

SAT.
3.31.2007
7:30PM
\$14

advance tickets are available at www.ihousephilly.org and 866.468.7619

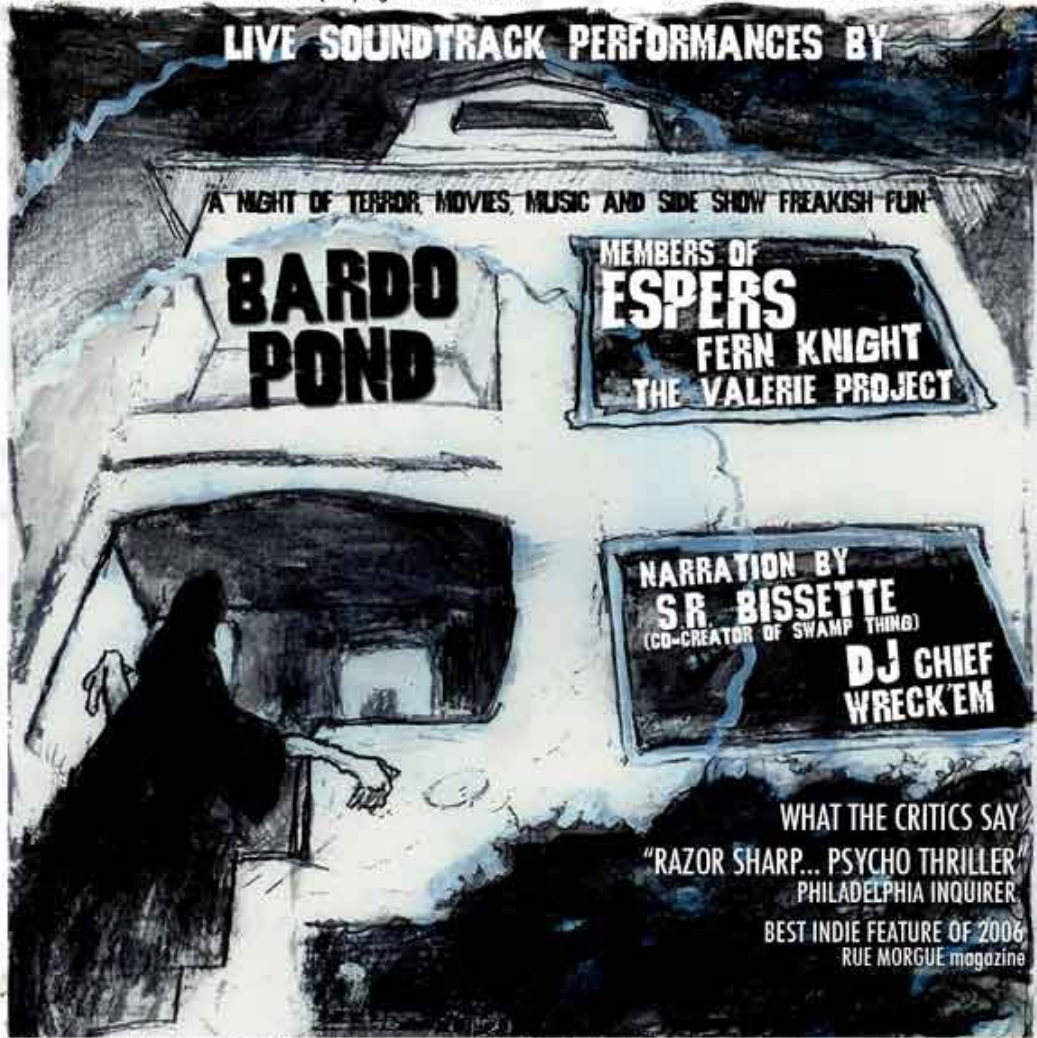
Joseph A. Gervasi & International House Philadelphia Present:

Lance Weiler's

HEAD TRAUMA

MOVIE PROJECT

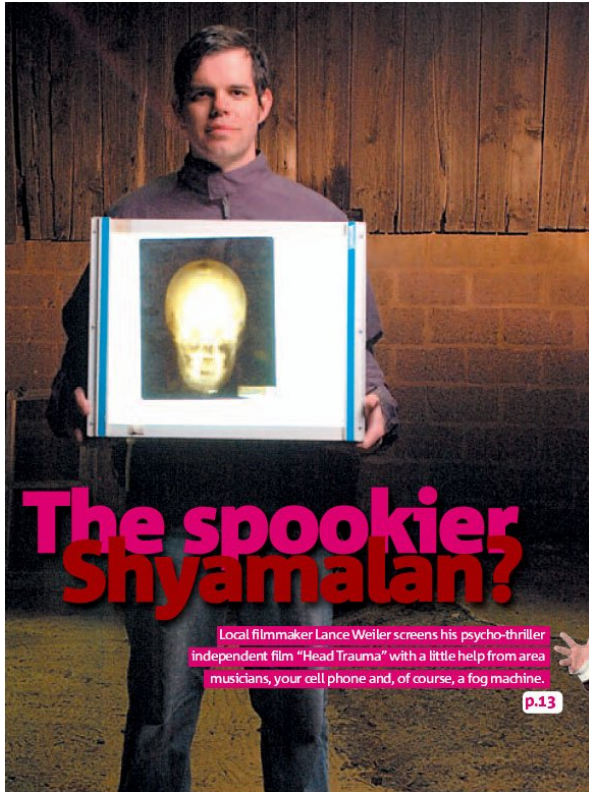
LIVE SOUNDTRACK PERFORMANCES BY



Seriously creepy and deeply unnerving, **HEAD TRAUMA** explores the uncomfortable notion that just because a person may be paranoid, doesn't necessarily mean that someone - or something - is not actually out to get them. In this engrossing chiller, drifter George Walker returns after many years to stake a claim on his deceased grandmother's abandoned house. Struggling to build some semblance of a normal life for himself, George tries to clean up the place by day. But his nights are uneasy and plagued by troubling visions of a mysterious hooded figure. Despite his best efforts, things grow worse as the house is condemned and his nightmares refuse to remain in the dark. www.headtraumamovie.com

iHP

For more information contact
DeadStare4Life@hotmail.com



The spookier Shyamalan?

Local filmmaker Lance Weiler screens his psycho-thriller independent film "Head Trauma" with a little help from area musicians, your cell phone and, of course, a fog machine.

P.13



The independent psychological horror film "Head Trauma" was shot by local filmmaker Lance Weiler. Saturday night's screening will feature a live soundtrack with performances by bands Bardo Pond, members of Espers, Fern Knight and DJ Chief Wreck'em with other spooky theatrics.

Multimedia horror

'Head Trauma' brings scary to a new level

SHAUN BRADY
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PREVIEW. The protagonist of Philadelphia's Lance Weiler's "Head Trauma" has his hands full trying to rehab

his late grandmother's home, long abandoned to squatters and debris and due for the wrecking ball. Then the visions start — a figure in a hooded jacket, a woman in a knit cap hanging from a tree — haunting

manifestations of evil or figments of his troubled imagination?

"Head Trauma" was born in part from Weiler's own experiences. "I was working on a television show for Fox," he recalls. "I spent

about two and a half years on it, and then it died on the vine. I left that experience feeling like I went through the five stages of grief. When I hit acceptance, I started working on a script that was

based on another incident, where I had been in a head-on collision with a garbage truck and sustained head trauma. I was in intensive care for five days and when I got home from the hospital I was plagued by vivid nightmares."

When Weiler brings "Cursed: The Head Trauma Music Project" to I-House this weekend, the audience may be ready to sign up for their own MRIs when the creepy images leave the screen to wander through the audience. The multimedia reimagining, spawned from an alternative soundtrack inspired by the "Dark Side of Oz" synch-ups, will present Weiler's film with dialogue and sound effects tracks intact, the music track being replaced by a live score performed by members of local Philadelphia bands Bardo Pond, Espers and Fern Knight. Oh, and despite the usual pleas, don't turn your cell phone off — cues during the film will prompt you to call a number to interact with the film.

"I'm interested in pushing the boundaries of what that cinematic experience can be," says Weiler. "I'm always looking at

how can I better tell stories, how can I get them out there and make them more engaging? When you look at what's going on in terms of consumption of media, whether it's the way people are getting viral video clips at work or the way they're watching things on a video iPod, things are changing."



After considering more than 60 abandoned houses in Scranton, the film team selected the Prescott house.

"Cursed: The Head Trauma Music Project"

Saturday
7:30 p.m.
International House
3701 Chestnut St., \$12
215-387-5125
www.ihousephilly.org

AN EPIC LOVE STORY DESTINED TO BECOME A CLASSIC

A RICH AND REVELATORY CELEBRATION OF FAMILY VALUES.



CURSED: THE HEAD TRAUMA MUSIC PROJECT : Philly-area native Lance Weiler gets all interactive on your ass this Saturday (March 31, 7:30 p.m.) at the International House (3701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia; 866.468.7619). Filmmaker Weiler's most recent release, *Head Trauma*, will be screened and augmented all-multimedia-like with alternate soundtrack performances by Bardo Pond, Espers, Fern Knight and DJ Chief Wreck'em; narration by famed comic book artist S.R. Bissette (*Constantine* and *Swamp Thing*), and a mobile interactive component which will allow viewers to interact with characters from the movie in real time, maybe even in the audience. Tickets cost \$14. Check ihousephilly.org for more.



March 29: HEAD TRAUMA multimedia tour

If you haven't caught the psychological horror film HEAD TRAUMA yet—or even if you have—you'll want to catch Lance Weiler's creepy chiller as it tours around the country in a special multimedia presentation (produced by Joseph A. Gervasi of Exhumed Films) that begins this Saturday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at Philadelphia's International House (37th Street and Chestnut). The movie, in which a man returns to his rundown childhood home and begins experiencing horrible visions of disturbing events, will be screened with the accompaniment of new music performed by live artists that will mix with the onscreen dialogue and sound FX to create an alternate soundtrack. In addition, sets and props will be set up on stage; characters will emerge from the audience; and a phone number will appear on screen at one point, with viewers who call it taking part in an interactive game.

"We're trying to change the cinematic experience," Weiler says. "We want to take the concept of narrative storytelling and move it across multiple devices and screens, so it engages the audience in new and different ways. People have been calling it a cinema ARG [alternate reality game], and the response to the initial screenings has been amazing. Not to mention that I'm always looking for new ways to scare the audience."

The feature screening will be prefaced by a showing of Marc Lougee's short RAY HARRYHAUSEN PRESENTS THE PIT AND THE PENDULUM (see item above); tickets are \$14 for all seats. Following the Philly engagement, the TRAUMA will spread to New York, San Francisco, London and other cities; for more info on the event, [click here](#), and keep tabs on upcoming shows at the movie's official site [here](#). —Michael Gingold



The Head Trauma Music Project

(2006) (Shown on video): Having already assembled the Valerie Project, Exhumed's Joseph A. Gervasi and Espers' Greg Weeks reteam for another music/movie mashup that doesn't involve a silent film. Head Trauma, Philly native Lance Weiler's long-time-coming follow-up to 1998's *The Last Broadcast*, has its fair share of dialogue, but still relies heavily on a sense of isolated dread that hangs over the entire picture. A bit of psychological horror in the vein of Roman Polanski (*Repulsion*, most noticeably), Weiler's film finds SuperPhan's Vince Mola as a thick-bearded drifter who returns to his deceased grandmother's condemned house. While cleaning it up, he begins experiencing visions of a hooded figure, to say nothing of the cast of critters skedaddling about the abandoned manse. Brian McTear and Amy Morrissey, who composed the suitably eerie atmospherics on Trauma's soundtrack, return for this complete overhaul, which finds Weiler himself remixing the sound live, so that you don't miss the chattering even as the new score is banged out as you watch. Joining Weeks, McTear and Morrissey will be Bardo Pond, Fern Knight and Helena Espvall, as well as some William Castle-esque hijinks. See *Reel People* (p. 41) for an interview with Weiler. Sat., March 31, 7:30pm.



Lance Weiler, *Head Trauma*

by [Matt Prigge](#)

Deserves props for: Co-directing, along with Stefan Avalos, the pre-*Blair Witch Project* horror fake-doc *The Last Broadcast*. His latest is the psychological horror film *Head Trauma*, which will screen with a live alternate score featuring Espers' Greg Weeks, Brian McTear, Fern Knight and others.

You've released a *Dark Side of Oz*-style alternate soundtrack CD of your film called *Cursed: The Head Trauma Music Project* with people like Dr. Dog, Bardo Pond and Sun Ra's Marshall Allen. Is this screening a continuation of that?

"Yeah. Because *Head Trauma* deals with the fragmentation of memory, I thought it'd be cool to create other versions of the film. Movies kind of get stuck by being the same thing over and over again. A band can go and play and reinterpret their music, or fans can reinterpret it by doing covers. Films don't have that option."

Doing a music/film mashup is usually reserved for silent films. How will you get around *Head Trauma*'s dialogue?

"I'm going to be remixing the film as it plays. While the band scores the film live, I'm going to isolate dialogue and sound effects from this crazy prototype box, which is kind of like a media server that projects the film off of a hard drive. I've never seen this done before."

What else should people expect?

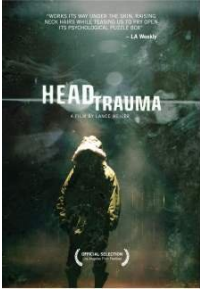
"We're bringing props from the movie. There'll be a tent on the stage. There'll be a smoke machine and special lighting, and the hooded figure from the movie will emerge from within the audience. Very William Castle-esque. And unlike how most theaters want people to turn off their cell phones, I want them to leave them on. At certain points a number will appear on the screen, and when people call in, they'll get cryptic messages. At the end of the film all the cell phones will be ringing."

***The Last Broadcast* was fairly ahead of its time.**

"It was this \$900 all-digital film. That's almost 10 years ago. At the time it was next to impossible to digitize work. Now it's easy."

Cursed: The Head Trauma Music Project: Sat., March 31, 8pm. \$12-\$14. International House, 3701 Chestnut St. 215.895.6535. www.ihousephilly.org





Lance Weiler dropped us a line to let us know that his film Head Trauma (one of last year) is playing in Philly this Saturday, March 31st. Normally, that wouldn't be such a big deal, as the film has played all over the country- but man, this is an event you're going to want to check out.

See, this ain't no regular screening. They're calling it a cinema ARG (alternate reality game), because there's audience involvement... and live music.

The event consists of three core elements.

1. A screening of HEAD TRAUMA with a live soundtrack performance by Bardo Pond, Espers, Fern Knight, Marshal Allen (Sun Ra), Steve Garvey (Buzzcocks) and others.

The music is mixed live with the dialog and sound effects tracks from the film to create a new alternate soundtrack.

2. Various props and sets from the film are setup on stage and certain characters from the film will emerge from the audience.

3. During the course of the film a phone number appears on screen. When viewers call the number they begin a game that will last through the film and follow them home.

They receive a number of cryptic clues as they are asked to solve a series of riddles. The interaction involves phone calls and text messages from the characters of HEAD TRAUMA that will lead viewers to hidden clues spread across the Internet.

"We're trying to change the cinematic experience. We want to take the concept of narrative storytelling and move it across multiple devices and screens, so it is engaging the audience in new and different ways. People have been calling it a cinema ARG and the response to the initial screenings has been amazing. Not to mention I'm always looking for new ways to scare the audience." Says HEAD TRAUMA creator Lance Weiler.

Along with that they're going to be screening The Pit and The Pendulum, the Ray Harryhausen presented stop motion film that we first told you about [here](#).

Sounds like a blast! After this it's heading to New York City, London and San Francisco. When it hits NYC you can count on me being in attendance. Why aren't there more fun movie events like this hitting? It seems like the perfect idea for a horror audience, and I'm glad to see that a great film like Head Trauma is forging the way ahead. The screening starts Saturday at 7:30 at the University of Pennsylvania's International House. Check the [official site](#) for all the details on this screening, and the [theater's site](#) for tickets.