

JOHN WATERS' KIDDIE FLAMINGOS MAKES MUSEUM DEBUT AT THE BMA

The 72-minute video will be on shown on continuous loop in the Black Box Gallery

BALTIMORE, MD (August 25, 2016)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) presents *Black Box: John Waters' Kiddie Flamingos*, on view September 21, 2016 through January 22, 2017. For the 2014 video, Waters filmed children reading a G-rated version of the cult classic, *Pink Flamingos*, and has said this new version is in some ways more perverse than the original. The presentation of the film is organized by Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Kristen Hileman and presented in the Black Box Gallery in the museum's contemporary wing.

Waters' notorious *Pink Flamingos*—promoted as an “exercise in bad taste”—premiered in 1972 at the third annual Baltimore Film Festival. The film follows an outrageous competition for the title of “Filthiest People Alive,” which unfolds in a trailer in Phoenix, MD and at other sites throughout Baltimore City. Today, *Pink Flamingos* is internationally celebrated as a pioneering example of underground filmmaking.



“Wearing disheveled wigs, the Baltimore-based amateur cast of *Kiddie Flamingos* vividly evokes the performances of Divine, Mink Stole, Edith Massey, and the other unforgettably eccentric actors of Waters' earlier film,” said Kristen Hileman, Senior Curator of Contemporary Art. “At the same time, the children display their own sincerity and delight as they make their way through a deeply unconventional narrative.”

Waters' distinctive voice delivers stage directions off camera while the children earnestly perform their roles. Those who have seen the original film will recognize that, though purged of its obscenity, the new script artfully alludes to the indelible scenes that make *Pink Flamingos* scandalous to this day.

In fall 2018, *Kiddie Flamingos* will be featured again at the BMA as part of a major retrospective of Waters' visual arts career organized by the museum.

ABOUT JOHN WATERS

Over a career spanning four decades, Baltimore-based John Waters' (b. 1946) has been a film director, screenwriter, actor, journalist, and visual artist. His photography, sculptures, and installations are subject to the same satirical vision Waters brings to his films, as he often re-edits and re-contextualizes iconic film imagery in a hilarious questioning of popular culture and conventions. Themes and motifs of provocation—race, sex, gender, consumerism, and religion—are unapologetically central to his practice, and presented with a brand of wit and cynicism that is uniquely John Waters.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 objects—including the largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; significant artworks from China; stunning Antioch mosaics; and an exceptional collection of art from Africa. The BMA's galleries also showcase examples from one of the nation's finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped sculpture gardens. As a major cultural destination for the region, the BMA hosts a dynamic program of exhibitions, events, and educational programs throughout the year. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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Image:

John Waters. *Kiddie Flamingos*. 2014.

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