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Putty Hill 2011

In Person: Matt Porterfield

Film Streams welcomes director Matt Porterfield to Omaha for a Q&A screening of his critically acclaimed new film **PUTTY HILL** (April 16) and a special one-time screening of his stunning 2006 debut, **HAMILTON** (April 17).

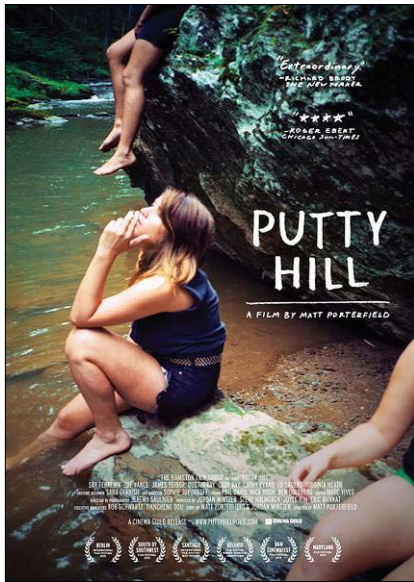
Omaha, Nebraska (3/28/11) – “If there's an independent cinema, this movie is it, and if there's a new director, here he is.” So wrote The New Yorker critic Richard Brody in his review of director Matt Porterfield’s **PUTTY HILL**, a fascinating narrative portrait of a close-knit community on the outskirts of Baltimore. The film will open at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater on Friday, April 15 for a special one-week run that will include two screenings with the filmmaker in person.

On Saturday, April 16, Porterfield will appear at the 7pm screening of **PUTTY HILL** and take part in a post-show Q&A immediately following.

On Sunday, April 17, Porterfield will also appear at a 1pm screening of his 2006 debut film, **HAMILTON**.

Tickets for both screenings are on sale now at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater and online at www.filmstreams.org. Tickets for each of the screenings with Porterfield are at Film Streams’ regular prices: \$9 general, \$7 for students, seniors, teachers, and military, and \$4.50 for Film Streams Members.

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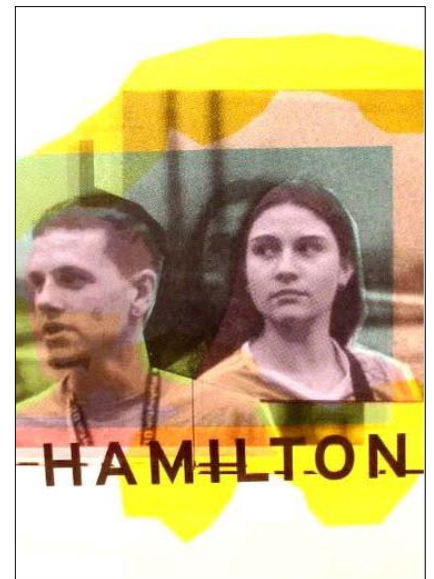
An extraordinary and seamless blend of narrative filmmaking with documentary techniques, **PUTTY HILL** centers around the death of a young man named Cory, and a number of family members, friends, and acquaintances who gather to memorialize him. Gorgeously shot by cinematographer Jeremy Saulnier, **PUTTY HILL** both observes and interacts with its characters (almost all played by non-professional actors from the community where the film was made) in a manner that doesn't so much "break" the fourth wall as completely erase it.

"If there ever was an American independent film that needed your help, it's **PUTTY HILL**, Matthew Porterfield's contemplative, exquisitely lensed snapshot of working-class white America on the fringes of

Baltimore," wrote film critic Anthony Kaufman on his indieWIRE blog. "With a sensitive, emotionally truthful grasp of its characters and nary an ounce of condescension, **PUTTY HILL** paints a delicate picture of grief and waywardness in a small community. Not since Lance Hammer's **BALLAST** can I think of an American indie that so deserved to be seen on the big screen."

PUTTY HILL is the sophomore effort from Porterfield, and in a way a companion piece to his extraordinary debut film, **HAMILTON**. Released in 2006, **HAMILTON** was hailed by New Yorker film critic Richard Brody as "one of the most original, moving, and accomplished American independent films in recent years."

The film chronicles two summer days in the life of a young family: Lena, 17, and Joe, 20, two recent and accidental parents residing in a diverse suburban neighborhood in northeast Baltimore City. When the picture begins, Lena is looking for Joe, whom she hasn't seen for months, and through her search, we are introduced to her daughter, her family and friends, her neighborhood, and finally to Joe himself.



-NEXT PAGE: MATT PORTERFIELD BIO-



About Matt Porterfield

Matthew Porterfield lectures on screenwriting, theory, and production in the Film & Media Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University and is the operator and manager of The Hamilton Film Group, a Baltimore-based independent production company. His first feature film, HAMILTON, was released theatrically in 2006. Called “one of the finest American independent films ever made” by New Yorker film editor Richard Brody, it continues to tour festivals, museums, and repertory theatres around the world and was included in John Water’s 2006 Top Ten in Artforum International. His latest feature, PUTTY HILL, premiered in

2010 at Berlin's International Forum of New Cinema and was released theatrically through Cinema Guild in February 2011. (Source: Ignite Baltimore)

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For more information, questions, image or interview or requests, please contact Casey Logan at (402) 933-0259 x 11 or casey@filmstreams.org.
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