

PETER LEISS (beforelaw)

Links to Trailers, movies and self published books

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/beforelaw/videos>

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Metamorphosis

Short film adaptation of Franz Kafka's novella

Dear Peter,

It took some time ... and lockdown... to get me there, but I have now seen your 3-minute Metamorphosis, and I think it's the best short Metamorphosis-film I've ever seen.

Best wishes for your continuing success!

- Stanley A. Corngold

Professor of German & comparative literature at Princeton University

Well done, Peter! I like the way you develop the theme of art works. And that wonderful ancient bowl that Grete brings food for Gregor while she is trying to find out what he likes to eat now that he has undergone the metamorphosis. The bed sheets beneath which his transformation takes place are quite brilliant, as is the way sheets and curtains are used in the rest of the film. Thanks for sending the link! – Judith

- Judith Ryan (academic)

Amerikan Peephole

Twenty-four Americans from New Mexico and California seek to weave a tapestry of meaning as they address pressing contemporary social and behavioural concerns within a Kafka motif.

AMERIKAN PEEPHOLE REVIEWS -

Pretty good...and pretty slick but also conceptually this is an interesting instinctive journey of discovery. Maybe a bit too fast for my slow brain at times but always engaging and even entertaining.

Your director's statement is pretty amazing too. I just hope that the people who hold the purse strings will have some idea about what you're driving at...Most of them are on a different planet...

-Paul Cox -Melbourne-based international film director

I just wanted to express how impressed we all were with the presentation of 'Amerikan Peephole', I really hope one of our Australian networks picks it up. Kind regards & keep'em coming.

-Daniel Bowden

Disappointed both with the quality of the filming and even more so, with the editing of the individual interviews. Presumably it might improve if you were to attempt personally to put the whole thing into some context at the beginning and wind it up with a conclusion with your own face speaking.

As for the individual opinions and the way they were edited without any attempt at individual or collective context gives the impression of a most unprofessional collection of spluttering weirdo's and NOT at all a sampling of average American opinions of their country - at least not the way I know them. Moreover there are several undue lengths and overbearing emphasis on long-winded and politically or sociologically irrelevant statements.

Remember that the majority opinion of Michael Moore's celebrated documentaries, even among Democrats was and is, that he may well have cost John Kerry the election with a severe case of insensitive and unsophisticated overkill.

-Francis Von Shoenborn -New Mexico-based TV host

The criticisms are good aren't they? You know, I don't even think Von Shoenborn is too bad either. He has some valid points. Some totally off the mark too. I agree with him about some of the interviewees go on but I also think it endears the people too because they are conversations not rehearsed delivered diatribes.

-Peita Collard -Melbourne-based theatre director and actor

Leiss brilliantly captures the essence of a world in crisis simply with candid, profound, and intelligent conversations with a group of articulate thinkers of diverse ages who maybe able to influence their/our society and the world at large to let go of the grip of ego and selfishness to create a better world, in Amerikan Peephole.

-Hiran Perera -Melbourne -based writer and publisher

Hey Peter, finally got time this afternoon to watch the film. Very impressive and more eye opening than we all realize

-Dolores San Miguel -Melbourne-based rock and roll manager

Watched "Peephole" this weekend. Great stuff - your usual assortment of American gems. "Fridgehenge?" That was a revelation - never heard of it before, but loved it. The bit about WTC7 was spooky. I never heard any controversy here in NYC about it collapsing, but, yeah, what did cause that? All in all, more thought provoking stuff from Mr. Leiss. Well done.

-John Deane -New York-based photographer

I got the film and liked it. It is always a bit embarrassing to see yourself (me) on screen. The nervous tics, the all too familiar mannerisms that define one...but you definitely brought out something that most of

America ignores, or cannot bring itself to say. It humanizes America, because it shows that in spite of the rest of the world's opinion of America as a monster, a heartless, out of control empire, it still has citizens who do not agree with the stato di cose. (Remember Winder's film, the state of things?)

Since people can be so provincially grounded in their politics, it is often difficult as an American to travel. Europeans have the luxury of a colonial past well behind them, and can somehow make me, the American, responsible for the misdeeds of my leaders. Such a nationalist approach gets us nowhere. I also liked the splash/dash visuals of "America, out the car window, which is how most of us experience it.

-Laurence Malone -New Mexico-based writer and traffic critic

At the quest of meaning. The blind journey. The lack of control.

Our great minds can sometimes cause us great grief.

Food for thought but I don't know if I'm up to it. I sometimes turn to the east where they say that the answer is; "Don't ask the Question".

-Robert Ashton -Melbourne-based photographer

In his latest offering, 'Amerikan Peephole', Leiss has revived the art of the polemic in documentary film. By allowing his subjects the space to elaborate on their feelings and theories on contemporary American society and politics, we are given a glimpse of this most extraordinary period in modern US history, through the lens of some of its most strident native critics. Make no mistake, this is not your run of the mill documentary; there is no concession to 'objectivity' beyond that expressed by the interviewees themselves. They describe the legacy of the current administration's monstrous failure to aid the hurricane-stricken city of New Orleans and the impact of the costs born of foreign military adventurism. What we can take from this film is manifold: the meaning of post-Cold War triumphalism and the ramping-up of consumerism, the logical extension of George Bush senior's 1992 doctrine "the American lifestyle is not negotiable", or the inherent dangers of aggressive pre-emptive unilateralism. However, perhaps most significant is the Kafkaesque connotations of the neo-con juggernaut and its theoretically limitless war on 'terror', caught in full throttle before the 2006 congressional elections.

-Toby Heydon -Melbourne-based writer and historian

What a great concept, I, nor the others were bored for a second.

Amerikan Peephole makes fascinating watching. It tackles and gets to the core with a blend of poignancy and a touch of tenderness beneath.

The accessibility often missed in many films got us attached to the screen and looked at each other at the end of it. Just imagine the five

of us watching and listening to 24 American in silence for 52 minutes. That says it all, I'd say.

-Yvonne Baggenstos

Many thanks for letting me see the comments on Peephole. I am sure you can believe that I was not surprised by anything I read in them. I can easily understand most of the comments being positive and I can readily understand the view expressed by Von Shoenborn - you might recall that I made the same suggestion about an opening statement. I hasten to add, however, that I think the finished product utterly vindicates the decision you made to go without the opening statement. On Von Shoenborn's opinion, one must collude that he is commenting on the film he might have made (had he been making one) and not on the film you made. I suggest that he is simply being bloody minded in deprecating the film quality and the editing standards. One must simply accept his point of view as an expression of his own idiosyncrasy.

I suggest that you would be justly entitled to think that these comments are, collectively, the most authoritative criticism you can expect to receive on your work. These, after all, are the people whose point of view you sought to communicate and they are telling you that you have succeeded in doing that. In a profound sense, whatever "professional" critics might have to say after they have seen the work, is of little relevance (although, of course, one hopes they will say nice things). All in all, I think you can feel well pleased.

-Howard Dossor -Melbourne-base writer and literary academic

Just read all the critics from the bottom up. They say it well, as does Paul Cox. It's good to get constructive criticism, but I would tell Francis "thanks but come off it" - nothing longwinded in that. His segments in the film are some of the best, and we could use more of his drollery in his writing. His point about Michael Moore cost the election is total crap (pardon my unprofessional, scatological response), even if a few Democrats said it (I've never heard anyone say it), and reflects that he has not studied the way the elections of 00 and 04 were stolen. John Deane's response was interesting, as a New Yorker making reference to the WTC7 information unheard in the city of 9-11!!!

-Jim Coke -teacher, producer, photographer

Good work indeed! Visually and conceptually captivating. Amerikan Peephole is a remarkable and revelatory intersection of American Cultural Fringe, Radical Intellectual Elite and disaffected youth. The highway metaphor is a continuing reminder of lives spent in perpetual transience. Perhaps where the film scores its biggest impact though, is in what the film isn't overtly saying. Rather, it is what the viewer fills in. The important realization that Americans have not heard from this cross section of society in quite a while. Our cowering, corporate controlled

media has successfully shut them out. However, after eight frightening years of the true radical fringe living out their apocalyptic vision of a new world order, how eminently and eloquently sane these voices now sound. The film simply couldn't be more timely.

-Renee Barkan – NY Theatre Producer (2x4 Productions)

Amerikan Peephole

https://youtu.be/JqqVFI_fVgU

Amerikan Peephole - Trailer

<https://youtu.be/90p5BZnvxVc>

Cakewalk 2001 & Cakewalking Again 2005

From the New York art world, Andy Warhol, Mickey Mouse to New Jersey, the diner capital of the world, we journey through the world of Robert Heide, John Gilman and Hoop, the King of Art, on an American Pop culture odyssey.

Reviews on Cakewalk -

The Hoop 'Remembrance' event at the Gershwin went very well. All his pals and his brother came as well as Carol Overby. The film, part one of, Cakewalk played on a big screen in the back room which went over in a really big way, lots of laughter, applause, etc. Taylor Mead who came declared it a first rate, terrific film and coming from him, this is great. Ended with a round of genuine and enthusiastic applause. Time has done very well by this film.

- Bob Heide & John Gillman

I LOVED IT! AND! I couldn't believe it but I know (by neighbourhood sightings) both those guys (Heide & Gilman)!! And, I've been seeing Hoop all over town for years. Glenn (who saw it with me) says one of the guys comes into the biography bookshop all the time to check out how his tour guidebooks are doing. He's actually pretty friendly with the owners. It's damn good! It has a wonderful Cinema Verite feel to it, almost as though it were done back in the 60's. You really NAILED NEW JERSEY! And the best part is that your two protagonists are alternately fabulous and pathetic at the same time.

The great music along with sandwiching the whole film between the magnificent opening and closing shots of the World Trade Center from Jersey lends it an eerie, almost macabre date stamp that somehow feels exactly right. Wish I had your talent.

- Renee Barkan –NY Theatre Producer (2x4 Productions)

I've always loved the title. I think it intrigues in a fun way. While the content of the film is not expressed, per se, by the title, it seems to read well to me and makes sense. It ties things into another time and is simply fun...

- John Currie –NY-based special education teacher

I loved side tripping through New Jersey with the king of art. What a DUDE.

Robert Ashton –Melbourne-based photographer

We got your Cake Walk documentary last week and watched it immediately. Nobue and I both thought Cake Walk was fantastic. What a hoot! Now I can picture your frustration when you thought the whole thing was off, and then had to scramble to put it back together. It's really well done, great camera work and editing, and it really holds your interest. What characters! Well done, all your hard work paid of...

- **John Deane** –NY-based photographer

A few friends were visiting. A writer, an editor and other film related friends. So we watched Cake Walk. We all enjoyed it a lot. It kept everybody absorbed in the ever-delivering flow of surprises, smart cuts, good photography and witty choices. It's a winner!

It's truly brilliant because it's a risky subject matter... and you pulled it off.... Great to get a glimpse into another world so different to what is available otherwise. At first I was trying to make sense of the direction it was taking and soon I was being carried in the direction it was going... and I didn't care any longer where. I enjoyed the ride and letting someone else do the driving. I knew it was showing me around a neighbourhood full of pleasant surprises. Good editing. It flowed easily. I enjoyed seeing the excellent photography at the end. I recognized your eye. Good show!!

- **Gustav Alsina** –NM-based producer and cinematographer

Cakewalk

<https://youtu.be/9jAQloL0r5o>

Cakewalking Again

<https://youtu.be/VnTH-uW1bAc>

Cakewalk - Trailer

<https://youtu.be/KWDPoSJQT60>

(Time Out with Harry 2am September 14th 2005 West Village)

An Australian Arsonist In New York

Examining the question and nature of arson as we journey from Newcastle NSW to New York City and back, where Phillip Corbett's play 'The Arsonist' was produced for the stage by the production company Dark Shelter. 2001-2010

<https://youtu.be/RspdKl16hJg>

An Australian Arsonist In New York - Trailer

<https://youtu.be/xvL8EP7EwRk>

UPON THE DAY IN AUSTRALIA

PETER LEISS / JUSTIN FOSTER film

On Federal Election Day 2004 in Melbourne we follow two candidates running at opposite ends of the political spectrum. (Berhan Ahmed for the Greens Party & Steve Fielding for the Family First Party)

Concentrating on the human rather than the political aspects of this day is a rare entry into the world of multi-cultural Australian political belief.

Directed & produced by PETER LEISS & JUSTIN FOSTER

Writers: TOBY HEYDON, JUSTIN FOSTER & PETER LEISS

Editor: PETER LEISS

Camera: PETER LEISS, DANIEL FIRMER & JUSTIN FOSTER

Sound: TAKASHI OLDHAM

Interviewers: JUSTIN FOSTER, TAKASHI OLDHAM & PETER LEISS

Music: IAN RILEN & THE LOVE ADDICTS

'No Fixin' It', 'It's OK', 'Goldmine' & 'Inside Out'

Additional music by STEPHEN MILLER

Additional footage: Australian Broadcasting Commission

Additional stills: TOBY HEYDON

Many thanks to LESLEY FOSTER, PETER FOSTER, SIMONE DYSON,
ISLAMIC COMMUNITY CENTRE OF VICTORIA,

MR ABERA & LALYBELA RESTAURANT

<https://youtu.be/oVWVFnMglSM>

UPON THE DAY IN AUSTRALIA - Trailer

https://youtu.be/jGSC8Xm_Hpk

Urban Labyrinth

A rapid narrative through our city... any city...

A journey into a manic mosaic of mechanical assault.

Music by Stephen Miller. A film by Peter Leiss

3mins 2005

<https://youtu.be/P8YaQeZeOzo>

FIREBALL

Reg Evans and Angela Brunton burned to death in the Kinglake fires on February 7 2009 (Black Saturday) Fireball focuses on the lives of the showman and his artist partner as well as looking at the broader picture of the fierce sacrificial impulse that lurks beneath the surface of any white society contact with the elemental earth of Australia.

A film by Peter Leiss & Richard Moir

FIREBALL Trailer <https://youtu.be/SwbHvP2UDic>

The Spirit of Infirmity, a Parkinson's Diary

The Spirit of Infirmity, a Parkinson's Diary is a documentary produced by Richard Moir and Peter Leiss, members of the same team that created the award winning and Logie nominated, The Bridge at Midnight Trembles.

Focussing on Richard Moir and his courageous decision to undergo radical brain surgery to counteract the effects of Parkinson's disease, *The Bridge at Midnight Trembles* generated a tremendous response from viewers and health professionals alike when it was screened on SBS television in 2006. It subsequently screened in many countries around the world to similar acclaim.

This current production, *The Spirit of Infirmity* has a much broader scope. While it continues Richard's ongoing journey, it also follows other people dealing with Parkinson's and portrays the variety of their challenges and methods of coping.

Produced & Directed by Peter Leiss & Richard Moir

Camera & edit by Peter Leiss

Writer: Richard Moir

Narration: Helen Morse & Paul English

Count West West Pictures, production

Duration 50 minutes

<https://youtu.be/a4t0FnZF8KU>

The Spirit of Infirmity a Parkinson's Diary - Trailer

https://youtu.be/4by_hWJoiTI

The Spirit of Infirmity, a Parkinson's Diary Full Movie 52 min

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuZtFa36fBc>

The Franz Kafka Internet Portrait Collection Movie

<https://youtu.be/EcpbCJU73qw>

Shine a Light for Parks

https://youtu.be/Kdq0_4psb5o

Same Old Trap

ETHERLAND

Live at the Rob Roy

Friday the 13th April 2007

Rob Roy Hotel, corners of Brunswick and Gertrude Streets
in Bohemian Fitzroy Victoria Australia

Etherland;

Simon Straling: vocals, acoustic & electric guitars

Jason Whatt: guitars

Craig Beck: bass, backing vocals, percussion & guitar

Adam Versteegen: drums

<https://youtu.be/yM4f8ySZwBE>

The Terror of Art; The Legacy Of The Doors

The Complete Tony Funches Interview 13th of August 2011

Duration: 1:55 minutes

<https://youtu.be/NMI dyRKNWXI>

Five To One, The Doors

<https://youtu.be/D-apyllMI-Q>

With Tony Funches & David Shaing

Music: The Doors

Clips from The Terror of Art; The Legacy Of The Doors

A film by Peter Leiss and Jim Coke

Not to Touch the Earth

<https://youtu.be/MMconPWCcdU>

Music: The Doors

Clips from The Terror of Art; The Legacy Of The Doors

A film by Peter Leiss and Jim Coke

Spanish Caravan

With Tony Funches

Music: The Doors

Clips from The Terror of Art; The Legacy Of The Doors

A film by Peter Leiss and Jim Coke

<https://youtu.be/eOWoDwQtIL4>

When the Music's Over

Music: The Doors

Clips from The Terror of Art; The Legacy Of The Doors

A film by Peter Leiss and Jim Coke

<https://youtu.be/oePqJ5MI4Rw>

Summer's Almost Gone

With Bela Mogyorody

Music: The Doors

Clips from The Terror of Art; The Legacy Of The Doors

A film by Peter Leiss and Jim Coke

<https://youtu.be/NTk4kRA6Fsk>

End of the Night

Music: The Doors

Clips from The Terror of Art; The Legacy Of The Doors

A film by Peter Leiss and Jim Coke

<https://youtu.be/LrRvI1rYAaE>

CAE Prahran College Photography Interviews

Photography & the early years at Prahran CAE.

First art photography school in Australia

Interview one: **Ian Macrae**

Prahran College years 1965 – 1968

<https://youtu.be/ILAfM4PN9Qg>

Interview two: **Duncan Frost**

Prahran College years 1970

<https://youtu.be/oXo7K8xOaGs>

Interview three: **John Tweg**

Prahran College years 1970 – 1972
<https://youtu.be/oYKKDdwBNIU>

Interview four: **Robert Ashton**
Prahran College years 1969 – 1972
https://youtu.be/EGL90P7s_Qw

Interview five: **Graham Howe**
Prahran College years 1970
<https://youtu.be/QZm6al5onNg>

Romper Stomper Photographic Series

Stills from the film Romper Stomper by Peter Leiss

Part 1: Roger Taylor reviews the exhibition at the Victorian Arts Centre of the 'Romper Stomper Series', on the Arts program at 3RRR, November 1993 with Paul Harris.

<https://youtu.be/BlhaFCxNPiU>

Part 2: Peter Leiss interview on the film, Romper Stomper and the creation of the Romper Stomper Series.

<https://youtu.be/XOj6C9Evlf0>

McSpedden, the man behind the myth

A film by Peter Leiss & Ian Wallace

Duration 44 minutes

Love your doc. Fantastic music and editing. The film looks great.

- **Kara**

TOTALLY EXCELLENT! ... Will finish the entire file when I get home from the Hospital on Wednesday/Thursday ... (y)

Thank you for remembering me!

Luv Ya Brother!

- **Tony Funche**

We both really enjoyed your film, well done and good on you for making it. Mic Conway might enjoy it.

- Jennifer Grimwade & Peter Scott

Thanks again for the lovely film. I watched McSpedden. Great work by Ian and you, a great character and I can now put his face to the work, especially the early band projections. But I must say his building projections and industrial sculpture are the winners for me. A man far ahead of his time in many respects.

- Philip Quirk

Thank you Peter,

I had no idea who McSpedden was although I have seen his projections on the Exhibition building and thought they were really good,

He is most unusual to say the least, I particularly liked the way in which you portrayed such a complex character, and think your photography is fantastic, such beautiful colour, hope we can catch up soon.

- Ron Murfett

I LOVED it! Especially the music choice. Perfect! Totally interesting too from a psychological perspective given the book on trauma and the mind I'm currently reading! Great film! Well done. If i had any criticisms it would be that I think after his opening spiel about getting there 1 minute past one, then you should have a text explaining who he is and maybe through the film little titles explaining what the situation he is talking about. I found it difficult to understand when he was talking about his therapy and the acid tests (were they acid tests?) and the circumstances that brought him there. But I really loved it! Top marks!!! x

- Peita Collard

Looks a bit like my place. Tidy soon. Trippy lightshows good for bands. Like the Central Lawn still.

- Joe Holzer

I loved McSpedden

You have a real gift for documentary Filmmaking. What a character. I **remember those light shows.**

- Gunter Kleemann

I had a look at the film, unfortunately I hardly understand the meanings of his talking, I am too less used. But the way the pictures telling shows quite well his interesting works with light.

By working in your archives you probably find yourself in all kind of moods you went through and beside that in a new perspective on the works you have done. It might be re-inspiring for new ideas?

- Ingrid Staedeli

Enjoyed seeing your latest film. It was interesting and informative. Well done.

- Barbara Derrick

Loved your film about Hugh McSpedden.

Important to recognise and celebrate our local artists and our local social history. I wasn't aware that his work covered so much ground. An inventor and a visionary. I hope it gets seen on TV?

- Robert Ashton

I thought your movie on McSpedden was great. He is such an odd character.

- Ian Macrae

Hi Peter,

We watched your movies the other day and were fascinated. I had never heard of McSpedden, and at first I saw him just as a contemporary of the Joshua Light Show that used to be featured at the Fillmore East, but he was so much more than that. I thought his hillside and building projects were beautiful, and so was your filming of him, by the way. Interesting angles, as usual. I liked the way you set the scene, a lovely bucolic setting, but before long you pan around the chaotic interiors and the viewer goes, "Hold on, now, what's all this?" The deeper you get into the film the more you see what an eccentric he is, but I'm no one to judge. I still have most of my negatives and slides, which fit neatly into a few boxes, and every digital image I ever took, which fits very nicely onto a single hard drive. Our stuff is just easier to store, isn't it?

Very entertaining portrait, well done!

- John Deane