



FILM MOVEMENT®

Award-Winning Cinema Since 2002

presents

NARCISSISTER ORGAN PLAYER

A film by
Narcissister

“Though her work is ironic and provocative, the film is intimate and emotionally raw.”
-*The Boston Globe*



USA / 2018 / Documentary / 91 min / English / 1.78:1 / Stereo 2.0 and 5.1 Surround Sound

Opens November 7th in New York at Film Forum

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FULL SYNOPSIS

One of the contemporary art world's most acclaimed mixed-media & performance artists, the masked and merkin-clad Narcissister is the subject of this smart, sassy documentary that showcases her spectacle-rich approach to explorations of gender, racial identity, and sexuality.

Directed by the enigmatic artist herself, the film deconstructs her celebrated stage shows which combine dance, elaborate costumes, pop music hits, unabashed eroticism and heavy doses of humor. From public outings with Marilyn Manson to a stint on AMERICA'S GOT TALENT - Narcissister is no stranger to the spotlight. This doc goes behind her iconic mask - revealing her experience growing up and feeling ostracized in blonde-haired, blue-eyed Southern California as the child of a Sephardic Jewish mother and an African-American father.

As Narcissister pushes the boundaries of contemporary art, she must also contend with the waning health of her biggest champion: her eccentric and loving mother. With as much to say about self-love as self-loathing in women's lives, *Narcissister Organ Player* is a thrilling, profound and utterly moving experience

LOGLINE

Narcissister Organ Player is a hybrid personal documentary/performance film that is a vibrant portrait of a family, a radical artistic practice, and an exploration of how ancestral data is stored in our bodies, impacting the lives we lead.



SELECT PRESS FOR NARCISSISTER ORGAN PLAYER

“[A]n enigmatic performance (and performer) that thrives in absurdity yet isn’t afraid to play with sentimentality.” – *Austin Chronicle*

“We feel the ecstasy and anguish of Narcissister as she dives headfirst into her reservoir of pain. And what a thrilling, profound experience it is. Trust me: you’ve never seen anything like it.”
-*The Daily Beast*

“Narcissister has made a career out of provocation. Her uncompromising explorations of gender, racial identity, and sexuality celebrate yet subvert pop culture in humorous ways that prove surprisingly accessible to audiences.” - *ScreenAnarchy*

“A hybrid of performance art film and personal documentary on her relationship with her family.” – *Filmmaker Magazine*

SELECT PRESS FOR NARCISSISTER

“Narcissister is turning out to be the queer feminist superhero New York always needed.” - *HuffPost*

“In a time of endless debate over who gets to use which cultural symbols—from Emmett Till to the #metoo hashtag—this work makes the case that culture isn't something that fixed or owned; it's entirely mutable. And when engaged with respectfully and creatively, it has the power to help us reimagine ourselves.” - *Vice*

SELECT AWARDS & FESTIVALS

Nominee, Best First Feature - Locarno Film Festival

Nominee, Best Documentary - Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival

Official Selection - Sundance Film Festival

Official Selection - South by Southwest

Official Selection - Frameline

Official Selection - Las Vegas Film Festival

Official Selection - Marfa Film Festival

Official Selection - OutFest

Official Selection - Contrast Film Festival

Official Selection - Boston Women’s Film Festival

Credits

Director	Narcissister
Producers	Narcissister, Taryn Gould
Cinematography	Bernard Isaac Lumpkin, PJ Norman, Keefe Murren, Ava Porter Sarah Lyon, Harlee Ludwig, Joseph Kraska, Irvin Coffee, Harry Geller, Ian Sklarsky, Andrew Curran, Vinay Chowdhry
Editor	Taryn Gould
Additional Editor	Bara Jichova Tyson
Lighting Design	Keefe Murren
Production Design	Narcissister
Sound Design	Taryn Gould
Supervising Sound Editor	John Bosch
Colorist	Matthew Greenberg, Ryan Berger
Poetry	Sarah Benzaquen Lumpkin

ARTIST STATEMENT

Narcissister employs a spectacle-rich approach to explorations of gender, racial identity, and sexuality. Humor, pop songs, elaborate costumes, contemporary dance, and her trademark mask are her tools in deconstructing stereotypical representations. By opening up and turning against themselves what Stuart Hall calls "fixed and closed stereotypical representations," Narcissister exposes, in live performance, video and photography, the practice of representation itself, and challenges the audience to question its own attraction and repulsion.

Narcissister questions fetishism, particularly sexual fetishism, which is notorious in its fixing of racist and gendering stereotypes. Rather than abandon this contaminated site, Narcissister dives headlong into the muck, into the depths of the fantasy and fetish itself, to expose and deconstruct their power. Intervening in the exchange between the image and its psychic meaning uncovers the collective fantasies with which we invest these images, and forces representation open.

Narcissister performances, videos, and images, with their unabashed eroticism, therefore question, rather than merely provide, titillation. In addition, humor (Narcissister's key subversive tool) and deliberately shocking gestures and imagery resist the easy thrill of unexamined sexuality and self-display.

Both Narcissister's name and her mask reflect the double dynamic created with the work. The Narcissister mask is a repurposed wig display form designed in Los Angeles in 1965 by female entrepreneur Verna Doran. Falling within the narrow conception of femininity and beauty still predominant in the culture, the mask draws in the viewer; simultaneously, the mask – a tool for acquiring and establishing superiority and separation – pushes the viewer away. Similarly, the name Narcissister, while evoking the dysfunction of narcissism, also connotes – through humorous punning – both sisterhood and concerns beyond the self. Self-absorption thus gives

way to self-scrutiny through the expansive collection of both culturally significant and culturally debased characters she portrays.

Always staying true to her essential self (a self embodied by the mask), Narcissister enacts the shifting and changing of roles and identities skillfully and gracefully, a nod to the need to accept and surrender to impermanence in the Buddhist sense. Wearing the mask, and portraying a variety of roles, Narcissister is an example of a visceral and kinesthetic experience of seeing the world through another's eyes, of seeing another point of view, and thereby allowing for a broader transpersonal experience.



About Film Movement

Founded in 2002 as one of the first-ever subscription film services with its DVD-of-the-Month club, Film Movement is now a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 250 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide. Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign art house titles. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Melanie Laurent. In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, Sergio Corbucci and Ettore Scola. For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.