

ESOPUS SPACE

THE ESOPUS FOUNDATION LTD.

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“Kelly Reichardt: Three Shorts”

January 4 – February 11, 2010

New York, NY (December 17, 2009): Esopus Space is pleased to present “**Kelly Reichardt: Three Shorts**,” a continuous screening of three undistributed short films by the acclaimed filmmaker which will run from January 4 to February 11, 2010.

Kelly Reichardt is widely considered to be one of the most important voices in American film today. Her debut film *River of Grass*, released in 1994, was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and for three Independent Spirit Awards. Her second feature, *Old Joy* (2006), premiered at Sundance and won awards from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, the Rotterdam International Film Festival and the Sarasota Film Festival. Reichardt’s most recent film, *Wendy and Lucy*, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and was later shown at the New York and the Toronto Film Festivals, among many others. Appearing on numerous critics’ top-ten lists for 2008, *Wendy and Lucy* was also nominated for two Independent Spirit Awards.

The three Super-8 shorts to be screened at Esopus Space were all made by Reichardt in the 12-year period between *River of Grass* and *Old Joy*. As the filmmaker has said, “That was really a time where I learned how to make films. No one was watching and I went back to Super-8 and I could just really figure things out.” Reichardt’s first film from this period, *Ode* (51 mins., color) is based on Herman Raucher’s novel *Ode to Billy Joe* (which was inspired by the Bobbie Gentry song of the same name). *Ode* was completed in 1999 and screened at that year’s Venice International Film Festival. *Then a Year* (14 mins., color), followed in 2001. Critic Amy Taubin called it “essential Reichardt: lyrical, ominous, and evocative of how horribly love can hurt.” The film won the Best Experimental Film award at the New York Underground Film Festival. *Travis* (12 mins., color), was finished in 2004 with a grant from the Wexner Center for the Arts. It features abstracted imagery accompanied by excerpts from an NPR radio interview with an anguished mother whose son was killed while stationed in Iraq.

All three shorts display Reichardt’s extraordinarily poetic and intensely visual sensibilities. Her films are always intimate affairs—Reichardt works with a skeletal crew, and her narratives generally focus on one or two characters—but the Super-8 format of these three shorts (all shot by Reichardt herself) brings that intimacy to a new dimension, while also reminding viewers that her filmmaking is strongly rooted in experimental and avant-garde film practice.

Esopus Space, located at 64 West Third Street in Greenwich Village, is a nonprofit exhibition and performance venue operated by the Esopus Foundation Ltd., which also publishes *Esopus* magazine. For more information, visit the [Esopus Space website](http://EsopusSpace.org), call Tod Lippy at 212-473-0919, or send inquiries to space@esopusfoundation.org.

GALLERY HOURS: MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND THURSDAY FROM 12 TO 5 PM (AND BY APPOINTMENT)

The Esopus Foundation Ltd. is supported by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Greenwall Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), New York City’s Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), the Foundation for Contemporary Art, the Dedalus Foundation, the Coby Foundation, the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation, the Jane Henson Foundation, the Fifth Floor Foundation, the Strypemonde Foundation, and other institutional and private donors.