

media alert

wexner center
for the arts

MEDIA ALERT

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COMING SOON TO THE WEXNER CENTER...

IN THE REALMS OF THE UNREAL:

THE MYSTERIOUS LIFE AND ART OF HENRY DARGER

DOCUMENTARY EXPLORES SECRET WORLD OF EMINENT 'OUTSIDER ARTIST'

In the Realms of the Unreal: The Mysterious Life and Art of Henry Darger, a documentary by Academy Award-winning director **Jessica Yu**, will be screened at the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater Thursday-Saturday, **May 5-7 at 7 pm**. The film provides a sympathetic but haunting look at one of the 20th century's most eminent "outsider artists."

Reclusive Chicago janitor by day, obsessive visual artist and writer by night, Darger was only revealed to be an astonishingly gifted visionary after his death in 1973, when his landlord discovered hundreds of his paintings and drawings, along with his 15,000 page, single-spaced manuscript titled *In the Realms of the Unreal*, a fantastic epic of the warrior Vivian Girls facing armies of their mortal enemies. Exploring outsider art from the inside, and avoiding standard documentary techniques, Yu employs vivid animation and experimental elements to immerse us in Darger's world. Her film argues that Darger concocted a triumphant artistic legacy from the bleak circumstances of his own life, one that continues to influence artists worldwide.

Dargers's works have twice been shown at the Wexner Center: in 1999 as part of an exhibition called *Self-Taught Artists of the 20th Century: An American Anthology* and in 2004 as part of *Splat Boom Pow!: The Influence of Cartoons in Contemporary Art*.

What: Screenings of *In the Realms of the Unreal* (Jessica Yu, 2004), an innovative documentary examining the strange vision and work of outsider artist Henry Darger

When: Thursday-Saturday, May 5-7 / 7 pm

Where: Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St.

Tickets: \$6 for the general public and \$4 for Wexner Center members, students, and senior citizens. Call 614-292-3535 for advance tickets. Tickets also available at the door.

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