

Dirt (2024)

Directed by David Finkelstein
Created and performed by David Finkelstein and Ian W. Hill
Music: David Finkelstein
Editing, sound mix and visual design: David Finkelstein
Total running time: 79 minutes
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Short description of the work:

A poetic examination of the soil, and the energies buried within it.

Description of work:

Dirt is an extended poetic meditation on the American relation to the soil, and the energies buried within it. Notions of “dirtiness” and “cleanliness” are re-examined. Centuries of history, of conquering and re-conquering, lie beneath our feet, and the return of the vanquished is inevitable. There has also always been an alternative possibility, within the American landscape, inspired by indigenous culture, of a more peaceful relationship with the soil, the resting place of our ancestors.

A collage of poetic imagery, music, and invocatory language, the film follows two men in a series of esoteric experiments. Their words take us to unexpected landscapes, populated by revengeful toasters, flying fiddles, an unusual game of tennis, and a mountaintop crowned with an electric guitar. A postmodern video opera, *Dirt* bathes the viewer in music, language, and visual spectacle.

DAVID FINKELSTEIN is a 2022 Guggenheim Fellow. His video work has been featured in numerous film festivals around the world and has won awards at 28 of them. In 2013, he was an invited artist at the Traverse Vidéo Festival in Toulouse, France. His two feature films premiered at New Filmmakers in New York. He has had solo screenings of his films in Bilbao, London, Porto, New York, Chicago, Portland, Austin, North Carolina, Minnesota, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. His work has been funded by The Fund for Creative Communities, The Field, Movement Research, Meet the Composer, The Brooklyn Arts Exchange, BACA, and other sources.

His films have screened at festivals in Mexico, Croatia, Spain, Egypt, Serbia, Argentina, England, Slovakia, Malaysia, Canada, Germany, France, Turkey, and the United States. In France, his work has screened at Videofformes, Traverse Vidéo, Instants Vidéo, Oodaq, Marseille Underground, Bandits Mage, and Les Inattendus. Awards for his films include the Audience Favorite Award from the Berkeley Video and Film Festival for *Recording Device* and "Best of Festival: Experimental" from the Brooklyn Arts Council Film Festival for *Earth and Moon in Love*. He has been commissioned three times to create videos for the Outmusic Awards, and these videos were subsequently shown on the PrideVision cable network and the PBS series "Under the Pink Carpet."