



Land of Missing Parts Productions presents

RESURRECT DEAD

THE MYSTERY OF THE TOYNBEE TILES

A FILM BY JON FOY



TRT: 85 min. | U.S.A. | color

Produced by JON FOY and COLIN SMITH. Executive

Produced by DOUG BLOCK

BOOKING CONTACT

Jim Browne
Argot Pictures
jim@argotpictures.com
Tel: 718-369-1180

NY PRESS CONTACTS

Harris Dew / Chris Wells
Hdew@ifccenter.com
Cwells@ifccenter.com
Tel: 212-924-6789

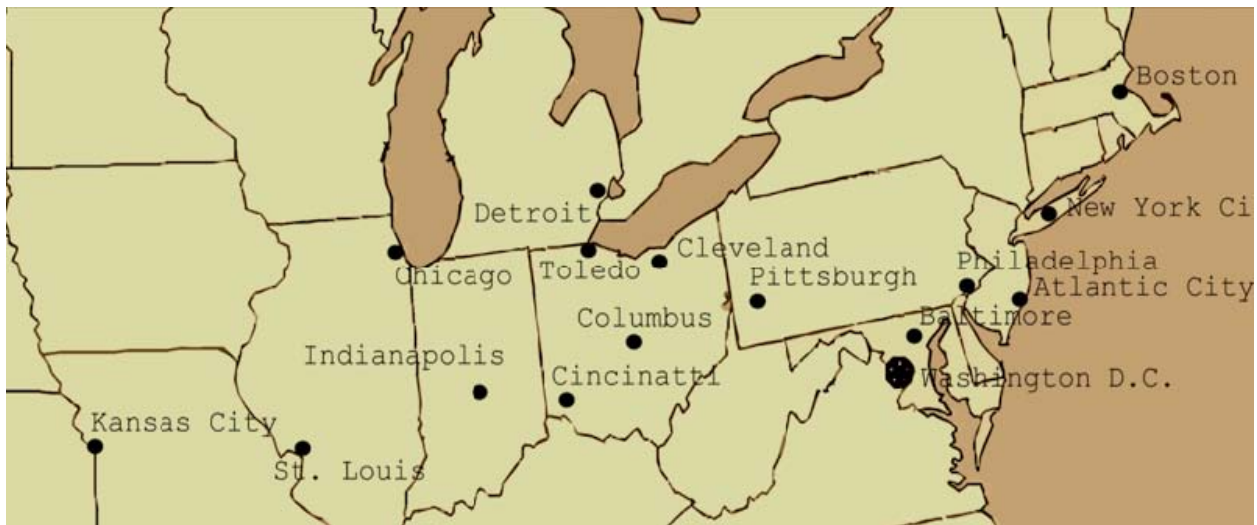
CAPSULE SYNOPSIS

'Toynbee Idea in Movie 2001. Resurrect Dead on Planet Jupiter.'

Strangeness is afoot. Most people don't notice the hundreds of cryptic tiled messages about resurrecting the dead that have been appearing in city streets over the past three decades. But Justin Duerr does. For years, finding an answer to this long-standing urban mystery has been his obsession. He has been collecting clues that the tiler has embedded in the streets of major cities across the U.S. and South America. But as Justin starts piecing together key events of the past he finds a story that is more surreal than he imagined, and one that hits disturbingly close to home.

SYNOPSIS

Filmmaker Jon Foy and Philadelphia-based artist and musician Justin Duerr began planning a documentary film about the Toynbee Tiles in 2000. Five years later, they began filming their investigation of these strange street plaques embedded in the asphalt of major U.S. and South American urban intersections that had held Duerr's fascination for over a decade. Having appeared on hundreds of reported examples from the mid-1980s to present, the cryptic four-line message of the Toynbee Tiles read: "Toynbee Idea / In Kubrick's 2001 / Resurrect Dead / On Planet Jupiter". While the text on the plaques was clear enough, neither Duerr nor the numerous media outlets that had documented the phenomenon knew what these tiles meant, how or why they were installed, or who was responsible for them.

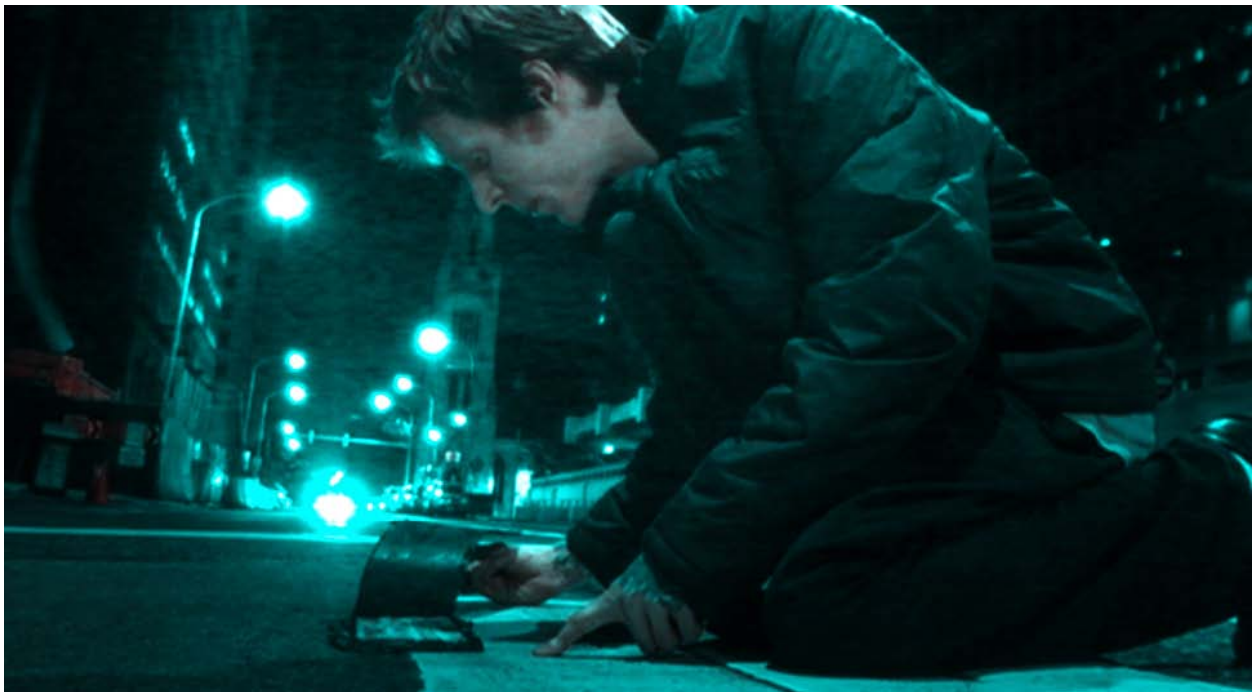


Duerr's interest in the tiles began in 1994, when he moved from rural Pennsylvania to Philadelphia and began noticing them while working as a foot courier in the city's business district. He documented dozens of tiles downtown, and was struck by how little attention the bizarre phenomenon received from other pedestrians. He was shocked when, several years later, he discovered an obscure website on the Internet documenting tile sightings in other cities like New York, Baltimore, St. Louis and Boston, which he would later visit; soon, tile sightings soon appeared as far away as Buenos Aires and Santiago. Despite this prolifacy, Duerr could find no answers as to what the texts meant or who was responsible for them, although marginal clues towards the artist's identity slowly began to mount. In 2000, his obsession was amplified by a near run-in with the tiler when Duerr found a freshly laid tile in front of a local convenience store late at night. Having missed the tiler by minutes, Duerr vowed to definitively solve the mystery of the Toynbee Tiles.

Teaming up with local Toynbee Tile fanatics Steve Weinik and Colin Smith, Duerr began his quest with few clues towards the tiler's identity. The investigation led the team through a series of strange and unexpected turns from the discovery of a Jupiter colonization organization to the David Mamet play "4 a.m." and a TV news hijacker with a cryptic message. Along the way, the team met with the eccentric residents in the deepest reaches of South Philadelphia and dedicated shortwave radio buffs for clues and guidance. As the picture of the Toynbee Tiles' narrative slowly entered into focus, Duerr was shocked by the answers he was uncovering and his unexpected emotional connection to the elusive tiler.

An artfully crafted documentary, ***Resurrect Dead: The Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles*** is both an account of Duerr's own obsession and a meditation on the broadly defined drive towards cathartic realization in the face of towering obscurity. The information age has seen few mysteries as impenetrable as that of the Toynbee Tiles, and the film champions the underdog accomplishments of these unlikely investigators. The documentary creates an atmosphere of magical realism as the unexpected pieces of this complex puzzle click into place.

Resurrect Dead: The Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles is a Land of Missing Parts production. The film is directed, edited, photographed and scored by Jon Foy. It is written and produced by Jon Foy and Colin Smith, and executive produced by Doug Block.



Justin Duerr photographed by Jon Foy

INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR JON FOY

Hollywood in the 1980s and Punk Rock culture...

The seed was planted by those fantastical Hollywood films of my childhood in the 80's. By age eleven, I had my mind set on going into film, so I was shooting home videos with my friends on the weekends. I spent much of my early adulthood steeped in Punk Rock culture, so that shaped my outlook on art and gave form to those childhood dreams.

It all started with a prank phone call...

Believe it or not, I first met Justin, the protagonist, by prank calling him. The call was directed at his roommate, but Justin mistook it as a breakthrough in the mystery he'd been pursuing. So I introduced myself in order to apologize for the misunderstanding. Right then, as I met him, it just clicked and I told him we'd make this into a movie one day. That was summer 2000. Five years later I dropped out of school and moved back to start filming.

Magical Realism and documentary...

I wanted to make a documentary that had a feeling of magical realism. There's been a trend of low-fi fictional films that present themselves as found footage or with varying degrees of verisimilitude. I thought it'd be interesting to go the opposite way and make a movie that is actually real, but has a feeling of unreality to it.

A film funded by mops and buckets...

I self-funded this film with my wages as a house cleaner, so I had to come up with a lot of creative ways around problems that are usually solved with money. When presented with these types of problems, I'd tell myself I have to "film-make" my way out of them.

A surreal experience...

In the course of filming our movie, we took a road trip about halfway across the country. We listened to a bunch of music from the band Dead Kennedys in the car to pass the time. On the last night of our trip, things worked out that we were able to meet and actually hang out with the band's legendary singer, Jello Biafra. We got to tell him about our movie too, which was a surreal way to end the trip.

A place where magic and imagination can still exist...

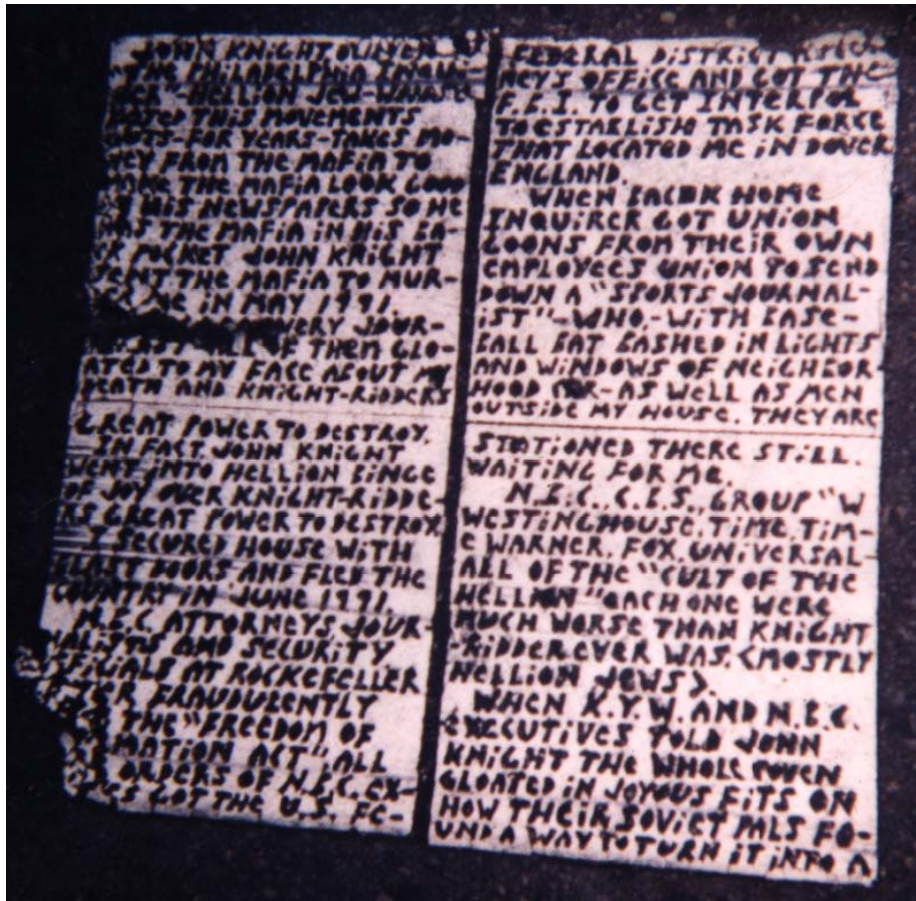
Speaking for myself, it's gratifying to know that in the information age there are still shadowy crevices of the world where mystery and perplexity can still live. These dark corners of the world are diminishing in number, but it's where magic and imagination can still exist.

The accessibility of filmmaking...

Speaking for myself, it's gratifying to know that in the information age there are still shadowy crevices of the world where mystery and perplexity can still live. These dark corners of the world are diminishing in number, but it's where magic and imagination can still exist.

Yet another movie about anthropomorphism, corporate branding and imaginary friends...

I'm fascinated with the ideas of anthropomorphism, corporate branding and imaginary friends, so I am developing a narrative film around those elements. I've got a whole slew of ideas, actually, so I'll be blocking out time to develop several stories and then seeing which one of them jumps out at me.



The "Manifesto Tile:" the most informative of all the tiles which hints at the background of the **tiler**. (credit: Foy)



Associate producer and photographer Steve Weinik photographed by Jon Foy.

CAST AND CREW BIOS

Jon Foy

Director, producer, writer, editor, composer

Filmmaker and musical composer Jon Foy started planning his documentary about the mysterious Toynbee tiles with artist Justin Duerr a decade ago, and began filming in 2005 after dropping out of film school in Austin, TX. While working on the film, the Philadelphia native sustained himself by cleaning houses and participating in medical research studies. A seasoned rock musician, Foy taught himself the art of film score composition for *Resurrect Dead: The Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles*, and also scored 2008's *The Chinese Room*. *Resurrect Dead* is his directorial debut.

Doug Block

Executive producer

Doug Block is a New York-based filmmaker best known as the director of the critically lauded documentaries *The Heck With Hollywood!* (1991), *Home Page* (1999), *51 Birch Street* (2005) and *The Kids Grow Up* (2010), currently in theatrical release. His producing credits include the Sundance award-winners *Silverlake Life* and *Jupiter's Wife, Love and Diane*, *Paternal Instinct*, *A Walk Into the Sea: Danny Williams and the Warhol Factory* and *The Edge of Dreaming*. Block is also the founder and cohost of The D-Word (www.d-word.com), the popular online discussion forum for documentary filmmakers worldwide.

Justin Duerr

Star

Justin Duerr is a prolific musician and artist. He has closely followed the Toynbee tiles since his relocation to Philadelphia in 1994, and serves as a leading voice in Toynbee tile scholarship. Duerr is a veteran of the celebrated art-punk bands Northern Liberties, Eulogy, Hex 9, and other musical projects too extensive to list. His art has appeared in numerous galleries and disparate media. Since 2008 he has shown his pieces through Coalition Ingenu, a local non-profit that presents work by self-taught artists. He is employed in Philadelphia as a house painter.

Colin Smith

Producer, writer, co-star In addition to moderating the Toynbee Tiles' Internet message board, also called *Resurrect Dead*, Colin Smith has written and spoken about the Toynbee tiles in numerous capacities. Smith holds B.A. degrees in Philosophy and Classics from Temple University, and is a life-long Philadelphia area resident. Like director Jon Foy, he sustained himself during the making of the film by working as a house cleaner. Smith is also a musician and writer. *Resurrect Dead: The Mystery of the Toynbee Tiles* is his first film.

Steve Weinik

Associate producer, photographer, co-star

Steve Weinik has followed the Toynbee tiles since his days in Philadelphia grade schools, and has served as a leading voice in Toynbee tile research. He holds a degree in History from the University of Pennsylvania and is a life-long Philadelphia resident. He is a photographer, writer and blogger, and works with Philadelphia's renowned Mural Arts Program.

CREDITS

Land of Missing Parts Productions presents

Edited and Directed by
JON FOY

Written and Produced by JON
FOY and COLIN SMITH

Executive Produced by
DOUG BLOCK

Associate Produced by
STEVE WEINIK

Researched by
JUSTIN DUERR
JON FOY COLIN
SMITH STEVE
WEINIK

Illustrations by
MATT ROTA

Original Score Written and Performed by
JON FOY

Director of Photography and Camera
JON FOY

Additional Camera
COLIN SMITH
STACEY CLAMPITT

Production
JON FOY
COLIN SMITH

Pre-Production Assistance
YONI KROLL

Sales Representation JOSH BRAUN for
SUBMARINE ENTERTAINMENT

Legal Council
DANIEL SATORIUS
MARC SIMON

Additional Legal Advice
DAVE HAENDLER

Still Photography
STEVE WEINIK

Archival Footage and Still Photographs Courtesy of:

Duane Duerr
Justin Duerr
Linda Duerr
Jamie Faulstich
Chris Flynn Jon
Foy NASA Bill
O'Neill Kevin
Reilly Colin
Smith

Featuring Justin Duerr
Marc Duerr Kevin Riley
Abby Miller Steve
Weinik Colin Smith
Frannie Seybold Anna
Marie Thompson Joe
Raimondo Tom Ledoux
Bill Oliver Ed Mauger
Harold Cones Tim Tron
John T. Arthur George
Arone Rose Pedula

Jon Foy - 'Manifesto tile' narration
Kate Black-Regan - Eric's sister

Original Score written and performed by Jon Foy
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"Also sprach Zarathustra" Written by Richard
Strauss Performed by the Berlin Philharmonic
Orchestra Conducted by Herbert von Karajan
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