



THE QUAY BROTHERS IN 35MM: An 11-City Theatrical Tour, Including a Program Of Three Films By The Acclaimed Quay Brothers (Curated by Christopher Nolan) and Nolan's Short Film *QUAY*

Blu-ray Release of THE QUAY BROTHERS: COLLECTED SHORT FILMS (10/20)

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For more information on the tour and press images, please visit:

<https://zeitgeistfilms.com/film/thequaysin35mm>

THE QUAY BROTHERS IN 35MM, a 70-minute program featuring stunning new 35mm prints of three short films by Stephen and Timothy Quay, alongside the world premiere of Christopher Nolan's short film *QUAY*, will make its debut at New York City's Film Forum before embarking on an 11 city tour. All four films will be shown exclusively in 35mm.

American identical twins working in London, stop motion animators Stephen and Timothy Quay (born 1947 in Norristown, Pennsylvania) find their inspiration in Eastern European literature and classical music and art, their work distinguished by its dark humor and an uncanny feeling for color and texture. The Quays have been making their unique blend of puppetry and stop-motion animation for over 30 years and have spawned an enormous cult following. Masters of miniaturization, they turn their tiny sets into unforgettable worlds suggestive of long-repressed childhood dreams. These three Quay masterworks, selected by director Christopher Nolan, feature broken pencils and lead shavings in ***IN ABSENTIA*** (2000; "a dazzling piece of work" – The Guardian); a porcelain doll's explorations of a dreamer's imagination in ***THE COMB*** (1991; "most beautiful of their recent films" – The New Yorker); and the nightmarish netherworld of ***STREET OF CROCODILES*** (1986; "their crowning achievement" – Film Comment); and, for the first time ever, ***QUAY*** (2015), Nolan's new short film about the Quay Brothers.

Tour dates/locations:

New York (**Film Forum, 8/19-25 with appearances by Nolan and the Quays**)

Dallas (**Alamo Drafthouse Richardson, 9/3-7**)

LA (**Cinefamily, 9/4-10 with appearances by Nolan**)

Houston (**Museum of Fine Arts, 9/12-13**)

Austin (**Alamo Drafthouse Ritz, 9/17**)

Cleveland (**Cleveland Cinematheque, 9/24-27**)

Boston (**Brattle Theatre, 9/25-10/1**)

Detroit (**Detroit Institute of Art, 10/9-11**)

Seattle (**SIFF Film Center, 10/9-15**)

Chicago (**The Music Box Theatre, 10/16-22**)

Toronto (**TIFF Bell Lightbox Theater, 10/27**)

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

IN ABSENTIA (2000, UK, 20 mins, 35mm, B&W and Color, Cinemascope)

A collaboration with the celebrated avant-garde composer Karlheinz Stockhausen, who composed and conducted original music for the film. Shot in black and white and color and projected in CinemaScope, IN ABSENTIA combines live action and animation with dazzling use of light to convey the mindscape of a woman alone in a room repeatedly writing a letter with broken off pieces of pencil lead, while outside her window vistas of ever changing light register her every emotion. The film is dedicated to "E.H. who lived and wrote to her husband from an asylum." IN ABSENTIA was produced by Keith Griffiths at Koninck for the BBC and Pipeline Films' series of short music films "Sound on Film International."

THE COMB (FROM THE MUSEUMS OF SLEEP) (1991, UK, 18 mins, 35mm, B&W and Color, 1.85:1)

THE COMB opens in the shadowy bedroom of a sleeping beauty and seems to enter her mind and burrow into her dreams. Based on a fragment of text by the Austrian writer Robert Walser, THE COMB is an exploration of the subconscious visualized as a labyrinthine playhouse haunted by a doll-like explorer. A mesmerizing and resonant blend of live action and animation, THE COMB is set to a sensuous score of violins, guitars and attic room cries and whispers, and bathed in a gorgeous golden glow.

STREET OF CROCODILES (1986, UK, 21 mins, 35mm, B&W and Color, 1.33:1)

The Quays' masterpiece, STREET OF CROCODILES is adapted from a short story by Polish writer Bruno Schulz, and was their first film shot on 35mm. A museum keeper spits into the eyepiece of an ancient peep-show and sets the musty machine in motion, plunging the viewer into a nightmarish netherworld of bizarre puppet rituals among the dirt and grime.

On display in a deserted provincial museum is an old viewing Kinetoscope machine with a map indicating the precise district of the Street of Crocodiles. Lodged deep within this wooden oesophagus lie the internal configurations and mechanisms of the Street of Crocodiles like some quasi-anatomical exhibit. The anonymous offering of human saliva by an attendant caretaker activates and releases the Schulzian theatre from stasis into permanent flux. Myth stalks the streets of this parasitical zone where the mythological

ascension of the everyday is charted by a marginal interloper who threads himself through this one night of the Great Season. No centre can be reached and the futile pursuit concludes in the deepest rear rooms of a slightly dubious tailor's shop.

QUAY (2015, USA/UK, 8 mins, 35mm, Color, 1.85:1)

A film by Christopher Nolan. World premiere.

A glimpse inside the world of the Quay Brothers by the celebrated director Christopher Nolan (*The Dark Knight, Memento, Following*), a longtime fan of the Quays.

ABOUT THE QUAY BROTHERS

The extraordinary Quay Brothers are two of the world's most original filmmakers. Identical twins who were born in Pennsylvania in 1947, Stephen and Timothy Quay studied illustration in Philadelphia before going on to the Royal College of Art in London, where they started to make animated shorts in the 1970s. They have lived in London ever since, making their unique and innovative films under the aegis of Koninck Studios.

Influenced by a tradition of Eastern European animation, the Quays display a passion for detail, a breathtaking command of color and texture, and an uncanny use of focus and camera movement that make their films unique and instantly recognizable. Best known for their classic 1986 film *STREET OF CROCODILES*, which filmmaker Terry Gilliam selected as one of the ten best animated films of all time, they are masters of miniaturization and on their tiny sets have created an unforgettable world, suggestive of a landscape of long-repressed childhood dreams. In 1994, with *INSTITUTE BENJAMENTA* they made their first foray into live-action feature-length filmmaking.

The Quays have also directed pop promos for His Name is Alive, Michael Penn, Sparklehorse, 16 Horsepower, and Peter Gabriel (contributing to his celebrated "Sledgehammer" video), and have also directed ground-breaking commercials for, among others, MTV, Nikon, Murphy's beer and Slurpee.

The Quays' work also includes set design for theatre and opera. In 1998 their Tony-nominated set designs for Ionesco's *The Chairs* won great acclaim on Broadway.

In 2000 they made *IN ABSENTIA*, an award-winning collaboration with Karlheinz Stockhausen, as well as two dance films, *DUET* and *THE SANDMAN*. In 2002 they

contributed an animated dream sequence to Julie Taymor's film FRIDA.

In 2003 the Quays made four short films in collaboration with composer Steve Martland for a live event at the Tate Modern in London and in 2005 premiered their second feature film, THE PIANO TUNER OF EARTHQUAKES, at the Locarno Film Festival.

In 2012 the Quay Brothers were honored with a career retrospective gallery exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

ABOUT THE BLU-RAY

ZEITGEIST FILMS AND SYNCOPY PRESENT
THE QUAY BROTHERS: COLLECTED SHORT FILMS
Blu-ray Disc

STREET DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2015

Will contain the following films - all for the first time on Blu-ray:

THE CABINET OF JAN SVANKMAJER
(1984, 14 mins)

THIS UNNAMEABLE LITTLE BROOM
(or THE EPIC OF GILGAMESH)*
(1985, 11 mins)

STREET OF CROCODILES*
(1986, 21 mins)

REHEARSALS FOR EXTINCT ANATOMIES
(1987, 14 mins)

STILLE NACHT I: DRAMOLET*
(1988, 2 mins)

THE COMB
(1990, 18 mins)

ANAMORPHOSIS

(1991, 14 mins)

STILLE NACHT II

(ARE WE STILL MARRIED?)*

(1992, 3 mins)

STILLE NACHT III

(TALES FROM VIENNA WOODS)*

(1993, 4 mins)

STILLE NACHT IV

(CAN'T GO WRONG WITHOUT YOU)

(1994, 4 mins)

IN ABSENTIA*

(2000, 20 mins)

THE PHANTOM MUSEUM [with new director-approved music score by Zdenek Liska]

(2003, 12 mins)

MASKA [not in previous Quay DVD collection]

(2010, 23 mins)

THROUGH THE WEEPING GLASS [not in previous Quay DVD collection]

(2011, 31 mins)

UNMISTAKEN HANDS [not in previous Quay DVD collection]

(2013, 26 mins)

QUAY - a film by Christopher Nolan [new!]

(2015, 8 mins)

The films marked with an asterisk have an audio commentary by the Quay Brothers

The special digipak packaging will include a 32 page booklet which will contain an introduction by Christopher Nolan, an updated Quay dictionary by Michael Brooke, and an updated essay by Michael Atkinson.