



Outfest 2011
The 29th Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

PLATINUM

Presents

SILVER & GOLD

By Filmmaker & Artist
Nao Bustamante



USA, Performance Running Time: 45 minutes

More Info on Ms. Bustamante: www.naobustamante.com

To download high-resolution images: www.naobustamante.com/press.html

For Tickets: <http://www.outfest.org/tixSYS/2011/filmguide/films/3438>

CONTACT

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One Night Only!

**Nao Bustamante’s Filmformance & Jack Smith’s Short film!
Saturday, July 16, 2011, 7:30 PM**

REDCAT Theatre

at Walt Disney Concert Hall

\$13, Members \$9

tickets: <http://www.outfest.org/tixSYS/2011/filmguide/films/3438>

Silver & Gold

Platinum

(USA, 2010, 45 mins)

Directed By: Nao Bustamante

Silver & Gold is Nao Bustamante's new creation, a living, breathing “filmformance” combining film, live performance, audience interaction and original campy costumes. She is inspired by queer godfather filmmaker Jack Smith and channels his muse, 1940s Dominican movie star Maria Montez, in a bizarre and radical exploration of race, glamour and the silver screen. This is Bustamante’s first full production of *Silver & Gold* in the Los Angeles area. A trailer may be seen at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/naosfan>

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Preceding *Silver & Gold* is a very special screening:

I Was A Male Yvonne De Carlo

Platinum

(USA, 1979, 20 mins)

16mm

Directed By: Jack Smith

Avant-garde provocateur and queer godfather, Jack Smith is Yvonne De Carlo, the antithesis of Maria Montez and false movie goddess in this rare document of Jack Smith in performance on film.

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Later that night, at the Alexandria Hotel...

Platinum 10th Anniversary Party!

Outfest, Lez at the Mezz and Mustache Mondays present NIGHT MOVES: THE PLATINUM 10th ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The 10th anniversary celebration will climax with NIGHT MOVES: THE PLATINUM 10th ANNIVERSARY PARTY at the haunted Alexandria Hotel in downtown Los Angeles where hostess Nao Bustamante will guarantee you dance, sweat and squeal to the music spun by DJ AUTOMATON and DJ Kim Ahn. Artists including The Ladyboys of Sweaty Sundays choreographed by Ryan Heffington, Heather Cassils, Christopher Kreiling, Vagina Wolf with PERMS, Pigs in the Parlour, Drew Droege, and Crafternoon among others will pepper the party, hide in the shadows and perform work inspired by the space.

Alexandria Hotel, Mezzanine Level

9:30 PM – 2:00 AM

\$10 cover at the door, \$5 with Platinum ticket stub or Outpass

Outlaws, renegades, art stars, trendsetters and underground smut have participated in Platinum through the years. Ron Athey, Vaginal Cream Davis, Shari Frilot, Bruce LaBruce, Barbara Hammer, Hans Scheirl, Tom Chomont, Arthur Russell, Peter Berlin, Jenn Reeves, Penny Arcade, Catherine Opie, Juliana Snapper, among others... the list is longer than Carolee Schneemann’s scroll.

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Silver and Gold Performance History

*Sundance International Film Festival 2010, New Frontiers, Park City, Utah, January 24, 26, & 28, 2010.

*THE HISTORY OF THE FUTURE II, Franklin Furnace, with Performa 09, Abrons Art Center/Henry Street Settlement, Manhattan, New York November 6 - 7, 2009.

*LIVE FILM! JACK SMITH! Five Flaming Days in a Rented World, Theatre HAU 1, Berlin, Germany October 31, 2009

*PERFORM! NOW! Chung King Projects, Los Angeles, California July 25, 2009 (not full production)

*18th Annual HOT! Festival, Dixon Place, New York, New York



July 05, 2009

*New Silent, organized by Rhizome, New Museum, New York, New York, June 19, 2009

*Joe's Pub, New York, New York, June 4, 2009

Silver & Gold Main Production Credits

Nao Bustamante

director/writer/performer/editor

Ava Berkofsky

director of photography

Daniel Eduvijes Carrera

shadow dancer

Ruthie Doyle

assistant camera

Eleanor Goldsmith

still photography & giver of golden light

Victoria Kereszi

props master & production assistant

Andrew Lynn

stop-motion animation & technical assistance

Seana Biondolillo

penis-image craft & dildo bejeweler

Salvatore Salamone

headdress construction

Branda Miller

production impresaria

**Commissioned by the LIVE FILM/ Jack Smith festival,
co-organized by Arsenal Institute for Film and
Video Art and Hebbel-am-Ufer Theater (HAU) in Berlin**

Produced at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute iEAR Studios



S y n o p s i s

Silver & Gold combines film, live performance, and original costumes into a self-proclaimed "filmformance" in which Ms. Bustamante evokes the muse of legendary filmmaker Jack Smith and his tribute to 1940s Dominican movie starlet Maria Montez in a magical and joyfully twisted exploration of race, glamour, sexuality, and the silver screen.

In this performance event she alternates between action and live narration of an eight minute film projection. Inspired by iconic underground filmmaker Jack Smith, Bustamante interprets Smith's muse: 1940s Dominican movie starlet Maria Montez. Honing-in on Smith's interest in Hollywood's obsession with filmic reproduction of the exotic, Bustamante embodies Miss Montez. Using video, live voiceover, audience interaction, and the body as a source of backdrop, narrative, and emotion, she takes the spectator on a bizarre and radical journey as she discovers a new bejeweled body part, which is at once her curse and oracle. This new performance is the fruit of a commission by the LIVE FILM/ Jack Smith festival, co-organized by Arsenal Institute for Film and Video Art and Hebbel-am-Ufer Theater (HAU) in Berlin.

More info: <http://www.naobustamante.com>

Detailed Synopsis

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We begin our story with Maria rising to start her day of idealized and utopist labor: gathering the lilacs at the top of the season. She is solitary, yet divinely connected to nature. During her impossibly lovely work routine, she comes across a shimmering presence. It is a cheap mannequin with a sequin costume, but Maria sees a magical friend, which exuberantly takes her over and releases her from her diaphanous gown and transforms her into the queen of all her realm. At first Maria is willing to share her realm with the figure, but then discards it, as she steps into her new role of power. But this role comes with a hitch, as Maria discovers to her horror that she has acquired a penis along with the new costume and role. She hears a strange buzzing and discovers she is being chased by a swarm of penises! After a furtive chase she is knocked out cold, when she stumbles and hits her head on a rock by the creek. Lying in a state of unconsciousness, her penis turns into a pink, sparkling and talking oracle. He reassures her that her greatest curse is also her greatest blessing. The short film has a live overdub and is followed by a live show, which includes a raucous dance ala Arabian Nights, a death scene and Maria ultimately trying to sell the audience silver and gold from the afterlife.

This new performance is the fruit of a commission by the LIVE FILM/ Jack Smith festival, co-organized by Arsenal Institute for Film and Video Art and Hebbel-am-Ufer Theater (HAU) in Berlin.

A r t i s t S t a t e m e n t

I attempt to show my audience what they have not seen. Combining the familiar and the unexpected to unfold a psychological story of contentment and desire. My character reaches for more, gets it, then is consumed and damaged.

Like many, I had seen and was taken with Jack Smith's "Flaming Creatures." I hadn't however considered making work inspired by his artistry. When I received the commission to create a new work for the "LIVE FILM! JACK SMITH! Five Flaming Days in a Rented World!" I was in a panic. But, when I witnessed the archive, I realized why I was there. I was transported to my childhood, where I would pretend to be sick, skip school and watch 1940's musicals on TV. Jack and I were drinking from the same well. Like Jack, I too create worlds that go beyond fantasy,



working with conjured utopias. To be the Queen, to be loved and to be in charge, but be careful of that control and power!

I cannot compare my work to Jack's genius or prolific nature, but I can thank him for giving me a jumping off point for my own research into the exotic, and more precisely, the exotic as it is portrayed by Hollywood. Which is just enough (without going over budget) to create a world for the audience to be willingly fooled. This is not about authenticity, but the beautiful artificial. It cannot even claim to be simulation. It is better; it is imagination, combined with craft, combined with longing. I employ high camp and childlike crude theatrical technique. My effects are anything but special. It's not about believing it's real. You need to believe that my character believes in their own realness.

For my jumping off point I used this thought: What if Jack Smith could direct Maria Montez? What would he have her do? I saw Maria, the Queen of Technicolor, engaged in idyllic women's work, harvesting at the height of lilac season. A flower so delicate, that it begins to wither once it is cut, yet exuding a perfume that is transporting. In Maria's world, it is Utopia, yet absurd. Who would harvest bee's honey in the forest, wearing ballet slippers? She never completes her work, but like in many B movies, our heroine instead gets caught up in a magical adventure. Meandering between the ecstatic and horror.

Like many, my artworks don't fit neatly into the categories provided. And I don't subscribe to the notion of a commercial or an art perspective. From

a New Genres perspective, I employ, camera, craft, appropriation, and live action. Often the work can liken to body as sculpture, video as hieroglyph, and ephemera turned object. With *Silver & Gold* the boundaries between live and film/recorded have crumbled. I see each scene cinematically. I perform and develop that scene live, then restage that scene for the camera. The resulting short film included in the live performance is used to give a cinematic context for the live, which will then be restaged again for the camera and so on. Don't tell Outfest, but the work isn't finished yet. The filmformance continues.

Nao Bustamante

***Silver and Gold*, director/writer/performer/editor**



Artist Biography

Nao Bustamante is an internationally known and loved artist, originally from the San Joaquin Valley of California; cutting her teeth as an artist in the San Francisco "Art Scene" between 1984–2001. She attended San Francisco Art Institute, where she fell under the influence of the notorious New Genres Department. She now resides in upstate New York, where she teaches and canoes with her poodle, Fufu (who also has an IMDB page).

Bustamante's at times precarious and radically vulnerable work encompasses performance art, video installation, visual art, filmmaking, and writing. The New York Times says, "She has a knack for using her body." Bustamante has presented in Galleries, Museums, Universities and underground sites all around the world. She has exhibited, among other locales, at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, the New York Museum of Modern Arts, Sundance 2008, 2010, and the Kiasma Museum of Helsinki. Her movies have been shown at venues and festivals across the globe, including Outfest – Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, MIX New York City, MIX Brasil, and the London Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Bustamante is popularly known for her appearance in the Bravo Network television show "A Work of Art: The Next Great Artist," where she made her mark as a messy and complex character.

The Theatre Communications Group in the book, "Out of the Fringe," as well as the "Theatre Drama Review," published by the MIT Press, has published Bustamante. In 2000 she received the GLBT Historical Society Arts Award. In 2001 she received the prestigious Anonymous Was a Woman fellowship and in 2007 named a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow, as well as a Lambent Fellow. Currently, Bustamante holds the position of Associate Professor of New Media and Live Art at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.