Center for Contemporary Arts Santa Fe / CCA celebrates Basement Films’s 30th Anniversary with exhibition on ‘Undependent’ media and filmmaking.

*Basement Films: 30 Years of Undependent Media*
Opening July 15, 5-7pm | CCA Cinema Gallery: 1050 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87505

June 23, 2022, Santa Fe, NM – The Center for Contemporary Arts Santa Fe (CCA) is celebrating the Albuquerque-based nonprofit organization Basement Films’s 30th anniversary by hosting an exhibition at the CCA Cinema Gallery, highlighting historical ephemera alongside short films curated from their longstanding *Experiments in Cinema* film festival. The video component of CCA’s exhibition is presented on a single channel monitor and will feature a diverse group of filmmakers and artists including Raven Chacon with Cristobal Martinez, Monique Romero, Marika Borgeson, Wago Kreider, Georg Koszulinski and M.C. Jonet with L.A. Williams. An installation of curated ephemera from the Basement Film archives—including posters, sculptures, programs, and original artwork—will illustrate the ethos and vision behind both the organization and the alternative film community.

Basement Films champions themselves as a volunteer-run organization that supports experimental, independent, and under-represented forms of film and videomaking. Founded in 1991, the nonprofit microcinema was part of a first wave of independently operated venues specializing in moving image arts that exists outside of the mainstream theatrical distribution system. CCA recognizes and values Basement Films’s accomplishments as an institution that both facilitates creators and educates audiences in the realm of arts and culture.
CCA Cinema has been nationally lauded for its outstanding programming and committed presence in the local community, and understands the importance of non-mainstream cinematic arts having a platform to exist. Basement Films has spent its thirty years supporting both regional and international artists and audiences in their pursuits of creating, showcasing, and viewing underrepresented forms of media, while connecting New Mexico with a global community of artists.

“I find it remarkable that 30 years ago I stumbled upon a screening of Craig Baldwin’s iconic 16mm film, Tribulation 99, in an abandoned storefront in Albuquerque ... I find it even more remarkable that this quirky, rough and tumble, nonprofit that hosted this screening is still in existence. [...] Back in 1991, what attracted me to the Baldwin screening was the handmade flyer for the show that was haphazardly stapled to a telephone pole. The flyer was cobbled together utilizing a cut and paste, Scotch tape, photo copy aesthetic that seemed to intentionally sidestep the pitfalls of “professionalism.” The flyer was reminiscent of so many Punk Rock flyers that I had collected from the late 1970s. This exhibit represents a very particular moment in time when microcinemas and DIY filmmakers ruled the land.”

– Bryan Konefsky (President, Basement Films)

CCA Hosts Microcinema Panel Discussion

On Sunday, September 18, CCA will host a panel discussion on the culture of microcinemas, DIY filmmaking, and the nature of ‘undependent’ media. Bryan Konefsky and Beth Hansen, Basement Films's leadership, will be in conversation with the exhibition’s curator, Justin Rhody, founder of Santa Fe's microcinema, No Name Cinema, and will be moderated by CCA Head of Cinema Programming, Luke Henley. The event will be coupled with a live projection presentation of 16mm films by Beth Hansen. Details forthcoming.

About CCA

The Center for Contemporary Arts Santa Fe is a 501c3 non-profit cultural center, celebrating creativity across the arts, humanities, and sciences through transformative experiences designed to ignite minds and connect people.

For further information, images, or interviews, please contact JC Gonzalez, CCA Marketing Coordinator, at marketing@ccasantafe.org.

###