



DREAMS REWIRED

An Icarus Films Release

A film by Martin Reinhart, Thomas Tode and Manu Luksch

Theatrical Premiere at Film Forum, New York
 Opens December 16, 2015

Contact: (718) 488-8900 www.IcarusFilms.com
 Serious documentaries are good for you.



LOGLINE

Tilda Swinton's narration and a treasure-trove of archival footage trace the desires and anxieties of today's hyper-connected world back more than a hundred years, when telephone, film and television were new in DREAMS REWIRED.

SYNOPSIS

Every age thinks it's the modern age... but this one really is new: a time of always-on connectivity, ubiquitous computing, and the acceleration of everything. No longer even modern, we are allegedly post-modern, post-industrial, and hurtling towards the post-human. With its profusion of desire and superabundance of information, our age couldn't be more different from those before... or is it?

Tilda Swinton's voiceover and a treasure trove of archival footage films from the 1880s to the 1930s—much of it rare or previously unscreened—combine in DREAMS REWIRED to trace contemporary appetites and anxieties back to the birth of the telephone, television and cinema. The film shows the ways that the social convulsions of today's hyper-mediated world were already prefigured over 100 years ago, during the electric media boom of the late 19th-century.

Early electric media were as revolutionary in their day as social media are now. They sparked a fervent utopianism in the public imagination; promising total communication, the annihilation of distance, an end to war. The technologies were to serve everyone, not just the elites. Through strengthening human relationships, increasing efficiency, and predicting the future, it would become possible to build a new world for all to share.

But what these media initially promised, and what they eventually delivered was very different. The early radical openness was disciplined and regulated, and two-way, peer-to-peer communication gave way to hierarchical broadcasting. And the fears that had accompanied the hopes—fears of the erosion of privacy, of ubiquitous surveillance, of financial exposure and moral hazard—began to appear well-founded.

DREAMS REWIRED is an assemblage of clips from nearly 200 films, ranging from the earliest dramatic works to music hall slapstick, newsreels, marketing materials, recordings of scientific experiments, and artistic adventures with film as medium. Through years of research in archives around the world, the directors have unearthed material that is by turns hilarious, revelatory, aesthetically striking, and astonishingly prescient. This footage is spliced together with a poetic narration on our contemporary predicament. DREAMS REWIRED forges a cross-generational connection between contemporary viewers and their idealistic peers from 100 years ago.

SELECTED FESTIVALS

CPH:DOX Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival
Nordic Film Days Film Festival
Filmfest Hamburg
Message to Man International Film Festival, St. Petersburg
Milano Film Festival
Jerusalem Film Festival
Seattle International Film Festival
Filmfest Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Internationales FrauenFilmFestival
Diagonale 2015
Berlinale International Film Festival
International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR)

IN THE PRESS

"A rich, media-archaeological account of the intertwined histories of visionary technologies, communication cultures, and cinema."
—*Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA)*

"Features an intricately, crafted voice-over by Tilda Swinton, melding together historic fact and contemporary theories."
—*Screen International*

"Best Documentary at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2015"
—*De Recensie*

"A remarkably timely, compelling and revelatory exploration of the obscured origins of the full spectrum media environment we all inhabit; a work that learns from the past, with insight of an artist-innovator-theoretician's trio, to inform and illuminate current and ever more pressing concerns."
—*Gareth Evans, Whitechapel Gallery, London*

Press Room
Download images, press kit, video clips and more at
<http://icarusfilms.com/pressroom.html>
User: icarus Password: press

More Information
<http://icarusfilms.com/new2015/rewire.html>
<http://www.dreamsrewired.com/>

FILM CREDITS

Title: "Dreams Rewired"
Written and directed by: Manu Luksch, Martin Reinhart and Thomas Tode
Narrated by: Tilda Swinton
Produced by: Amour Fou FilmProduktion (AT), Bilschon FilmProduktion (DE) and Ambient Information Systems (UK)
Co-Produced by: Mukul Patel
Composer: Siegfried Friedrich
Animators: Hannah Norholt & Fritz Steingrobe
Sound Designer: Mukul Patel

Running time: 88 minutes
Year: 2015
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