



presents

Mad Tiger

A film by Jonathan Yi and Michael Haertlein

“*MAD TIGER* promises something much crazier than your average concert documentary, and possibly more endearing, whether or not punk rock is your jam.” - *Indiewire*

“... a super film that comes fully loaded with energy, attitude, and lunacy. Very highly recommended for punk fans and Peelanders expats” - *JBSpins*



USA and Japan / 2015 / Documentary / English
82 min / 1.78 / 5.1 and stereo

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Select Press for Mad Tiger

“10 Must-See Documentaries at DOC NYC” – *Indiewire*

"This entertaining doc chronicles midlife crises of the hipster variety." – Frank Scheck, *The Hollywood Reporter*

“Fantastic portrait of a band and its leader that works on so many different levels. What I love about the film is that what starts out with a look at a band changes into a look at what it takes to be in a band and how the relationships outside of the band are forced to change because of the dynamics of the band. What’s even better is that as the film goes on it morphs again and becomes Kengo's quest to find himself...or maybe that's what it was about all along. Either way, or anyway it's amazing. It’s so good I can't wait to see it again.” – Steve Kopian, *Unseen Film*.

“The members of Peeland-Z unmask themselves for revealing new doc MAD TIGER... For close to two decades fans have known the band with their personas held firmly in place, their colorful costumes seldom removed, but the opportunity to meet Peeland-Z has finally arrived, and the line between artist and person is blurring.” – Silvas Valentino, *Village Voice*



FULL SYNOPSIS

"If you don't know Peeland-Z...I'm gonna kill you!"

Directed by Jonathan Yi and Michael Haertlein, MAD TIGER enters the strained relationship between its two band members, Yellow and Red, and tries to understand how the search for happiness can drive even the best of friends towards misery. Yellow, born Kengo Hioki, despised himself for being weak, fearful, petty, stupid, and ugly. In an attempt to reinvent himself, he created the character Yellow as everything he is not; happy, strong, brave, and sexy. Red was a partner with Yellow because he too tried to transform himself by performing as a stealthy, cool ninja even though he was shy and reserved.

To audiences, their insane performance art seemed like the greatest expression of positivity and fun. In reality, their performances had a strict script, and they had to hide their lives of middle-aged poverty. A theatrical performance art band at heart, Peeland-Z chose punk music as their style because of its primal call and response interaction with the audience. Their performances push the boundaries of madcap acrobatic stage antics, with each member of the band assigned a different color by the band leader, Yellow, and fully embracing this assigned identity in every aspect of life. MAD TIGER is the first time the band has ever appeared out of costume on camera and features Peeland-Z's unmistakably distinctive voice and style of Crayola rock that has been drawing curious indie crowds en masse for years.

In late 2012, Red announced to the world that he would do one final tour before he quits Peeland-Z. Red's final concert represents the peak of the band's 15-year career in terms of performance as well as popularity. In the void of a key member, the band's survival is uncertain. Yellow learns to cope with feeling betrayed and abandoned by his longtime partner as the band is falling apart, while Red finds that he is unable to establish a new identity apart from his character from the band. The band tries to carry out their mission of making the audience happy, but all Yellow can think about is his anger towards Red. Yellow is no longer able to hide his miserable pain behind his happy alter-ego and finds himself alone. He decides to travel home to Japan to reevaluate his life. In the cradle of safety with his loving family, Yellow is able to admit that his efforts to spread happiness have been misguided. He does not know what happiness really is but remains committed to figuring it out. After returning, Yellow finds Red and makes an effort to reconnect with love and respect.

Ultimately, MAD TIGER is a winking, heartfelt portrait of a band that not only captures the energy of their live show but also the guarded introspection and rigid method behind the day-glo stage performance madness. When the band begins to confront forces beyond their control, and members must decide to prioritize their own lives over the band's future, MAD TIGER builds to an unexpectedly moving crescendo that forces all involved to change and grow.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

MAD TIGER follows the relationship of two Japanese men, Yellow and Red, who have been best friends and band mates touring the United States in a performance-art punk band called Peeland-Z for the last fifteen years. When Red decides to quit, their relationship is tested by life beyond the band.

LOGLINE

Best friends and bandmates Yellow and Red of Peeland-Z, the seminal NYC-based performance art-punk band, take a break from their zany stage antics when one of them decides to quit and the other one must confront the notion of life beyond the band.

ASSETS

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdfPNRqgHUI>

Downloadable hi-res images:

<http://www.filmmovement.com/filmcatalog/index.asp?MerchandiseID=480>



Credits

FEATURING

Peelander-Yellow: Kengo Hioki
Peelander-Red: Kotaro Tsukada
Peelander-Pink: Yumiko Hioki
Peelander-Purple: Akiteru Ito
Peelander-Green: Akihiko Naruse



CREW

Directed by	Jonathan Yi, Michael Haertlein
Editor	Hisayo Kushida
Produced by	Josh Koury, Jonathan Yi, Michael Haertlein
Original Music by	Daniel Salo
Music performed by	Joy Wants Eternity, Unlearn
Music produced by	Scott Colburn
Live/Additional Music by	Peelander-Z
Cinematography	Jonathan Yi, Michael Haertlein
Additional Camera (Concert)	Paul Yee, Brad Burke, Daniel Liu
Camera Assistant (Concert)	Michael Koshkin
Production Sound	Jonathan Yi, Michael Haertlein
Additional Production Sound	Gillian Arthur
Post Producer	Rob Meyers
Colorist	Milan Boncich
Title Design	Kun-I Chang, Ders Hallgren
Post Sound Producer	Gloria Pitagorsky
Re-Recording Mixer	Cory Melious
Sound Editor	Elizabeth McClanahan
Promotional Photography	Daisuke Yoshida, Ryan Russell, Ben Pier, Jonathan Yi
Poster Art	Shuji Kubo
Logo Design	Kengo Hioki
Subtitles	Hisayo Kushida & Jonathan Yi
Yellow Interview Hair Stylist	Mariko Miyagi
Production Legal Services	The Indie Film Clinic at Cardozo Law
Production Attorney	David Morrison
Accounting	Alexander Abramovich

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

While shooting MAD TIGER we made the commitment to film almost every day as to not miss a moment over the past tumultuous two years. This allowed us to capture the characters' struggle in the moment rather than tell a story that already happened in the past.

We filmed the band in a period of uncertain change.

The film tells a universal story about friendship and the pursuit of happiness which resonates with fans and non-fans alike. Even though the characters are colorful and outrageous, our film makes a deep personal connection between the audience and the characters as real people. As we are constructing the story of a man desperately struggling to find happiness, we are making a statement about the nature of happiness with this film.

The main character, Yellow, had been working towards happiness as a final goal. Yet happiness is more of a byproduct from nurturing loving relationships and selfless service to a larger purpose than a final destination. Other characters in the film find happiness in their own lives outside of Peeland-Z which allows them to leave. When Yellow is left alone, he can finally make an effort towards true peace and happiness. It begins with his relationship with Red.

DIRECTORS' BIOS

Co-directors Jonathan Yi and Michael Haertlein have collaborated professionally for the last eight years on a wide range of projects. Jonathan Yi is the creator and director of HBO's award-winning documentary series *East of Main Street*, which was renewed for its fifth year in 2014. He is also an accomplished commercial director with clients including American Express, Intel, Skype, and many others.

Michael has worked as a cinematographer for networks including NBC, CBS, Discovery, The Food Network, A&E, TLC, MTV, VH1, The History Channel, Animal Planet, and several more. Something Michael has shot has aired on television almost every day for the last seven years.

With MAD TIGER, Jonathan and Michael not only share duties as Co-Directors but also utilize their skills as professional cinematographers to capture the raw footage in the field. They are both used to working for clients so they both deliver every project to completion without exception.

ADDITIONAL BIOS

JONATHAN YI, Co-Director + Cinematographer

Jonathan is the director of HBO's award-winning documentary series EAST OF MAIN STREET, which premiered its fifth successful season in May 2015. The show stars Daniel Dae Kim and Lucy Liu. He is also an accomplished commercial director with clients that include American Express, Intel, Skype and many others. Before his career as a director, Jonathan worked as a commercial cinematographer and has taught several years of Advanced Cinematography at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He consulted for Canon USA on the groundbreaking development of the Canon EOS C300, which he and Michael used exclusively in the production of MAD TIGER.

MICHAEL HAERTLEIN, Co-Director + Cinematographer

Michael has worked as a cinematographer for networks including NBC, CBS, Discovery, The Food Network, A&E, TLC, MTV, VH1, The History Channel, Animal Planet, and several more. Something Michael has shot has aired on television almost every day for the last seven years. He was recently the Director of Photography and Producer for a Discovery Channel mini-series in Southern Afghanistan following combat missions with Army Route Clearance. As a producer, Michael produced a feature film starring Tatum O'Neal with the legendary producer Frederick Zollo. Michael has also produced for Food Network, Bravo, and the post-production department of JWT.

JOSH KOURY, Producer

Josh is a documentary filmmaker whose feature length film titles include STANDING BY YOURSELF (2002), WE ARE WIZARDS (2008), and JOURNEY TO PLANET X (2012). His film work has screened at film festivals all over the world including the Tribeca Film Festival, SXSW, Slamdance Film Festival, AFI Docs, and the Sheffield International Film Festival. His latest film was acquired as an Epix Original Documentary and had its broadcast premiere nationwide in May 2013. Additionally, Koury co-founded the Brooklyn Underground Film Festival where he served as Programming Director for four years. He also spent four years working at the Hamptons Int'l Film Festival as a Programmer and their Programming Manager. He is currently a faculty member at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn.

HISAYO KUSHIDA, Editor

Hisayo has edited numerous feature documentaries including THE GREAT HAPPINESS SPACE: TALE OF AN OSAKA LOVE THIEF and MONGOLIAN DREAMS. She has also numerous editing clients including *Vogue*, Thompson-Reuters, and HBO. Hisayo edited part of HBO's "East of Main Street" series for Jonathan Yi which began their collaboration. She became involved with MAD TIGER shortly after filming began. Her creative input from an editor's perspective throughout the shooting process proved extremely valuable. Hisayo is fluent in Japanese which helped with illuminating story details that were otherwise missed by Jonathan's limited understanding of Japanese.

Festivals

2015 DOC NYC (World Premiere)

2016 Osaka Asian Film Festival (International Premiere)

2016 CAAM (Center for Asian American Media) Film Festival

2016 Durango Film Festival



About Film Movement

Launched in 2002, Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films, based in New York City. Film Movement has released more than 250 feature films and shorts from 50 countries on six continents, including the recent Academy Award-nominated film THEEB, and other top prize winners from Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, Tribeca and other prestigious festivals. Film Movement releases its films through numerous distribution channels, including hundreds of art-house cinemas, universities and libraries; home video; television outlets; Cable Video on Demand; In-flight Entertainment; and broadband outlets. For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.

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