

# PETER METTLER

petermettler.com

From the very beginning of his career Peter Mettler has created films deemed impossible to make, yet readily appreciated once they exist. A key figure in the critical wave of 80's Canadian filmmakers, Mettler produces works which elude categorization. Melding intuitive processes with drama, essay, experiment or documentation, his films hold a unique and influential position in creative expression not only in film but also in new art forms where cinema and other disciplines merge.

Additional artistic activities include a wide range of ongoing engagements in music, dance and photography. Over the years Mettler has presented photographic gallery exhibitions in Europe and Canada. More recently he has been experimenting with live sound and image mixing performances with a diversity of musical artists in an extremity of locales ranging from radio theatres to dance clubs and wilderness locations. An interview with Mettler on these activities is included in the 2005 publication *The VJ Book* by Paul Spinrad.

Based both in Switzerland and Canada, Mettler is a strong supporter of independent creativity, having collaborated with numerous filmmakers, artists and musicians such as Werner Penzel, Michael Ondaatje, Atom Egoyan, Peter Weber, Fred Frith, Jim O'Rourke, Alexandra Rockingham Gill, Robert Lepage, Andreas Züst, Bruce McDonald, Patricia Rozema, Andrea Naan, Edward Burtynsky, Jennifer Baichwal and many others.

He is active in the development of community networks which foster and share the growth of innovative creative forms and new means of production and distribution which will allow the independent artist to reach his or her particular audience while lightening the financial and ideological pressures of the commercial market.

A book on his work entitled *Making the Invisible Visible* was published in 1995 and another entitled, *Of This Place and Elsewhere, The Films and Photography of Peter Mettler*, by Jerry White was published in 2006 as a retrospective film and photography edition by the Toronto International Film Festival.

Meditations on our world, rooted in personal experience, his works reflect the visions and wonder of their characters and audiences alike. Mettler's films have garnered many prizes and been the focus of several retrospectives internationally.

## FILMS INCLUDE :

**Scissere** ('82) and **Eastern Avenue** ('85) experimental investigations into the movements of the subconscious. The first, a structured feature, the second an intuitive diary.

**The Top of his Head** ('89) feature drama following the search for identity in a media driven world.

**Tectonic Plates** ('92) feature drama, an adaptation of the play by Robert Lepage & Co. The movement of the earth's tectonic plates is used to illustrate interconnecting stories on a human scale.

**Picture of Light** (94) feature documentary, takes a film crew to the Sub Arctic to capture the wonder of the Northern Lights on celluloid.

**Balifilm** ('96) 30 min. diary/performance, is a lyrical tribute to the creative forces found on the island of Bali.

**Gambling, Gods and LSD** (02) documentary, A 3 hour journey across cultures, people and time, an exploration of the notions of transcendence and belief.

**Manufactured Landscapes** (06) (as creative consultant and cinematographer) feature documentary, follows photographer Ed Burtynsky witnessing China's massive industrial revolution and its impact on the planet.

**Away** (07) 3min. cellphone film for the National Film Board of Canada on the trials of being electronically over-connected.

**Shostakovitch/Notes in Silence** (07) 25 min. with Andrea Naan, dance theatre piece, an evocation of the times and spirit of composer Dimitri Shostakovitch.

## CURRENT IN PROGRESS :

Development of feature length documentary **"End of Time"**