

KINO LORBER

Presents

LYDIA LUNCH
THE WAR IS NEVER OVER

A FILM BY BETH B

Produced and Edited by Beth B

Co-produced by Kathleen Fox

****World Premiere at DOC NYC 2019****

****International Premiere at International Film Festival Rotterdam 2020****

****Official Selection - SXSW 2020****

U.S. | 2019 | 75min | Color | English

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ABOUT THE FILM

LYDIA LUNCH The War Is Never Over by Beth B is the first career-spanning documentary retrospective of Lydia Lunch's confrontational, acerbic and always electric artistry. As New York City's preeminent No Wave icon from the late 70's, Lunch has forged a lifetime of music and spoken word performance devoted to the utter right of any woman to indulge, seek pleasure, and to raise voice in a rage as loud as any man. The film frames Lunch's work through the lens of the various philosophical themes that have obsessed her for years to enlighten and empower women to voice the unheard and to break the cycle of violence toward women throughout the world. Lydia Lunch is the psycho sexual transgressive who revoked patriarchal expectations of what a female performer might mean, while forging a vocabulary of rare emotional honesty, philosophy and humor.

LYDIA LUNCH The War is Never Over includes interviews with Lydia Lunch and longtime collaborators and colleagues including: Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth; performance artist Kembra Pfahler; Teenage Jesus bass player, Jim Sclavunos; Donita Sparks from L7; famed DJ and musician Nicolas Jaar; Art Critic Carlo McCormick; Filmmaker Richard Kern and a long list of other groundbreaking artists connected to Lunch's past and present. Filming in rehearsal and on tour with her band Retrovirus, the behind-the-scenes footage reveals a side of Lunch's personality that has been unseen. Her warmth and generosity in private interactions along with hilarious banter in the rehearsal studio with band members contrasts wonderfully with her brash, assaultive style of performance. The film is not only about Lunch, but about the scene that she helped spawn, continues to grow and influence, and the creative people who join her in creating a new vision of woman.

Trailer

<https://youtu.be/UqEIDTR7RtU>

Website

<https://www.lydialunchmovie.com/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/LydiaLunchFilm/>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/lydialunchfilm/>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/LYDIALUNCHFilm>

IMDB

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10367856/>

ABOUT LYDIA LUNCH

Born in 1959 in Rochester, New York, Lydia Lunch left home at age 16 and moved to New York City. Within a year, she formed the band Teenage Jesus and the Jerks with James Chance, Reck, Jody Harris, and Bradley Field. Described as confrontationalist, Lunch's lyrics and fearless delivery with the band simultaneously rebelled against traditional rock music and normative depictions of women. In 1980, Lunch released her solo debut *Queen of Siam*, bringing the big-band cabaret style of the Billy Ver Plank Orchestra together with guitarist Robert Quine. Such expansive range became all the clearer in her influential collaborations and recordings with artists including Nick Cave, JG Thirlwell, Sonic Youth, and Cypress Grove, among countless others.

Lunch started the label Widowspeak Productions in 1984, and its first release—*The Uncensored Lydia Lunch*—marked the beginning of her engagement with her most potent and direct medium, spoken word. In this vein, Lunch delivered a critique of the conservative political climate with a performance work at The Kitchen in 1986, rebelling against censorship and—as the press release noted—“stak[ing] out her own ground as a compelling chronicler of the seedy emotional realities of contemporary life.” Lunch's vivid chronicles have been evident in several books, including *Paradoxia* (2007) and *Will Work for Drugs* (2009); as well as in her continuing collaboration with Umar Bin Hassen, one of The Last Poets, titled “NO WAVE OUT” and comprising improvised combinations of spoken word, jazz, and No Wave.

During the past thirty years, Lunch has also starred in a number of films, famously working with artists including Richard Kern, Beth B, and Merrill Aldighieri and Joe Tripician. Throughout, Lunch has crafted intimate, candid portraits of desire that consistently foreground the perseverance of women, challenging traditional models of relationships and power dynamics in culture. A veteran of the East Village scene and The Kitchen community from its earliest years in Chelsea, Lunch pushes the boundaries of music and spoken word performance, continually defying categorization. She can now be found performing around the world with her band RETROVIRUS, presenting displays of her visual art work, and preparing a volume of her collected writings that will undoubtedly engage today's political climate, injustices, wars, and imbalances of power.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"We came to New York in the 70's as these lost misfits full of a lot of rage and alienation — and somehow saw in each other a way to communicate, not so much through words, but through creativity."

— Beth B from the book *SWANS: Sacrifice and Transcendence*

Voicing the unheard and seeing the unseen are themes that have run through my films with an eye to creating dialogue, community, and a place for self-knowledge and acceptance. My documentary films are social, political, and personal investigations; home movies focusing on people I know or have come to know. Lydia Lunch was 19 and I was 23 when we met in the late '70s New York music/film/art scene and brought our radical visions to the underground where we broke boundaries, simultaneously shocking and enticing our audiences with our uncensored music and films. Fast forward to 2017, as I watched the ever brash and luminous Lydia Lunch performing with her extraordinary band, RETROVIRUS, I realized that I needed to make the definitive documentary about Lydia Lunch.

LYDIA LUNCH The War is Never Over blends an audio bed of provocative stories with archival footage of 1970's bands; photographs of the architectural landscape of New York City; interviews with Lydia Lunch and longtime Lunch collaborators; and contemporary on-stage performances by Lunch. The film is not only about Lunch, but about the scene that she helped spawn, continues to grow and influence, and the creative people who join her in creating a new vision of woman.

The style and fast pace of the film echo the urgent, aggressive, non-apologetic attitude that Lunch inhabits and is also reflected in some of my other documentaries. Riveting low fi archival footage of Lunch's spoken word performances create a historical foundation to drill deeply into her psyche as well as into our cultural stagnation regarding violence, sex, and war. Interweaving raw personal vérité footage with classically composed interviews offers insights into the emotional and psychological disturbance that drives Lydia Lunch. She is a complex character – a controversial, willful and dramatic outsider artist.

CREW BIOS

Beth B

Director, Producer, Editor

Beth B is an award-winning director of independent feature-length documentary and narrative films as well as Network Television documentaries. B's career has been characterized by work that challenges society's conventions, and that focuses on recasting and redefining concepts relating to the mind, the body, and women's issues. Her films have been shown at, and acquired by, the Whitney Museum and MoMA and the subjects of several books and documentaries, including *Blank City; The Cinema of Transgression; Art, Performance, Media; Super 8: An Illustrated History; No Wave - Underground 80; Downtown Film and TV Culture 1975-2001*. Beth B's films have been shown at museums and cinemas worldwide as well as film festivals including: The New York Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, Berlin Film Festival, Toronto Film Festival, Nuremberg Int'l Human Rights Film Festival, Locarno Film Festival and others.

Kathleen Fox

Co-Producer

Kathleen Fox is a Peabody Award Winning Producer on the drama *Queerskins; a love story*. With over a decade of experience producing, directing, writing and creating video and print content for global campaigns, her specialty in virtual reality extends to short-form documentaries and editorial features for social, web and television. Fox is Co-Producer on the feature documentary, *Lydia Lunch: The War is Never Over* a film by Beth B. From 2007-2017 Kathleen acted as Senior Director of Photo & Video Production at NYC & Company. Kathleen wrote, directed and produced multiple web series and brand campaigns.

Peter Gordon

Director of Photography

Peter Gordon is a two time Emmy Nominated Director of Photography. He's been a working cinematographer since the late 1990s, shooting commercials, promos, music videos, and several documentaries including Academy Award Nominee Marshall Curry's "Racing Dreams" and scenes for Michael Moore's "Sicko." His interest in cinematography grew out of his involvement playing drums in New York City bands in the 1990s. He started shooting Super-8 and 16mm music videos for his bands, then branched out to making videos for friends bands and eventually filmed dozens of episodes of VH1's "Unplugged" and "Soul Stages" series.

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Produced and Directed
by **BETH B**

Executive Producers
Beth B
Amanda Kelso

Co-Executive Producers
Jane Friedman
Michael Zilkha

Co-Producer
Kathleen Fox

Cinematography
Peter Gordon
Beth B

Editor
Beth B

Music Supervisor
Tom Garretson

Opening Credit Design
Lola Coleman

Graphics
Dana Schecter
Cassandra Honecker
Lola Coleman

Animation
Artist - **Stellar Leuna**
Compositing - **Chris Downey**

Still Photography
Kathleen Fox

Montage Footage
Jasmine Hirst

Kickstarter Manager
Sarah Wanio

Additional Cinematography
Scott Sinkler
Sean Kirby
Megan Orr
Nottapon Boonprakob
Joe Tekippe
Matt Kohn
Sam Mitchel
Prapaporn Pinyopusarerk

Assistant Camera
Emma Swider
Richard Trammell
Assistant Editors
Prapaporn Pinyopusarerk
Emma Swider

Production Assistants
Nicole Martinez
Elle Rinaldi

Website Design
Lola Coleman

Finishing Services
PostWorks New York

Colorist
Keith Jenson

Re-Recording Mixer
Paul Furedi

Sound Editor
Eric Di Stefano

Legal Services
Kaiser Wahab

FEATURING

Lydia Lunch

Thurston Moore

Nicolas Jaar

JG Thirlwell

Donita Sparks

Richard Kern

Carlo McCormick

Kembra Pfahler

Ron Athey

Jim Sclavunos

Carla Bozulich

Weasel Walter

Tim Dahl

Bob Bert

Kino Lorber

With a library of over 4,000 titles, Kino Lorber Inc. has been a leader in independent art house distribution for 35 years, releasing 30 films per year theatrically under its Kino Lorber, Kino Repertory and Alive Mind Cinema banners, garnering seven Academy Award® nominations in nine years. In addition, the company brings over 350 titles yearly to the home entertainment and educational markets through physical and digital media releases. With an expanding family of distributed labels, Kino Lorber handles releases in ancillary media for Zeitgeist Films, Cohen Media Group, Greenwich Entertainment, Artsploitation, Palisades Tartan, Menemsha Films, Raro Video, and others, placing physical titles through all wholesale, retail, and direct to consumer channels, as well as direct digital distribution through over 40 OTT services including all major TVOD and SVOD platforms. In 2019, the company launched its new art house digital channel Kino Now which features over 1000 titles from the acclaimed Kino Lorber library. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kino Marquee initiative was launched in 2020 pioneering "virtual theatrical" releases of art house films with revenue shares that allows audiences to support almost 400 local independent theaters.