LA-Paris-Tokyo global webisode Internet series; commercials & music videos. Guterres' period-film experiences, span from 1890's Russia on *Anna Karenina* to present day Mexico on *Fast and Furious*.

Guterres is now, once again, expanding the focus from Production Design, to Producing, so as to have more control over material and content. Candi has now produced & designed several short films and 2 features, **Perfectly Flawed**, which had its World Premiere at **Outfest 2008** and **in the Spotlight...** which played at **Outfest** and **Frameline 2007**, and a 1970's period, mock-documentary feature called **Finishing The Game (IFC)**, which premiered at **Sundance 2007**, about Bruce Lee stand-in wannabe's. **FTG** was written and directed by Justin Lin of the **Fast and Furious** franchise. And last, **The OWLs**, the latest docunarrative, hybrid feature, which Candi Produced / Production Designed through a filmmakers collective, and just got accepted into the **Berlin International Film Festival 2010 - Panorama**.

Guterres has been written up in *Variety Magazine: 50 Creatives to Watch (75th Anniversary Issue)* and was a featured Production Designer in the *(ADG) Art Director's Guild: Perspective Magazine (2007 Launch Issue).* Candi currently lives, works, and travels regularly between Mexico and Los Angeles. http://www.candivision.com

ERNESTO M. FORONDA - Producer / Music Supervisor / Catering



Ernesto M. Foronda is a Los Angeles-based producer & filmmaker who received his Film B.A. & Screenwriting MFA from UCLA & Columbia University respectively.

As a founding member **Trailing Johnson Productions**, Ernesto produced 2 features including **Better Luck Tomorrow (MTV/Paramount)** and **Finishing The Game** (IFC), both premiering at the **Sundance Film Festival**.

Ernesto has worked as a freelance screenwriter for numerous studio features including *Prom Night (Sony), The Strangers (Rogue/Universal)* and *Fast and Furious (Universal).* Currently, Ernesto is writing & producing an adaptation of Scott Heim's (*Mysterious Skin*) latest novel, *We Disappear* (winner: Lambda Literary Award, 2009) for director Justin Lin. In addition, Ernesto has worked as a Music Consultant & Music Supervisor including the two recent installments of the *Fast and Furious* franchise. http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0286557/

ALEXANDRA JUHASZ - Producer



Alexandra Juhasz has made over 15 documentaries, feminist and lesbian issues from AIDS, to women's films, to teen pregnancy, including the features *Scale* (2008), *Video Remains* (2005), *Dear Gabe* (2002) and *Women of Vision* (1998), as well as producing the acclaimed narrative feature, *The Watermelon Woman* (1996). Her work has screened at the *Sundance Film Festival* and *Toronto Intl. Film Festival*, and women's, and gay & lesbian film festivals around the world.

She is a **Professor of Media Studies** at **Pitzer College** and the author of critical writing about alternative media.

http://pzacad.pitzer.edu/~ajuhasz/

AGUSTA EINARSDOTTIR - Producer / Editor



Agusta Einarsdottir is an award-winning editor and director. Her career spans over 15 years of filmmaking and her list of credentials includes various directorial and editorial work, on feature films, documentaries, commercials, DVD content and corporate videos. Her editorial work has screened at film festivals, including *Sundance 2009* - a documentary directed by Robert Townsend called *Why We Laugh: Black*

Comedians on Black Comedy, at the **North by Northwest Film Festival** – a feature called **Dead Pet**, and most recently at the **Berlin Film Festival 2010** - **The OWLs** a feature directed by Cheryl Dunye.

Awards include a **MOBIUS Award** for a commercial she directed for **NBC** and **The Olympic Games**. She has also garnered awards for her editorial work at the **Cannes Commercial Festival** and the **Telly Awards**. Other directing credits include: **Kat Williams behind the scenes pimpadellic** DVD, **Good Samaritan Hospital** commercials, **BCBG** promos, **IFTV.com** episodes, **Horizon Media** and **Urth Caffe** corporate videos, as well as interviews and news footage for the **Icelandic National TV**.

Her production company *Elf Films*, a production and post-production company, is currently in production on a documentary called *Southland* and is developing a feature based on a best seller. <u>http://www.elffilms.com</u>

MOLLY STURDEVANT - Producer



Molly Sturdevant, although new to the film industry, was already involved in producing a documentary feature called **Other Nature**, a film about gay/lesbian/trans rights, about a female-tomale transgender and a male-to-female trans' journey to the sacred place of Muktinath in Nepal, **The OWLs** would mark Molly's first doc-narrative hybrid feature that she is producing. Molly has a

few films in the lined up to produce in the future. She is currently, on a book tour, travelling and promoting a book called the **29** *GIFTS*, about Cami Walker who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and how an African medicine woman named Mbali Creazzo changed her life. <u>http://www.29giftsbook.vom/</u>

CHARACTERS

CAROL (44) Black feminism saved her life, and now she wants love, peace and family. She is willing to go through all kinds of machinations to keep her relationship with Lisa, and has learned to not make waves. Contented with small things, she's slowing down and marveling at the garden, the sunset, the beauty of her partner.

LILY (40) British and Jewish, she's got a special combination of intensity and prissiness. A legitimate rock star for one minute, she still gestures towards her radical days in her clothing and hair, but recently has been following her more practical side. Lily's problem is that she still feels passion and may be capable of throwing it all away for one last ride of true feelings.

IRIS (42) probably the smartest and most talented of the bunch, Iris's alcoholism is killing her as her few remaining friends stand by and watch. She's lost her self, and just acts out from some illusion of someone she once wanted to be: the "wild girl." But now it's denial, not freedom that drives her actions.

MJ (43) was a great producer when things were going her way, but never learned to deal with obstacles and frustrations. MJ has no ability to recoup. She wants to have a better life, but is on the carousel of falling on and off the wagon as a substitute for real change. Considers getting back together with Iris, simply because it's may be the path of least resistance. No resilience.

SKYE (30-something) uses her charm first. Has a cut and dried sense of morality, and follows her own orders. Walks into a room, assesses who is vulnerable to her beauty, and then goes in for the kill. A user.

CRICKET (20-something but looks younger) one of the tribes of lost lesbian kids. Kicked out of her family, in her nowhere town, is accountable to nothing and no one is accountable to her. Destined to fall off the cliff.

THE CAST: BIOS

CHERYL DUNYE - CAROL



Cheryl Dunye is a native of Philadelphia, born in Liberia on May 13, 1966. She received a BA from Temple U. & an MFA from Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts.

Cheryl began her acting career by starring in her own films. In 1991, she wrote, directed & starred in **She Don't Fade**, a short film that experiments with narrative and doc, and takes a self-reflective look at the sexuality of a young black lesbian. By 1996, Dunye again, set out to write, direct and star in her own film, this time a full-length feature called **The Watermelon Woman**. Her film

became the first African-American lesbian feature film made. It went on to win a *Teddy* for *Best Feature* at the *Berlin International Film Festival* and an *Audience Award at L.A.*

Cheryl Dunye is a film director, producer, screenwriter, editor & actress. She has made acting appearances in numerous films such as *The New Women* (2001), *The Watermelon Woman* (1996), *Strange Weather* (1993), and *She Don't Fade* (1991). <u>http://www.cheryldunye.com</u>

LISA GORNICK - LILY



Lisa Gornick is a filmmaker from London that writes, directs and stars in her own films such as *Do I Love You?* (2003) and *Tick Tock Lullaby* (2007). Both films went on to win multiple awards in the film festival circuits and have worldwide distribution. In 1999, she began to make short films including *The 12 Steps of Starting a Religion* and *My Primary Lover Never Hollywood Kissed Me*, which won the **Best Short Film** *Award at*

Philadelphia Int'l Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Do I Love You? (6 min. version) was runner-up for the *JVC Short Film Prize* at the *Portobello Film Festival.*

In 2000, Lisa set up a digital film production company called **Valiant Doll**. Since *Tick Tock Lullaby*, she has written a third feature film, which is in pre-production at the moment, and is in early development stages on a fourth film. <u>http://www.valiantdoll.com.uk</u>

GUINEVERE TURNER - IRIS



Guinevere Turner's career began as writer, producer & star of the feature film **Go Fish**, which premiered at **Sundance**, **1994**, in dramatic competition. She co-wrote the film with Rose Troche, for whom she leant her voice as a doll, in Troche's feature film **The Safety of Objects**. From then on, Guinevere started a career in writing, acting, directing & producing.

Turner went on to collaborate with director Mary Harron on the screenplay adaptation of Bret Easton Ellis' *American Psycho*, in which she co-starred. Her next effort with Harron *The Notorious Bettie Page* was an

HBO film, directed by Harron & produced by Christine Vachon who also served as exec producer on Go Fish. Turner's additional film credits include roles in Kiss Me, Guido, Latin Boys Go To Hell, Pipe Dream, The Watermelon Woman, The Fluffer, The Itty Bitty Titty Committee, a dominatrix in Preaching To The Perverted for BAFTA-winning director Stuart Urban, as well as roles in filmmaker friend Kevin Smith's Chasing Amy and Dogma. Her feature script Blood Rayne, based on a video game was released in January 2006, and stars Ben Kingsley & Michelle Rodriguez. She worked for 2 seasons as executive story editor on the TV series The L Word, on which she also had a recurring role. Two of her directorial efforts, the short films, Spare Me and Hummer, premiered at the Sundance Film Festivals 2001 and 2004. The other three, writer/director efforts, such as Hung, Late, and Quiet Please, have screened at film festivals worldwide. GT is currently at work on several projects, including a TV pilot, a feature script to direct, and a cooking show called The Decadent Vegetarian, which stars Guinevere and includes her sidekick Charlie, who is a talking chicken. http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0877587/

V.S. BRODIE - MJ



V.S. Brodie played the role of Ely in the 1994 film Go Fish, for which she earned the 1995 Independent Spirit Award nomination for "best supporting actress", as well as served as associate producer for Go Fish. In 1996, Brodie had a brief cameo in Cheryl Dunye's The Watermelon Woman.

V.S. continued to work in indie films, most notably for Christine Vachon & assisted in the production of **Safe, Stonewall**, and **Postcards from America**. In 1998, V.S. Brodie moved to Paris, where she currently resides, and is the chef and co-owner of **The Catering Company**. <u>http://www.the-catering-company.com/</u>

DEAK EVGENIKOS - CRICKET



Dark, brooding new-comer **Deak Evgenikos**, made her feature film debut in **The Itty Bitty Titty Committee** as Meat. It was Deak's second experience working with director Jamie Babbit. The first was during the filming of **Hummer**, a short film Babbit collaborated on with Guinevere Turner. Award winning, **Hummer** premiered with rave reviews at **Sundance 2003.** Deak's second

short film, *Hung* was also written & directed by Turner, and shot in 2005. *Hung* can currently be seen on *The Sundance Channel*. Deak went on to work with the critically acclaimed director, Silas Howard, in the short film, *Frozen Smile*.

2006 brought a rapid-fire series of commercial work for Deak such as a national *IPOD* commercial, an International *Apple Compute*r ad and several commercials on the *Logo TV Network*. Most recently she was cast in Tony Scott's *The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3*. In addition to her growing film career, Deak has competed professionally as a figure skater, is a Muay-Thai national champion fighter, as well as an inter-continental and multi-lingual entrepreneur. She currently resides in New York City. <u>http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1983291/</u>

SKYLER COOPER - SKYE



Trained in classical & contemporary theatre, **Skyler Cooper** discovered early on, that "androgynous appeal" would be the nexus in her body of work at playing male & female roles.

In theatre, Skyler played the roles of Athena-Argonautica (Berkeley Repertory Theater), Lattrell Spreewell (S.F. Playhouse), Queen Miss Prism (CA Shakespeare Company), and Othello-Othello (Impact Theater). In film, Skyler has been cast in both male & female roles. She's played a female on a TV pilot, Don't Go, a male on Cocktails, a female in a film The Insomniacs, and a female named Fredericka, in the film Fredericka.

Skyler is determined & committed to bring, not only her unique look, but also a fresh perspective to her work, experiencing life as a woman & yet being perceived, by many, as a male. Skyler Cooper is a unique actor & an artistic creation of nature. Her art is to mirror the world, honestly & truthfully. You can expect Skyler's performances to be a shattering of the proverbial "glass ceiling" that limit the expression of many female & male roles in the industry today. http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1728229/

THE CREW - BIOS

SARAH SCHULMAN - Writer



Sarah Schulman is the author of 14 books: The Mere Future (2009), The Child (2007), Shimmer (1998), Rat Bohemia (1995), Empathy (1992), People *in Trouble* (1990), After Delores (1988), Girls Visions and Everything (1986), The Sophie Horowitz Story (1984), The Gentrification of the Mind: Witness to a Lost Imagination (2010), Ties That Homophobia Bind: Familial and lts Consequences (2009), Stagestruck: Theater, AIDS

and the Marketing of Gay America (1998), My American History: Lesbian and Gay Life During the Reagan/Bush Years (1994), Carson McCullers (2002), Manic Flight Reaction (2005) and Enemies, A Love Story (2007) adapted from IB Singer.

Her awards: Guggenheim Playwriting, Fulbright Judaic Studies, Revson Fellow for the Future of New York at Columbia University, American Library Association Book Awards Fiction/Nonfiction, NY Foundation for the Arts Fellowships Fiction/Playwriting, Prix de Rome, Kessler Prize for Sustained Contribution to LGBT Studies.

Sarah is active in foundational movements for social change: *Abortion Rights, AIDS Activism, Gay & Lesbian Liberation Movement,* and co-founder with Jim Hubbard of *MIX: NY LGBT Experimental Film & Video Festival, ACT-UP Oral History Project.*

Sarah is a **Professor of English at City University of New York, College of Staten Island, a Fellow of the New York Institute for the Humanities at NYU**, and on the Advisory Board of the **Human Rights & Social Movements Program at Harvard Kennedy School**. <u>http://www.actuporalhistory.com</u>

ALISON KELLY - Director of Photography



Alison Kelly has been the Director of Photography on award-winning films including We Are the Mods, The Twenty, Make A Wish, Freedom to Choose. She has shot many narrative features, documentaries & television programs.

Alison got her start in film working in NYC as a camera assistant on features such as *The*

Bone Collector, Oceans 11, Personal Velocity, as well as on TV series including Law & Order: Special Victims Unit and NY Undercover.

She holds a **Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Columbia University** and a **Master of Fine Arts in Cinematography from the American Film Institute**. <u>alison@alisonkelly.net</u>

BIRNA PAULINA EINARSDOTTIR - Post-Production Producer / Supervisor



Birna Paulina Einarsdottir is an award-winning producer and owner of **Elf Films** - production and post-production company. As an MBA graduate, Paulina excels in strategic planning and understands the business approach to production challenges and developing customized solutions to fit the dynamics and economics of the project. Her work includes feature films, documentaries, commercials, trailers, corporate videos, DVD and Internet content. Paulina has produced and hosted television segments for *Icelandic TV* and regularly works on European projects. Recent projects

include *The Owls* screening at *The Berlin Film Festival 2010 - Panorama*, in which she was the Post Producer; *Jitters* (2009) currently in post-production, where she was the Line Producer; Producer on *Snow Summit Showdown* (2009), UPM on *Reykjavik Whale Watching Massacre* (2008), which screened at the *Toronto Film Festival* and *Screamfest 2009*. Her production company is currently in production on a documentary called *Southland* and is developing a feature based on a best seller. <u>http://www.elffilms.com</u>

YSANNE SPEVACK - Strings Arrangement & Music Composer



Violinist and composer **Ysanne Spevack** is best known for her string arrangements for rock music and for her lush, string-laden movie and TV scores. Her strings grace a wide musical terrain spanning film scores, rock, pop and electronic music. Clients include **Smashing Pumpkins, Jane's Addiction, Elton John, Brett Anderson (Suede), Tiesto, Dub Gabriel ft. Michael Stipe, Sister Bliss (Faithless),**

Asian Dub Foundation, David J., Chocolate Genius, Alex Parks, T-Power, MJ Cole, HBO's Big Love and The Sopranos title track composers, Alabama 3.

In addition to composing film scores, she collaborates with other film and television composers, arranging, contracting and recording strings for their soundtracks. She also contracts and arranges string ensembles of any size for recording and live shows.

Ysanne studied violin, piano, composition and conducting at the **Royal College** of **Music**, London, and sitar in India. Further studies include computer sequencing, studio and midi technology. She has performed internationally. Ysanne is London-born and Los Angeles-based. Her new album – <u>soundzero</u> – is out now. <u>http://www.ilovestrings.com</u>

EVE FOWLER - Photographer



Eve Fowler is a photographer based in Los Angeles. She received her **BA from Temple University** and her **MFA from Yale University.** Her pictures explore provocative subject matter, such as male hustlers, lesbians, or transgendered individuals, but she deliberately supplies no explanatory titles or captions.

In her early work, she photographed men who were loners, disconnected sex workers in New York & Los Angeles. She then began photographing androgynous

men, which then moved into photographs of long-haired, shirtless, androgynous men who resemble some of the transgender women she photographs today.

Eve's work is represented in the permanent collections of the **San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The New Museum** in New York City, and **The Smithsonian Institute**. <u>http://www.evefowler.com</u>

THE PRESS: MOVIE STILLS







