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THE PINE BARRENS

MULTIMEDIA PERFORMANCE & DOCUMENTARY SCREENING AT GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK: Fire. Darkness. Myth. The Pine Barrens is at once a remote, inhospitable forest, and a thriving ecosystem – home to rare wildlife, veiled in Piney and Lenape folklore, and paradoxically nested within the nation’s most densely populated state – New Jersey. On July 19th, the award-winning documentary film named for the 1.1 million acre nature preserve will premier in New York City with a live score by The Ruins of Friendship Orchestra, an ensemble of traditional and electronic musicians. With support from the Museum of Modern Art, Rooftop Films brings the immersive film and performance to Brooklyn’s historic Green-wood Cemetery for their 23rd annual Summer Series. Special guest, shadow puppeteer and paper-cut artist, Erik Ruin will perform a selection of “crankies,” and an afterparty will follow.

Pew Arts and Heritage Fellow, artist and director David Scott Kessler conceived The Pine Barrens out of a fascination with the influence of place on American identity. Originally a painter, his work moved into animation and film experimentation, gradually taking on the methods of creative nonfiction. Conceiving the documentary through a painterly process, Kessler envisions The Pine Barrens as an epic tone-poem: both an intimate portrait of a living landscape, and an exploration of the symbiotic and destructive relationship between humanity and nature. Following several individuals for years at a time, the work draws out themes of American survivalism, defiance in the face of environmental and political change, and the gradual loss of a way of life.

In late 2011, Kessler began exhibiting evolving iterations of The Pine Barrens project comprised of screenings and installations, with musical performances by The Ruins of Friendship Orchestra. The group is named for the remains of the once thriving New Jersey ghost town of Friendship where the group first assembled. This group of longtime friends composes a semi-improvisational score for the film that transmutes the energy of the forest, making the documentary an unfixed and ever-evolving work. On July 19th, New Yorkers are invited to join this group of creators in a celebration of the American wild, marking The Pine Barrens and The Ruins of Friendship Orchestra’s first live performance of 2019.

THE PINE BARRENS
LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE & DOCUMENTARY SCREENING ::
EVENT & TICKET LINK: <https://bit.ly/2XnWEMV>
PERFORMANCE: July 19th, 7:45pm - 12:30am
Green-wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY

INQUIRIES: julia@thecoinlocker.org