



Dreamland (documentary, 28 mins 08 secs)

Synopsis

Filmed entirely on a single iPhone, and recently selected in the short documentary category by the New York City Independent Film Festival (screening 13th May 2018), Dreamland is a fast-paced and heart-warming portrait of multiple gold award winning musician Jennifer Maidman, and the making of her solo album at Dreamland recording studio in Woodstock, Upstate New York. Shot in the studio and on location in the Woodstock area, Dakota Lane's film takes an in-depth and sometimes dreamy look into Jennifer's early life as a female born in a male form, and how this shaped her destiny as musician and human. Also featured in the film are Jennifer's life partner and musical collaborator, the trombonist and composer Annie Whitehead, and legendary Woodstock musicians David Torn (guitar) and Jerry Marotta (drums), as well as an international cast of others, including several original members of the seminal British ensemble, the Penguin Café Orchestra (Jennifer and four other original Penguins now give concerts as The Orchestra That Fell To Earth)



Jennifer Maidman in Woodstock



Jennifer Maidman, from Dreamland



Jennifer Maidman & Annie Whitehead in Dreamland

(All photos: Dakota Lane)

Director Biography

Dakota Lane is an award winning young adult author and journalist. She filmed the wedding of Lin Manuel-Miranda for The NY Times and has made thousands of one-minute films. She has spent ten years documenting traditional ceremonies and visiting dignitaries (including HH the Dalai Lama and HH the 17th Karmapa) at KTD, Tibetan Buddhist Monastery in Woodstock, NY.

Director's Statement

“Just like Jerry Marotta said— Jennifer Maidman was and is fascinating. Mostly because she is completely herself and not haughty about it. She seems to own herself and be relaxed in the world in the way most of us only wish we could be. She is shy but also a performer, loved the camera and vice versa. She has a great voice, several personalities (not in a clinical sense) and a timeless, poetic presence; I tried to grab all that for the film.

I wanted people to feel as if they were there with us in the recording studio and in these pretty wild and spontaneous Woodstock scenes. I was often casting on the spot.

Shooting solely with one iPhone and natural light was a complete asset— gives it an intimate, unscripted quality.

The most unique thing about the film is that it incorporates three or four mini music videos. The action narrative pauses, and I slipped those in. “



Jennifer Maidman & Dakota Lane in Woodstock (photo: Dakota Lane)

Cast, short biographies



Jennifer in Woodstock (photo: Dakota Lane)

Jennifer Maidman

In her long career as a musician, writer and producer Jennifer has collaborated with international artists such as Joan Armatrading, Bonnie Raitt, Mark Knopfler, Gerry Rafferty, Van Morrison and Boy George, Paul Brady and Robert Wyatt. She was a member of Penguin Café Orchestra for many years, and it was there that she met her partner Annie. Dreamland's genesis is rooted in a dream Jennifer had while on the road with David Torn on David Sylvian's 1988 'In Praise of Shamans' World Tour. Visiting Woodstock for the first time the following year, Jennifer recognized the area as the place of which she had dreamed. After a long incubation period and occasional visits, she and Annie bought a cottage in Woodstock in 2014. In 2016 Jennifer began putting the Dreamland album together, and fortuitously met writer and film maker Dakota Lane shortly after commencing work in the studio. Jennifer continues to be much in demand as a musician, working with Annie and The Orchestra That Fell To Earth, and as a member of UK funk/soul band Kokomo and the Murray Head band. Recently she has been guesting with Jerry Marotta's Reelin' In the Years, and Secret City, the New York based 'art church'. Jennifer came out publicly as transgender in the 1980s and formally transitioned in 2001.



Annie & Jennifer from Dreamland (photo: Dakota Lane)

Annie Whitehead

Annie learned the trombone at school and played in traditional brass bands in the north of England as a teenager. At sixteen she left home and went on the road with Ivy Benson's famous all female big band. In the 1980s, she became active in the London jazz and world music scene, and toured with Chris McGregor's Brotherhood of Breath, Fun Boy Three, and Working Week amongst others. She went on to become one of the most in demand horn players in the music business, appearing on many hit records and working with Jah Wobble, The Spice Girls, Elvis Costello, Joe Jackson, Charlie Watts, Dr John, Eric Clapton, Tom Jones and many more. She continues to work with her own band, with Soupsongs (the music of Robert Wyatt) and as a session player and has released a number of critically acclaimed solo albums of her own material, including Mix Up, Naked, Home, and The Gathering. Annie and Jennifer met and began working together when Annie joined the Penguin Café Orchestra in 1987. They have been together as a couple since 1990 and make their home in both Birchington-on Sea in the UK and in Sawkill, near Woodstock in the US.



Jennifer & David at Dreamland (photo: Jennifer Maidman)

David Torn

David contributed lead guitar and loops to the Dreamland album and appears extensively in the film. He is a composer, multi-instrumentalist, producer, singer, writer, and self-described 'texturalist'. He has brought his unique musical style to numerous films, documentaries and collaborations and worked with composers Howard Shore, Carter Burwell and Ryuichi Sakamoto. David has scored many films and his work on *The Order* (2003) was nominated for a Grammy. He has appeared on recordings by such internationally well-known artists as K.D. Lang, David Bowie, Jim Carrol, Laurie Anderson, Jan Garbarek and David Sylvian. His solo albums include *Best Laid Plans*, *Cloud About Mercury*, *Door X*, *Tripping Over God*, *What Means Solid Traveller?* and most recently *Only Sky* (2015).



Jerry Marotta (photo A.J Chippero)

Jerry Marotta

Jerry played drums and percussion on the Dreamland album and appears throughout the film. Born in Cleveland Ohio, he moved to Harrison, NY at the age of five. He is a world-renowned drummer and producer and has performed extensively with Peter Gabriel, Hall & Oates, Paul McCartney, Indigo Girls, John Mayer, Tears For Fears, Carly Simon and many more. Currently Jerry is working with the Security Project, The Fragile Fate, Reelin' in the Years, Flav Martin, and The Marotta Brothers Band with his brother Rick. Jerry is also owner of Jersville Studio and manages the legendary Dreamland Recording Studio near Woodstock, NY.

Contact information:

Dakota Lane: Makeaworld@gmail.com

Jennifer Maidman: jennifermaidman@gmail.com

Useful links:

Dreamland press kit folder including trailers, stills, poster etc:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ihww40q59zuk148/AADbIN30G54gfW - nfbX32La?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ihww40q59zuk148/AADbIN30G54gfW?dl=0)

Dreamland full documentary on Film Freeway (includes screener link): <https://filmfreeway.com/1327749>

Dreamland one minute film trailer (HD) direct link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ykkeeyy08sefd3e/Dreamland%20film%20trailer%20HD.m4v?dl=0>

Dreamland one minute film trailer (SD) direct link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/y6n7v742vbg97p/dreamland%20film%20trailer%20lower%20res%20social%20media.m4v?dl=0>

Dakota & Jennifer interview on WDST Radio Woodstock (from approx. 1hr 20)
<https://www.mixcloud.com/radiowoodstock/woodstock-roundtable-8617/>

Jennifer interview with Jimmy Buff/tracks/live performance on WDST Radio Woodstock:
<http://www.radiowoodstock.com/2017/01/20/jennifer-maidman/>

Dakota Lane's music video for 'Open the Door' from Dreamland: <https://youtu.be/R4yJwWrXUVk>

Dakota Lane website: www.dakotalanevideo.com

Jennifer Maidman website: www.jennifermaidman.com

Dreamland album links

Dreamland album trailer direct link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pl46hu84ivsp829/Dreamland%20album%20trailer%20no2.m4v?dl=0>

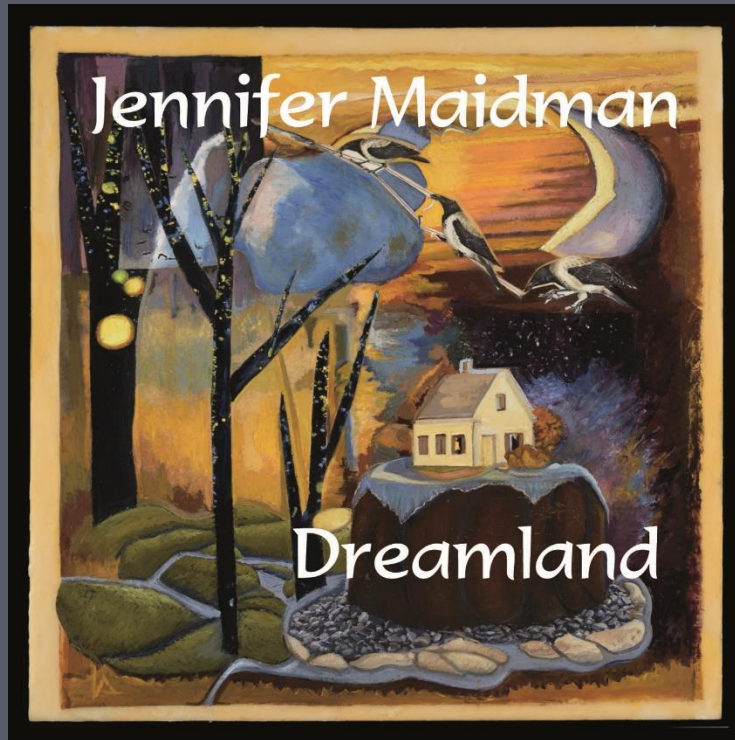
Dreamland album on Woodstock Arts website: <https://woodstockarts.com/product/dreamland/>

Dreamland album on CDBaby: <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/jennifermaidman2>

Dreamland album on Apple Music: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/dreamland/1269194679>

Woodstock Arts (selling CD copies of Dreamland and promoting Jennifer and Annie for events in the Hudson Valley): info@WoodstockArts.com

Dreamland album available via Woodstock Arts, CD Baby, Amazon, Apple Music, etc



"This album soothes my soul" Chris Kimsey, producer of the Rolling Stones and Peter Frampton