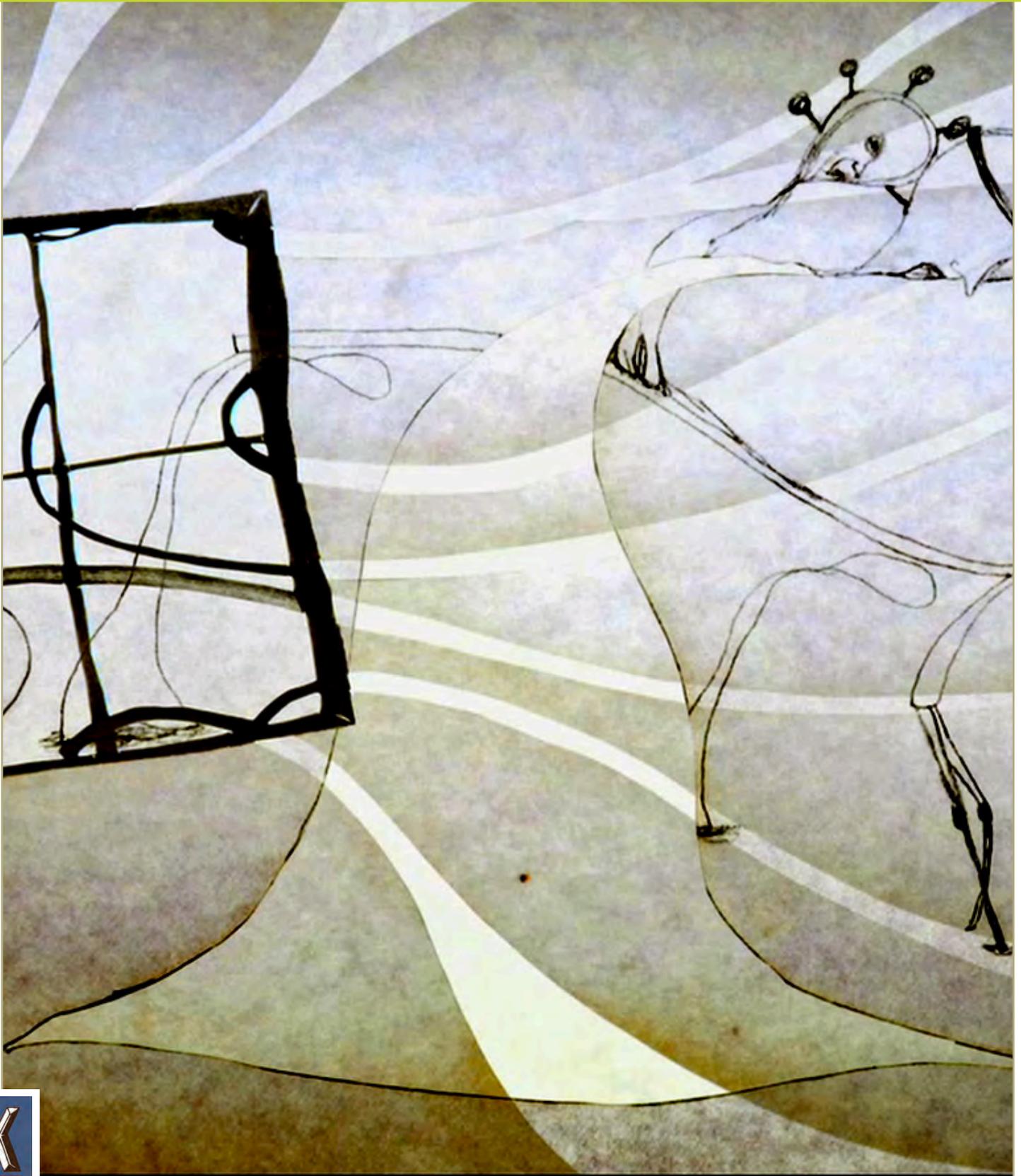


BRENT GREEN / A BRIEF SPARK BOOKENDED BY DARKNESS w/ The Messthetics



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ABOUT A BRIEF SPARK BOOKENDED BY DARKNESS

A wholly unique live cinema experiment live cinema conceived and illustrated by acclaimed filmmaker, musician and author Brent Green, the work features live music by The Messthetics (Brendan Canty and Joe Lally of Fugazi with guitarist Anthony Pirog) and includes several short film works all narrated live with additional musical accompaniment. The full length evening of work includes *A Brief Spark Bookended by Darkness*, *Carlin*, *Paulina Hollers*, *Hadacol Christmas* and *Strange Fates*, along with Green's own commentary and unfurling rapport with the audience that defines the unique, localized experience of every engagement.

A Brief Spark Bookended by Darkness is characterized by Green's spindly drawing style and moving musical score guided by spoken lyrics in the artist's inimitable, quivering voice. The story he recounts is caught up in despair and apprehension – as he seeks comfort by losing himself in his love of another. The world that Green presents is so intimate as to verge on the claustrophobic, a startling carnival set-up in a cramped bedroom. Though made to appear damaged and from another era, everything about *A Brief Spark* is calculated, considered and timed to affect. All of this poignantly represents Green's themes of deep and desperate love, in a world that is endlessly on the verge of calamity.





Heart beat through
a tin-can stethoscope.

String



TOUR & PRODUCTION

AVAILABILITY

2019-20 WORLDWIDE OPEN

Space:	Black Box / Proscenium	Production:	Cinematic Video Projection Band /Vocal Amplification Backline
Tour Personnel:	4 Performers 1 Tech / Company Management		
Schedule:	Same Day Load-in / Tech / Perform		



COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

Working on his farm outside of New Paltz, NY, **Brent Green** is a self-taught visual artist and filmmaker. Green's films have screened, often with live musical accompaniment, in film and art settings alike at venues such as MoMA, BAM, The Getty, Walker, Hammer Museum,

The Kitchen, Boston MFA, Wexner, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Rotterdam Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival as well as rooftops, warehouses and galleries throughout the globe. Often, his sculptural work and large-scale installation are displayed alongside his animated films, he's had solo exhibitions at

a bunch of places including the ASU Art Museum, Site Santa Fe, The Kohler Arts Center and the Berkeley Art Museum. Green's work has been supported by Creative Capital, the Sundance Institute, San Francisco Film Society and the MAPfund. His art is in some fine public collections including MoMA, the Hammer Museum and the American Folk Art Museum. Green is represented by the Andrew Edlin Gallery in NYC.



Brendan Canty is best known as the drummer in the band Fugazi. Canty joined Fugazi in 1987, before which time he played in Rites of Spring, One Last Wish, Deadline, Insurrection, and Happy Go Licky. In addition to producing records for all kinds of great bands (the Thermals, Ted Leo, Garland of Hours, Benjy Ferree) Canty frequently composes soundtrack music, primarily for Discovery Channel and National Geographic Channel documentaries and independent features. In 2004, Canty co-founded the DVD label Trixie to release an ongoing series of music-related films entitled Burn To Shine. The series involves independent bands from a particular city showing up to perform one song each, live, without overdubs or corrections, in a condemned house. It's beautiful. The films and performances are

urgent and inspired, and the portraits of musicians and houses expose the transient nature of our world.

Trixie has also produced films about Bob Mould, Wilco, Death Cab for Cutie, Eddie Vedder and the Decemberists. He currently lives in Washington, DC with his wife and four children and has been touring around with his new band Mess-thetics.



Best known as a member of Fugazi, **Joe Lally** first learned bass after seeing a Minor Threat show with Dag Nasty's Peter Cortner, which prompted them to form a band. In 1987 he joined up with Ian MacKaye, Brendan Canty, and Guy Picciotto to make Fugazi, one of the most important groups in the American underground scene. In 2002, as Fugazi was on hiatus, Lally got together with ex-Frodus members Shelby Cinca and Jason Hamacher as Black Sea and released a single that year, soon after changing their name to Decahedron

and issuing a full-length, *Disconnection Imminent*, in 2004. That same year Lally joined up with John Frusciante and Josh Klinghoffer as Ataxia and released *Automatic Writing*. During this same time period Lally also ran the small label Tolotta, which he initially started in order to help distribute singles from bands who might have had trouble getting their



music out otherwise, though he did end up putting out some full-lengths from artists like Spirit Caravan and Stinking Lizaveta. In 2006 Lally released his first solo record, *There to Here*, a sparse, bass-driven set, on the D.C. punk label (run by MacKaye) Dischord, while *Nothing Is Underrated*, which featured contributions from both MacKaye and Picciotto, among others, appeared the following year.

THE MESSTHETICS



Dr. Thomas Stanley (aka Bushmeat Sound) on The Messthetics:

The last time drummer Brendan Canty and bassist Joe Lally were in a band together, they were the rhythmic architects for Fugazi, an organization whose decade and a half of disciplined progressivism provided a necessary bridge between the zenith of late-punk expression and everything alternative in rock that followed. In 2016, the two were enlisted by guitarist Anthony Pirog in a conspiracy to subvert and reimagine the power trio, bringing fully into the 21st Century a form that may have reached near perfection with Hendrix's Band of Gypsys on the very first day of the 1970s.

With a self-titled recording scheduled for release in the Spring of 2018 on Dischord, the Messthetics will widen the reach of a decisive instrumental music that so far, they have only shared with a privileged handful of east coast and southern audiences. Across its eight original compositions and one cover, Anthony guides the sound through complex changes and harmonic densities that might compound, but never confound or muddy its connection with the listener's body. Recorded by Brendan in their practice space, the group's debut gives Anthony ample opportunities to swap guitar textures and styles as freely as an octopus changes patterns.

Brendan's kit has a big heavy bell that he brought back from the Fugazi days. He maneuvers through this rhythmically shifty music with a fluid briskness that is periodically disrupted by the clang of his bell. Joe spent 8 years in Italy, among other things, woodshedding on eastern rhythms counted in 7 and 13, perfect preparation for the oddly-metered work of the Messthetics. He brings a rock-solid foundation to the groove at the same time playing a harmonic complement as ambitious and interesting as Anthony's lines.

Bands can be dangerous when their members have accrued enough mileage to see their chops season into something like musical wisdom. When that understanding has the rare opportunity to percolate through a collaborative environment founded in love and anchored in gratitude, well, then shit can get rather intense. Anthony Pirog writes difficult music because original music usually is. Yet the ideas that he feeds through the Messthetics, are embraced by the Canty-Lally time machine, not just with precision and nuance, but with soul, joy, and groove. These last three are, indeed, the big guns in this spiritual war that music must become in the post-Trump era.

Their performances and this debut recording have a lift and buoyancy that reflect back into the audience the love and gratitude at the foundation of this trio's journey.

ARTIST MATERIALS & PRESS

Brent Green Website Website: <https://site.nervousfilms.com>

Brent Green Film Samples: <https://site.nervousfilms.com/multimedia/>
Gravity Was Everywhere Back Then (Full Version)
<https://vimeo.com/46885196>
password: paulbunyan

The Messthetics <https://themessthetics.bandcamp.com>
<https://www.dischord.com/band/messthetics>



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