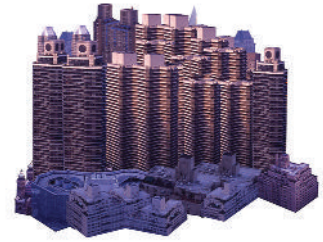


# The Franklin Abraham

by Jonah Freeman

## The Franklin Abraham

A film by Jonah Freeman



Jonah Freeman's work examines a variety of ideas and emotions surrounding the contemporary urban landscape. His recent projects have focused on the urban interior as theatrical space and the movement through those environments as a montage of phantasmagorical fantasy worlds.

Freeman's work oscillates between film, photography, drawing, text and installation. In his new project, *The Franklin Abraham*, Freeman takes a city enclosed in a single structure as a platform for several interconnected bodies of work.

*The Franklin Abraham* is the result of an ambitious real estate project that has lasted over two hundred years. The structure began under the auspices of industrialist Maxwell Blum during the Pale Blue Epoch of metropolitan development. It started as a residential tower designed in the once fashionable rococo-moderne style only to grow into the hybrid monstrosity that exists today. The building expanded into a radical architectural development that encompasses residential, retail, manufacturing, commercial industry, government and entertainment in a single structure. It currently houses 2 million inhabitants, is a mile and half wide, two miles long and, in places, over 150 stories tall. Involving several hundred thousand workers and thousands of architects, the construction has spanned several generations, with the result that the total design and program of the structure has become incoherent and incongruent.

The primary work in the exhibition is a film produced by "Fine Arts Unternehmen Film+Video". It is a partial glimpse into the present state of the society within *The Franklin Abraham*. The cinematic structure is modelled after the sprawling nature of the building. The film offers fragments of narrative that it explores briefly and then leaves behind: a despondent teenage girl and her older newspaper-stealing boyfriend; a timid office worker on a date with a sinister-looking romeo; a bored, subterranean youth gang; the tribulations of the family that runs the mega-corporation that owns the building and more. The camera gives a voyeuristic and indifferent perspective as it moves through the corridors and passageways of the structure painting a broad picture of a late-capitalist community.

Jonah Freeman Lives and works in New York City. He has had solo shows at Edward Mitterand in Geneva, Switzerland (2002), in the project room at Artists Space in New York (2001) and several shows at Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York (since 1997). Among several group exhibitions he has recently been included in shows at Danese Gallery, Matthew Marks Gallery and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in New York City. (2001) and several shows at Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York (since 1997). Among several group exhibitions he has recently been included in shows at Danese Gallery, Matthew Marks Gallery and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in New York City.

## **The Franklin Abraham**

DVD, 52 min, English speaking loop, edition of five

### **Cast In Order of Appearance**

**Twin Doormen** Emanuelle Gauthier

**Sporty Woman** Angelique Calandre

**Timothy Bright** Stephen Nicolson

**Molly Peabody** Lucy Adden

**Maureen Peabody** Madeleine Cornet

**Rodrick** Gary Troy

**Samuel** Carlos Arce

**Staci** Susan O'Connor

**Suzi** Jennefer Murphy

**Greg** Rick Siriani

**Isaac** Jim Ireland

**Ishmael** Gibb Slife

**Shuah** Michael Phelan

**Joshua** Craig Patterson

**Midian** Matt Zender

**The Gold Devil** Taylor Thompson

**Daisy Plus** Stephanie Angelil

**German Girl** Kim Von Reischach

**Spanish Girl** Sarah Spill

**Manny** Aaron Yoo

**Elizabeth** Katheryn Yew

**Jacky** Fiona Lee

**Octaplatz Girls** Alice Bertay, Emanuelle Gauthier, Petrova Giberson

**My Friends Pets** Norman Rockwell Coady

**Arnold** Carolina Capehart

**India** Chriselle Almeida

**Judith** Claire Kaye

**Starsky and Hutch** Alice Bertay

**Webbed Security** Tom Chadwick

**Frank Peabody** Peak Kwinarian

Cast (continued)

**Private Security** Alice Bertay, John Harford, Tony Matelli, Guy Richards Smit, Craig Kalpakjian  
Javier Michalski, Jan Hammer, Marike Dumas, Michael Rossi

**Ludavica Scott** Elizabeth Stifter

**Eduardo Scott** Eric Fransden

**Pantuchi Lucia** Brian Taylor

**Tuesday Sun (Bullhorn)** Jackson Kuehn

**Soldiers** Steve Siddel, Curt Hyman

**Sylva Walnut** Ira Cohen

**Georgi Pantone** Norman Rockwell Coady

**82nd Fl. Denizens** Jennefer Hoffman, Michael Drury

**Geothermal Man** Tom Liszka

**Serviette** Angelique Calandre

**Beddiferd Walton** Wendy Allyn

**Cornwall Graphis** James Huffman

## **The Franklin Abraham**

Written and directed by Jonah Freeman

DVD, 52 min, English speaking loop, edition of five

A Fine Arts Unternehmen Video and Film Production, in association with Schenk Productions NYC

<b>Executive Producer</b>	Franco Marinotti
<b>Producers</b>	Sabine Schenk Elinyisia Mosh Jonah Freeman
<b>Associate Producers</b>	Andrew Kreps
<b>Director of Photography</b>	Yaron Orbach
<b>1st Assistant Director</b>	Vinz Feller
<b>2nd Assistant Director</b>	Chris Winterbourne
<b>Steadicam Operator</b>	Peter Vietro- Hannum
<b>Production Designer</b>	Leni Calas
<b>Art Director</b>	Rachel Sapin
<b>Original Musical Score</b>	Sean McBride
<b>Additional Music</b>	Franz Schubert, Sergei Rachmaninoff Eric Satie Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Motorsoft
<b>Casting</b>	Kristine Bulakowski
<b>Edited by</b>	Jonah Freeman
<b>Additional Editing by</b>	John Harford
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Alice Bertay
<b>Wardrobe Supervisor</b>	Angelique Calandre
<b>Hair and Make-Up Artist</b>	Persefone Karakosta

<b>Gaffer</b>	Steve Siddel
<b>Key Grip</b>	Eric Shirai
<b>1st Assistant Camera</b>	Ludevic Litte
<b>2nd Assistant Camera</b>	Brett Walters
<b>Best Boy Electric</b>	Joe Paolini
<b>Best Boy Grips</b>	Curt Hyman Lewis Travis
<b>Sound Mixer</b>	Kenneth Jackson
<b>Boom Operators</b>	Peter Fackler Maki Osad Darren Johnson
<b>Key Production Assistant</b>	Michael Maserof
<b>Production Assistant</b>	Guillermo Pena- Tapia
<b>Production Assistant</b>	Christopher Martin
<b>Production Assistant</b>	Carmela Ramirez
<b>Production Assistant</b>	Tom Chadwick
<b>Art Dept. Production Assistant</b>	Mari Tszikis
<b>Make-Up Assistant</b>	Vashti Windish
<b>Set Dressers</b>	Hillary Baldwin Alvaro Cuello
<b>Franklin Abraham Logos</b>	Peter Poopat
<b>Franklin Abraham Badges</b>	Tess Giberson
<b>Catering by</b>	An Affair To Remember

**Special Thanks:** Doreen Remen and The Art Production Fund, Jon Keseler, Josephine Meckseper, Michael Drury, Taylor Thompson, Dan Lefcourt, Karen Lefcourt, Columbia University, New York Helmsley Hotel, Phyliss Gross, The Mayors Office Dept. of Film and Television, The City of New York, Eileen Quinlan, Kate Quinlan, Michael Phelan, Gibb Slife, Norman Rockwell Coady, Megen Gerety, John Connelly, Cheyney Thompson, George Freeman, Arifa Boehler, Jennefer Hoffman, Miki Garcia and The Public Art Fund, Dan Feigelson, Jamie Eisenstein, Dean Daderko, Peter Poopat

**Very Special Thanks:** Michele Macarone, Stefano Pesce and Mirjam Struppek

## **Jonah Freeman**

Born 1975 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Lives and works in New York City

### **Education**

B.F.A., New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, New York City, 1997

Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Natick, MA, 1993

Parsons School of Design, New York, NY, 1992

### **Grants and Awards**

2002 The Richard Kelly Grant

### **Solo Exhibitions**

2004 "The Franklin Abraham," Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York

"The Franklin Abraham," Play Gallery, Berlin, Germany

2003 "The Giving Tree: Jonah Freeman and Michael Phelan," John Connelly Presents, NY

2002 "In the Public Realm: Sixteen Scenarios," Public Art Fund, Brooklyn Public Library

"Jonah Freeman," Edward Mitterand, Geneva, Switzerland

2001 "Urban Pornography: Project Room," Artists Space, New York City

2000 "Jonah Freeman," Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York City

1998 "Jonah Freeman," Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York City

1997 "Jonah Freeman," Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York City

1996 "Project Room," Ten in One Gallery, Chicago, IL

### **Museum Exhibitions**

2004 "Version 2004", curated by Alexandra Theiler Furrer, Centre pour l'Image Contemporaine, Geneva, Switzerland

2003 Prague Biennale 1 "Peripheries Become the Center" National Gallery, Prague

"Altered Spaces: Video Art and the Physical World," Cheekwood Museum, Nashville, Tennessee

2001 Tirana Biennial, Tirana, Albania

2000 "Greater New York," P.S.1 / MOMA, New York City

1997 "WhimSicle," Collezione Peggy Guggenheim, Venice, Italy; Chateau Marmont, Los Angeles, California

### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

2004 "Power Corruption and Lies", curated by Adam McEwen and Neville Wakefield, Roth Horowitz, New York

"Night Shift", curated by Ivan Vele, Fondazione Trussardi, Milan, Italy

2003 "Jammed" Smart Project Space, Amsterdam, Netherlands

- 2003 "Fair Play," Play Gallery, Berlin  
 "The Bedroom Show," curated by Scott Hug, John Connelly Presents, New York City
- 2002 "Staged/Unstaged," curated by Lauri Firstenberg, Riva Gallery, New York City  
 "Illuminations," curated by Lorenzo Rodriguez, Marvelli Gallery, New York City  
 "Abstract Redux," Danese Gallery, New York City  
 "State of the Gallery," Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York City  
 "Home Movies," SF Camerawork, curated by Marisa Olson, San Francisco, CA
- 2001 "Work," Folin/ Riva, New York City  
 "After the Diagram," curated by Lauri Firstenberg White Box, New York City
- 2000 "Drawings and Photographs," Matthew Marks, New York City  
 "long days, longer nights," Galapagos Art and Performance Space, Brooklyn NY  
 "Transparent Architecture," GALE GATES et al, New York City  
 "Nothing," Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York City
- 1999 "A Room With a View," Sixth@Prince Fine Art, New York City  
 "Summer Group Show," Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York City
- 1997 "PowWow," Life, New York City
- 1996 "Basement Show," The Basement, New York City  
 "Group Show," Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York City  
 "Repatriation," Brecht Forum, New York City
- 1994 "Difference Engine," Providence, Rhode Island

## Bibliography

- 2004 Smith, Roberta, "Group Shows", **The New York Times**, July 2, 2004.  
 Funk, Karel, "Jonah Freeman", **The New Yorker**, August 2004.  
 Rosenberg, Karen, "Last Shot, Dystopia Parkway", **New York Magazine**, August 2004  
 Smith, Roberta, "Jonah Freeman, The Franklin Abraham", **The New York Times**, July 2004  
 Levin, "Jonah Freeman", **The Village Voice**, July 2004  
 Kerr, Merrily, "Jonah Freeman, "The Franklin Abraham", **Time Out NY**, July 2004  
 Boncuore, Giodano, "Jonah Freeman", **Flash Art**, March-April 2004
- 2003 Worth, Alexei, "Jonah Freeman & Michael Phelan", **The New Yorker**, Dec.15, 2003  
 Mar, Alex, "The New Dealers", **New York Magazine**, December 1, 2003  
 Firstenberg, Lauri, "Focus Photography", **Flash Art**, October, 2003
- 2002 "Jonah Freeman, Page 239," **Charley**, 2002  
 Garrett, Craig. "Urban Pornography," **Flash Art**, January February, 2002
- 2001 Politi, Giancarlo. "Tirana Biennale 1," Giancarlo Politi Editore-Flash Art, 2001  
 Aletti, Vince. "Urban Pornography," **The Village Voice**, November 27, 2001  
 Cotter, Holland. "Urban Pornography," **The New York Times**, November 23, 2001  
 Bollen, Christopher. "Urban Pornography," **Time Out**, November 22-29, 2001 Issue 321  
 Olson, Marisa S. "Home alone," **Surface Magazine**, Spring 2001  
 Hunt, David. "Jonah Freeman," **Frieze**, January /February 2001

- 2000 Firstenberg, Lauri. "Jonah Freeman," **Flash Art**, November/December 2000  
Israel, Nico. "Jonah Freeman," **Artforum**, November 2000  
Orange, Mark. "Greater New York," **Untitled**, Autumn, 2000  
Hunt, David. "Jonah Freeman," **Time Out New York**, Sept. 28, 2000  
"United Artists," **Harper's Bazaar**, June 2000  
Hunt, David. "nothing," **Time Out New York**, January 26, 2000  
Cotter, Holland. "As Crowds Flow Into Chelsea," **The New York Times**, January 21, 2000  
Schmerler, Sarah "Wade Guyton," **Time Out New York**, July 15, 2000
- 1999 Firstenberg, Laurie. "Bi-coastal Studio Visits, Focusing on Photography," **New York Arts Magazine**, January 1999
- 1996 Camper, Fred. "Material Issues," **Chicago Reader**, November 1996  
Dalton, Jennifer. "The Inaugural Group Show," **Review**, September 1996

**fine arts unternehmen ag**  
obmoos 4 / ch-6301 zug (switzerland)  
phone +41 41 711 68 20 / fax +41 41 711 54 15  
filmbox@artisant.com  
www.fineartsunternehmen.com

**fine  
arts  
unternehmen**  
video+film