

Strand Releasing presents

A FILM BY BRUCE LABRUCE

GERONTOPHILIA

Gerontophilia: (jə-rän-to-fil-e-ə) noun –
the love or sexual preference for the elderly.

Starring:

Pier-Gabriel Lajoie, Walter Borden, Katie Boland, Marie-Hélène Thibault

PRELIMINARY PRESS NOTES

Official Selection:

Toronto International Film Festival 2013

Venice International Film Festival 2013

Montreal Festival of New Cinema 2013

Country of Origin: Canada

Format: DCP/2.35/Color

Sound Format: 5.1

Running Time: 82 minutes

Genre: Comedy/Romance

Not Rated

In English

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Please download photos from our website:

<http://strandreleasing.com/films/gerontophilia/>

SYNOPSIS

In this wry “reverse Lolita” tale, 18-year-old Lake discovers he has an unusual attraction for the elderly. Fate lands him a job at an assisted-living facility where he develops an intimate relationship with Mr. Peabody. Upon discovering that the clients are being over-medicated to make them more manageable, Lake weans Mr. Peabody off his medication and helps him escape, resulting in a road trip that deepens their bond. The always-provocative Bruce LaBruce returns with a delicately perverse romantic comedy that is both darkly humorous and emotionally heartfelt.

INTERVIEW WITH BRUCE LABRUCE

How did you come to the idea of a romance between a young man and an elderly?

Over the years I've encountered a number of young people with very specific fetishes involving relationships with much older people, and it's always intrigued me. I've been told stories, most often by younger men, of their first sexual experience having been with a man in his sixties or older, and there always seemed to be a pedagogical aspect to the relationship, as well as a deep affection. Sometimes it's a one time thing, but sometimes the fetish seems to persist. I also made a film, *Hustler White*, about male prostitutes and their relationships to their often much older johns. The straight-identified, "gay for pay" hustlers sometimes develop very strong sexual and emotional bonds with their older clients, who give them money or other support in exchange for sex. For *Gerontophilia*, I wanted to create a character with some of these same impulses, but who isn't doing it for the money. In that sense I've configured him as a kind of saint.

Why did you choose to apply the traditional codes of rom-com to this very original subject?

My films, no matter how extreme or pornographic, have always had an intense strain of romanticism running through them. Whether it's the relationship between a hairdresser and a skinhead, or a hustler and a john, the attachments are emotional and romantic, even when there is a very specific and sometimes extreme and taboo fetish involved. So I've always played somewhat ironically with rom-com conventions. With *Gerontophilia* I wanted to engage these conventions even further, and with a more subtle sense of irony. I also always like to work within the conventions of a particular genre (pornography, horror, etc.) and somehow push it to some extreme or unexpected territory.

Does age matter when you are in love?

Significant age gap relationships between consenting adults transgress a very strong cultural taboo, so the people in such relationships must have a powerful and committed attachment to each other if they are willing to put up with all the disapproval and hostility directed toward them. Sometimes it's perhaps a more sexual dynamic at play - that is, a fetish - and sometimes it involves power and money, but I think it usually involves love and emotional attachment as well.

Does this film mark a new departure for you?

Gerontophilia is a departure for me inasmuch as it doesn't have any sexually explicit content. My previous work has generally involved the intersection of art and porn, but with this film I wanted to work in a more mainstream idiom, specifically referencing certain rom-com conventions and seventies independent and art film aesthetics. Some of my favourite films are seventies indie and/or art

films that were widely distributed but which had radical or controversial content. Gerontophilia has presented me with my first opportunity to work within the framework of the film industry proper - it's my first film funded by mainstream funding agencies, and my first union picture! - and with a somewhat significantly larger budget.

BRUCE LABRUCE - DIRECTOR

Bruce LaBruce is a Toronto based filmmaker, writer, director, photographer, and artist. He began his career in the mid eighties making a series of short experimental super 8 films and co-editing a punk fanzine called J.D.s, which begat the queercore movement. He has directed and starred in three feature length movies, *No Skin Off My Ass* (1991), *Super 8 1/2* (1994) and *Hustler White* (1996). He has also written and directed three art/porn features, *Skin Flick* (2000) *The Raspberry Reich* (2004), and *L.A. Zombie* (2010), and the independent feature *Otto; Or, Up With Dead People* (2008). Bruce LaBruce has written a premature memoir entitled *The Reluctant Pornographer*, from Gutter Press. The Plug-In Gallery in Winnipeg, Canada published a book on his work, *Ride Queer Ride*, in 1998. Queer Frame, a division of Atlantide Entertainment, published a book of his image-based work, *Bruce(x)ploitation*, in Italy in 2011. In the past several years, Bruce LaBruce has written and directed three theatrical productions: *Cheap Blacky* (2007), *The Bad Breast; or, The Strange Case of Theda Lange* (2009) and *Macho Family Romance* (2009).

Bruce LaBruce was a contributing editor and frequent writer and photographer for *Index* magazine, and he has also been a regular contributor to *Eye* and *Exclaim* magazines, *Dutch*, *Vice*, *The National Post*, *Nerve.com* and *Black Book*. As a fashion photographer he has contributed stories to such magazines as *Dazed* and *Confused*, *Bon*, *Tank*, *Têtu*, *Fake*, *Attitude*, *Blend*, *Tokion*, *Purple Fashion*, and *The National Post*.

Bruce LaBruce had his first solo show of photographs presented by the Alleged Gallery in New York in December 1999. He has had subsequent solo exhibits of his photographs in Vancouver, Milano, Toronto, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Porto, Barcelona and New York. LaBruce's latest exhibit of all-new photographs, entitled *Obscenity*, premiered in Madrid at La Fresh Gallery on Feb 17th, 2012. In 2010 LaBruce directed two episodes of the ARTE documentary series *Into the Night with...*, one featuring Harmony Korine and Gaspar Noé, the other featuring Béatrice Dalle and Virginie Despentes. He also directed his first opera, an adaptation of Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, in Berlin in 2011.

DANIEL ALLEN COX – WRITER

Daniel Allen Cox is an author, columnist, Lambda Literary and Ferro-Grumley Award finalist. In the 2009 Montreal Mirror readers' poll, Daniel was voted one of the top 10 best local authors. In 2010, AfterElton.com named Daniel one of its eleven "Favorite Gay Canucks."

After stints as a Jehovah's Witness and a porn model/actor, Daniel wrote the novella *Tattoo This Madness In*, shortlisted for a 2007 Expozine Alternative Press Award. This was followed by his debut novel *Shuck*, which was published to wide acclaim and rave reviews, and was shortlisted for a 2009 Lambda Literary Award and a 2009 ReLit Award. *Shuck* was an Arsenal Pulp Press bestseller in trade paperback, and a hardcover bestseller for New York-based InsightOut Books Club. His second novel, *Krakow Melt*, was published by Arsenal Pulp Press in September 2010. It was excerpted in *The Advocate*, chosen by San Francisco's A Different Light bookstore as its October 2010 book club pick, named a Book Marks Best Fiction 2010 selection, and selected as a finalist for the Ferro-Grumley Award for LGBT Fiction and for a Lambda Literary Award.

GLENN BERMAN – EDITOR

Glenn Berman is a Montreal-based film editor. From the Grammy Award-winning Peter Gabriel's *Secret World* to the Oscar-nominated *Prisoner of Paradise*, Glenn has collaborated on a diverse array of film projects. His work in feature films, television and documentaries spans three decades and has been recognized by multiple nominations. In 2005, Glenn received the Prix Jutra for *Mémoires affectives*.

RAMACHANDRA BORCAR – COMPOSER

Half Indian, half Danish and raised in Montreal, Ram's diverse roots and classical training have assured him of having a unique voice and a comprehensive musical career. One of his earliest musical ventures was as the drummer of the 80's cult hardcore band, *Hazy Azure* and he has since continued to branch out in a variety of directions, including work as a film composer, studio producer, performer and founder of both *Semprini Records* and *Signed By Force* record labels.

Following his studies in classical composition, orchestration and electro-acoustic music Borcar went on to release two critically acclaimed albums under the moniker *Ramasutra*, *The East Infection* and *ElPipo DelTaxi*.

Under his own name, he released the original soundtrack to the award-winning documentary *Regular or Super*, a film on the works of German architect Mies van der Rohe. The score and its soundtrack album *Steel And Glass* gained notoriety amongst both film and music critics alike.

PIER-GABRIEL LAJOIE – Lake

Pier-Gabriel (known to his friends as PG) was born in 1994 in Greenfield Park, Canada. He plays hockey as a center for the National of Bromont and is currently a full time drama student in Montreal's Conservatoire Lassalle. Before landing the lead in *Gerontophilia*, he appeared as a principal in several episodes of the hit Canadian TV show *30 Lives*.

KATIE BOLAND - Désirée

Katie Boland, chosen by Elle Canada as one of the three “Canadians to Watch”, is one of today’s most promising young actresses. Splitting her time between Toronto and Los Angeles, she has starred in over 25 productions and shows no sign of slowing down. In the past two years, Katie has completed a slew of high profile projects; she appeared in Oscar winner Paul Thomas Anderson’s *The Master* with Phillip Seymour Hoffman. She wrote and starred in her own web series *Long Story Short*, she appeared on stage in Sam Shepard’s sold out *Fool For Love*. She starred in the films *Cold Spring*, *Where are the Dolls*, *Ferocious*, *Sex After Kids* and *Gerontophilia*. She guest starred in roles on the TV series *The Listener*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, and SyFy’s *Lost Girl*. Also an avid writer, she contributes to various blogs. This year her literary debut *Eat Your Heart Out* a collection of short stories, was released across Canada. She has written and directed two short films: *Fateful* premiered in 2010 at Toronto’s Female Eye Film Festival; and *Figurative Reality*. In 2012, Katie was selected as one of the ‘TIFF Rising Stars’.

WALTER BORDEN - Mr. Peabody

Walter Borden has received acclaim in Canada and around the world for his distinguished acting career. His Stratford credits include *The Odyssey*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Harlem Duet*, *The Duchess of Malfi*, *Edward II*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *King Henry VIII*, *Macbeth*, *Agamemnon*, *Electra*, *The Flies* and *The Swan* (*The Acts of Venus*). Other Stage credits include *Fernando Krapp Wrote Me A Letter*, *El Numero Uno*, *Hamlet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Hosannah* and *The Adventures Of A Black Girl In Search Of God* (Dora nomination for Best Actor).

Film and television credits include; *A Dark Matter*, *Nurse.Fighter.Boy*, *Feast of All Saints*, *Lexx*, *The Event* and the voices of *Scorch* in the animated series, *The Boom Crew* and *Gerontophilia*.

Mr. Borden’s play *Tightrope Time* was published in 2005 and his CD, *Walter Borden Reads The Sonnets Of William Shakespeare* has received great critical praise. He is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee medal, the African-Nova Scotian Music Association Heritage award, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement award and the Portia White Prize. He is also an inductee into the Dr. William P. Oliver Wall of Honour Society.

Mr. Borden became a member of the prestigious ORDER OF CANADA, Canada’s highest civilian honour, in 2006.

MARIE-HÉLÈNE THIBAUT – Marie

Marie-Hélène Thibault has had an impressive track record since leaving the National Theatre School of Canada.

On stage, she has been cast in many productions, including Coma Unplugged and La Société des loisirs at the Théâtre La Licorne. In spring 2012, she was part of the cast of L'histoire du roi Lear directed by Denis Marleau at the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, then Emovere, directed by Éric Jean au Théâtre de Quat'Sous. On television, she was first discovered in the role of Sophie, Catherine's hateful roommate in the Radio-Canada series Catherine for which she received three Genie Award nominations. She has also been seen in Providence, Aveux, Les étoiles filantes and in Chroniques d'une mère indigne. A brilliant improviser, she has participated in Télé-Québec's improve series Grands duels de la LNI.

PRODUCERS

NICOLAS COMEAU – PRODUCER

After completing degrees in Communication Studies as well as Literature and Film, Nicolas Comeau earned a graduate degree in Film Production from Montreal's prestigious National Institute of Image and Sound (INIS). Since 2003, he produced seven short films. In 2005 he worked as a line producer on The Passenger by François Rotger and in 2008, co-produced Story of Jen with the same director. The feature A Cloud in a Glass of Water by Srinath C. Samarasinghe coproduced with Avenue B Productions (France) premiered in Rotterdam 2012. Bruce LaBruce's Gerontophilia will be delivered in the fall of 2013.

JENNIFER JONAS – PRODUCER

Jennifer Jonas is president of New Real Films and has been nominated as TIFF/CMPTA's Producer of the Year 5 times. Her latest film, Gerontophilia by Bruce LaBruce will premiere at the Venice and Toronto Film Festivals in 2013. Her many features as producer include I'm Yours by Leonard Farlinger, Reg Harkema's Leslie, My Name is Evil which premiered at TIFF in 2009 and Bruce LaBruce's gay zombie movie, Otto; or, Up with Dead People, which premiered at Sundance and Berlin in 2008. Other feature film credits as producer include All Hat, which premiered at TIFF and Monkey Warfare, which won a Special Jury Prize at TIFF in 2006.

LEONARD FARLINGER – PRODUCER

Leonard Farlinger is a writer/director/producer and co-founder of Canadian production company New Real Films. His many features as producer include Trigger by Bruce McDonald, Leslie, My Name Is Evil by Reg Harkema, and Otto, or Up With Dead People by Bruce LaBruce, which premiered at Sundance and Berlin. His latest project Gerontophilia will premiere at the Venice and Toronto Film Festivals in 2013. Leonard's first feature as writer/director, The Perfect Son was nominated for two Best Actor Genies and premiered at TIFF. Other projects include the Gemini-winning movie-of-the-week In the Dark, and the romantic comedy I'm Yours which premiered at TIFF.

COMPANY PROFILES

1976 PRODUCTIONS

1976 Productions was created in 2005. Its founders, Stéphane Raymond and Nicolas Comeau had worked on several commercial projects as well as short films that played the national and international festival circuit. Nicolas Comeau line produced *The Passenger* (2005) and *Story of Jen* by François Rotger in 2008, which premiered in competition at Locarno and was selected in Seattle, Pusan and Hong Kong. In 2011, 1976 completed their second Canada/France coproduction Srinath Samarasinghe's *Un nuage dans un verre d'eau*, which premiered in Rotterdam 2012. Their latest project, Bruce LaBruce's *Gerontophilia* will be delivered in 2013.

NEW REAL FILMS

New Real Films has made thirteen feature films and works in a wide range of budgets and genres. They are an author-driven production company that creates, develops and produces original thought-provoking film.

In 2010, New Real produced *Trigger* directed by Bruce McDonald, written by Daniel MacIvor, starring Molly Parker and Tracy Wright. In 2009, New Real produced Reg Harkema's *Leslie, My Name is Evil*, winner of DGC's Best director award which premiered at TIFF. In 2011, they released the romantic comedy *I'm Yours* by Leonard Farlinger which also premiered at TIFF and their latest project *Gerontophilia* will premiere at the Venice and Toronto Film Festivals in 2013.

1976 Productions Feature Credits

2013 *Gerontophilia*

2011 *Un Nuage dans un verre d'eau* 2008 *Story of Jen*

New Real Films Feature Credits

2013 *Gerontophilia*

2012 *The Resurrection of Tony Gitone* 2011 *I'm Yours*

2010 *Trigger*

2009 *Leslie, My Name is Evil*

2009 *Hungry Hills*

2008 *Toronto Stories*

2008 *Otto; Or Up With Dead People*

2007 *All Hat*

2006 *Monkey Warfare*

2004 *Cake*

2004 *Suger*

2001 *The Perfect Son*

CAST

Pier-Gabriel Lajoie
Walter Borden
Katie Boland
Marie-Hélène Thibault

Lake
Mr. Peabody
Désirée
Marie

CREW

Directed By
Screenwriters
Producers

Bruce LaBruce
Bruce LaBruce, Daniel Allen Cox
Nicolas Comeau, Leonard Farlinger, Jennifer
Jonas

Composer
Cinematographer
Editor
Casting Directors
Costume Designer

Ramachandra Borcar
Nicolas Canniccioni
Glenn Berman
John Buchan, Jason Knight, Paul Weber
Marilyne Garceau