

THE NEW ENGLAND and BOSTON PREMIERE of

"Other People's Pictures"

A Documentary Film on Snapshot Collectors

Monday, January 17, 2005 at 7:30pm

At the COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

**Followed by a Discussion with the Filmmakers
Lorca Shepperd & Cabot Philbrick**

290 Harvard St., Brookline, MA, C Line, Coolidge Corner T-stop

\$6 members/\$9 non-members

Tickets available at box office or online at www.coolidge.org

Co-Sponsored by the PRC & The Coolidge



The Photographic Resource Center, in partnership with the **Coolidge Corner Theatre**, is honored to present ***Other People's Pictures***—an **award-winning documentary** about nine people who share an unlikely obsession, snapshots that have been abandoned or lost by their original owners and are now for sale.

This screening represents the New England premiere and is shown in **celebration of the closing week of the PRC's exhibition, *Contemporary Vernacular*** (through January 23, 2005) featuring contemporary artist responses to family and found photographs. Featured on **NPR's "All Things Considered,"** *Other People's Pictures* has screened at such prestigious venues as the J. Paul Getty Museum and Silverdocs: The AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival and received numerous awards including Best Documentary at the New Orleans Film Festival.

The film is set at New York City's Chelsea Flea Market where, every weekend, dozens of collectors sift doggedly through piles, boxes and bins of cast-off vernacular photos of birthday parties, weddings and vacations so frequently displayed in family albums. The people who collect these images make up a little known world that has been in existence for almost two decades – a singular society with its own customs, language and economy. Snapshots can be purchased for as little as twenty-five cents or can go for large sums of money. Hundreds of these images are seen in the film itself, grouped according to type. After scanning over 1000 pictures, Lorca explains, "About 370 of these amazing images were ultimately used in the film and we wish we could have used more."



The uninitiated ask: why buy someone else's family photographs? In *Other People's Pictures*, collectors answer this question as they hunt for the images that feed their fantasies and quiet the voices in their heads. From a young gay man who collects 'male affection' photos to an Israeli immigrant who lost many family members to the Holocaust who collects average, everyday photos of Nazis, watching *Other People's Pictures* is like taking a trip to the market; the viewer meets collectors as a fellow shopper might encounter them while walking from one dealer's booth to the next. A deeper structure emerges in the personal narratives the collectors share as they try to make sense of their fascination with these leftover images from other people's lives.

FACTS:

Other People's Pictures (2004, 53 minutes)
Produced and directed by Lorca Shepperd and Cabot Philbrick with original music composed by Hub Moore

Selected Screenings:

- Two Boots Pioneer Theater, New York, NY. December 2004
- The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles as a part the exhibition, *An American Album*, and panel on snapshot culture, December 2004
- SILVERDOCS: AFI/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival, Silver Spring, MD. June 2004
- IFP (Independent Feature Project) Market and Conference, New York, NY. September 2004
- Silver Lake Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA. September 2004
- Coney Island Film Festival, Brooklyn, NY. October 2004, * **Best Documentary Short**
- New Orleans Film Festival, Best of Fest screening program, New Orleans, LA. B October 2004 * **Best Documentary**
- Santa Fe Film Festival, Santa Fe, NM. December 2004

www.other-peoples-pictures.com

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS of *Other People's Pictures*

*In March 2003, co-producers Lorca Shepperd and Cabot Philbrick were awarded a stipend from the Jerome Foundation and a month-long artists' retreat at the New York Mills Regional Cultural Center in New York Mills, MN, to begin post-production on *Other People's Pictures*. Since then, their film has gone on to critical acclaim.*

Lorca Shepperd (co-producer, cameraperson, writer) works in the New York City area as a freelance documentary producer and cameraperson. She has produced and shot documentary television programs for broadcast venues including The Learning Channel, Discovery Health, A&E, BET and MSNBC. She has also shot and produced several documentary shorts for non-profit organizations such as the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and has worked with UNICEF as a producer and scriptwriter on videos highlighting international children's health issues. She holds a Master's in Cinema Studies from New York University.

Cabot Philbrick (co-producer, cameraperson, editor) has produced and edited several documentary shorts for non-profit organizations, including the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum. His recent work as a freelance editor includes corporate and promotional videos, a music video, a television pilot, programs for an Internet music channel, an hour-long interactive Internet narrative, and an independent feature film, *New Guy*, directed by Bilge Ebiri. He holds a Master's of Fine Arts in Film from Syracuse University.

WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING: from the *New York Magazine* and *New York Metro*, December 2004:
"A fascinating documentary about people who obsessively collect vintage snapshots, and what makes them tick. Never condescending, the film effectively conveys these collectors' wonder at their found images, while offering keen observations on the ways obsession manifests itself in different people. Plus, the photos are great."

SPECTACULAR VERNACULAR EXHIBITIONS ON COMMONWEALTH AVENUE!

This winter, several gallery and educational offerings celebrating *vernacular* or everyday photography will be held on Comm. Ave. Taken together, they make for a great excuse to get off and on at the B Green Line's BU West T-Stop (or f-stop as we like to call it)!. Join us for a **closing party**, with a performance by the **Trachtenberg Family Slideshow Players at the Paradise Lounge, Friday, January 21**. www.slideshowplayers.com & www.thedise.com

@ The Photographic Resource Center

EXHIBITION: *Contemporary Vernacular* (through January 23, 2005)

This group show features contemporary artists who use or allude to family and found photographs in their work. Artists include • Yolanda del Amo • Louise Bourque • Nancy Dudley • Susan E. Evans • Joseph Heidecker • Priya Kambli • David Prifti. Visit <http://www.bu.edu/prc/vernacular/index.htm> for more information on the artists and an online component to the exhibition.

@ The Boston University Art Gallery

EXHIBITION: *In the Vernacular: Everyday Photographs from the Rodger Kingston Collection*

(through January 23, 2005)

BUAG, 855 Commonwealth Avenue, BU West T-stop, www.bu.edu/art, 617-353-4672

This exhibition of over 150 vintage vernacular photographs and objects by primarily anonymous artists will examine entire categories of photography that have remained overlooked.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND IMAGES CONTACT: Leslie K. Brown, Curator
Photographic Resource Center at Boston University, 832 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215
617-975-0600 (tel), 617-975-0606 (fax), email: lkbrown@bu.edu. Press images can be provided digitally.

NOTE HOLIDAY CLOSINGS: *The PRC will be closed the following due to campus holidays, December 23-January 3.*

Who and where we are: The Photographic Resource Center is an independent non-profit organization that exists to facilitate the study and dissemination of information related to photography. Operating from the campus of Boston University, it provides a highly acclaimed exhibition program, a bi-monthly newsletter, lectures, workshops, special events, and a 4,000-volume resource library to our members and the general public. It is supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Boston Cultural Council, numerous private foundations, and the ongoing generosity of its members. The PRC is located at 832 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA, 02215. Public transportation: Green B Line, outbound, BU West stop. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 to 6pm, Thursdays from 10 to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-5pm. Admission is \$3/general public, \$2/students and seniors and free to all on Thursdays and on the last weekend of every month. The PRC is always free to members, Institutional Plus member schools, children under 18, BU students, faculty, and staff, as well as all school groups with appointments. For more information visit our website at www.prcboston.org. The PRC is fully accessible.