



EXPERIMENTA: ANDREA LUKA ZIMMERMAN
UK PREMIERE

Wayfaring Stranger

Wayfaring Stranger

Directed and filmed by: Andrea Luka Zimmerman
Written by: Andrea Luka Zimmerman, Gareth Evans
Commissioned and funded by:
The Wapping Project
Produced by: Marta Michalowska,
Thomas Zanon-Larcher
Co-produced by: Andrea Luka Zimmerman
Edited by: Taina Galis, Andrea Luka Zimmerman
Sound Design by: Chris Watson
Music by: Balamuc, Fern Maddie
Title song 'Wayfaring Stranger' performed by:
Fern Maddie
The performers:
Eileen Myles
Eirini Ampatzi Ippikoglou
Michiko Oki
Moon Nanook Guo-Barker
Mwiinga Twyman
Therese Henningsen
Xiaolu Guo
With a special performance from Tizzy-Rose,
Callum Hickey, Ash & Ella
UK 2024
69 mins
Digital

+ Q&A with Andrea Luka Zimmerman; hosted by artist Larry Achiampong

Wayfaring Stranger charts the life of an itinerant character, embodied by seven performers across seven days, representing seven decades. Running from the city, through post-industrial edge lands and manicured enclaves, they find themselves in forests, farms, mountains and the shore. Along the way, they undergo a transformation, through the seasons and changing geography, both physically and emotionally, from youth to elderhood, and from a single, alienated being into an accepted element of the wider world. Each 'day' is a 'station' that signifies a turning point in a character's emotional development: from escape, through loss, grief and waywardness, to solidarity and co-existence.

Filmed in landscapes marked by centuries of ceaseless, often destructive, human interaction, *Wayfaring Stranger* asks what it takes to find a liveable life on one's own terms and without conflict with others and the environment. With text written and performed by acclaimed writer and poet Eileen Myles, and sound design by multi-award-winning sound recordist Chris Watson, the polyphonic environment scores the seasonal changes informing the life and geographic changes.

Director's statement

Wayfaring Stranger explores and embodies the search for what it means to live on one's own terms. It's a film about (not) being seen, and the lifelong journey towards self-determination, but from within the world we inhabit. In films like *Vagabond* (Agnès Varda, 1985) or *Mouchette* (Robert Bresson, 1967), the character who is surviving against the odds seems not to be allowed to keep living on their own terms. In the history of film, female-presenting characters are often killed off by the last act. The end is inscribed. I want to show something different. I'm more positively influenced by Barbara Loden's 1970 film *Wanda*. She wrote, directed and starred in this groundbreaking work based on her lived experience. She made the film on her own terms, and that's what I'm interested in.

At its core, *Wayfaring Stranger* proposes an otherwise of being, a radical refusal of what only is. We are not fully human unless we acknowledge we are in and of the world. Everything we encounter in the film reinforces this central idea. Through filmmaking I seek the poetry of precise and multi-dimensional observation, and, in *Wayfaring Stranger*, I want to bring to the fore this layered experience of being. The film pushes cinema as a somatic, experiential encounter and moves at a bodily pace. Each scene expresses a physical reality, manifesting the interior life, and threads it to the larger world. *Wayfaring Stranger* aims to offer a new perspective on life – one that emerges from a marginalised origin – seeking the right to assert a full presence in the world and define what survival means on one's own terms.

thewappingproject.org

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Taskafa, Stories of the Streets + intro by
Andrea Luka Zimmerman + **Omnibus: Parting**

Shots with Animals

Sat 7 Dec 14:50

Wayfaring Stranger

+ Q&A with Andrea Luka Zimmerman

Sat 7 Dec 18:00

The Globalisation Tapes + intro by Vision Machine
project member Andrea Luka Zimmerman
Wed 11 Dec 20:40

Art Class + discussion with Andrea Luka
Zimmerman and filmmaker Penny Woolcock
Fri 13 Dec 18:30

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Restored: The Roaring Twenties

Sun 8 Dec 12:30

Seniors' Free Talk: Writing for the Screen

Mon 9 Dec 11:00

Seniors' Free Matinee: In Custody

+ intro by screenwriter Farrukh Dhondy

Mon 9 Dec 14:00

Relaxed Screening: A Sudden Glimpse to

Deeper Things + discussion

Mon 9 Dec 18:40

Woman with a Movie Camera: The Widow

Mimangin

Wed 11 Dec 18:20 + intro; Mon 23 Dec 18:15;

Sat 28 Dec 20:30

Film Wallahs: Tere Mere Sapne

+ intro by Vibhu Vaibhav Anand

Thu 12 Dec 18:30

Projecting the Archive: The Brighton Strangler

+ extended intro by curator Ehsan Khoshbakht

Mon 16 Dec 18:35

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Andrea Luka Zimmerman is a Jarman Award winning artist, filmmaker and cultural activist whose multi-layered practice calls for a profound re-imagining of the relationship between people, place and ecology. Andrea asks how we might resist being framed exclusively through class, gender, ability or disability, and event through geography. Andrea's films employ imaginative hybridity and narrative re-framing, alongside reverie and a creative waywardness.

Andrea's films include: the award-winning, Artangel-produced *Here for Life* (2019), which received its world premiere in the Cineasti Del Presente international competition of the Locarno Film Festival; *Erase and Forget* (2017), which premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival (nominated for the Original Documentary Award), *Estate, a Reverie* (2015) (nominated for Best Newcomer at the Grierson awards) and *Taskafa, Stories of the Street* (2013), written and voiced by the late John Berger.

Andrea co-founded the cultural collectives Fugitive Images and Vision Machine (with collaborators on the Academy Award nominated feature documentary *The Look of Silence*). Andrea's work is held in the Arts Council Collection, the BFI National Archive, and is distributed by Modern Films, LUX, Grasshopper Films and Second Run DVD internationally.

Larry Achiampong's projects employ film, still imagery, aural and visual archives, live performance, objects, sound and game design to explore ideas surrounding class, gender, cross-cultural and digital identity. With works that examine his communal and personal heritage – in particular, the intersection between popular culture and the residues of colonisation, Achiampong crate-digs the vaults of history. These investigations examine constructions of 'the self' through the activity of splicing the audible and visual materials of personal and interpersonal archives, offering multiple perspectives that reveal the deeply entrenched inequalities in contemporary society.

In 2022 Achiampong released his first feature and most ambitious film to date – *Wayfinder*, which was distributed by Verve Pictures for cinematic release across the UK and is available on DVD and major streaming platforms. *Wayfinder* was longlisted for a BAFTA award in 2023 in the category 'Outstanding Debut by a British Writer, Director Or Producer'.

Achiampong has presented projects across the UK and globally, including commissions with Art on the Underground, London (2022); The Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool (2021) and The Line, London (2020).