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Street Date: October 30, 2013 (VOD and audio)
Artists: Lawrence Gise, Dietmar Post, David Patrick White, Leslie Hucko,
Matthew Bezanis, Hsiao Huey Wu
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play loud!

presents

BOWL OF OATMEAL

a classic of American underground cinema

starring **Pietro González** (The Man) and **Will Bartlett** (The Oatmeal)



A lonely man on the brink of emotional desolation talks to his Oatmeal.
His need for friendship compels the man to a bizarre act.

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Short description / Kurzbeschreibung

"A lonely man on the brink of emotional desolation talks to his Oatmeal. His need for friendship compels the man to a bizarre act."

The short film *Bowl of Oatmeal*, originally released in 1996 on 16 mm, is the final project, a group work, done by six students during an eleven-week intensive film course at New York University – SCE (School of Continuing Education). After its first showings in New York and Philadelphia the film went to many film festivals around the world.

Now it will be made available for the first time in a digital format through the "play loud! archive & store".

You can also download only the audio track.

The best way to not give away the bizarre story is to read through some of the below reviews:

Press Quotations

"A man fed up with his solitary existence decides, on the advice of his breakfast cereal, to take up a hobby. Made not at the famous TISCH School but at the School of Continuing Education, this film was a group collaboration which took, from conception through post-production, less than a month to complete."

UFVA Student Film & Video Festival Philadelphia, September 1996

"A *Bowl of Oatmeal*, a rare group effort led by Dietmar Post, is the tale of a hermit in the throes of a nervous breakdown who receives advice from a sly, articulate bowl of oatmeal with a Bostonian accent."

Michael Simmons, L.A. Weekly, April 1997

"Desperate people who hate making decisions will take advice from just about anywhere...mail-order evangelists, psychics, politicians, breakfast food. A morbidly fascinating look at the effect two of the major food groups have on a lonely man's life."

Chicago Underground FF, August 1997

"A lonely man on the brink of emotional desolation begins to hear voices emanating from his breakfast cereal, guiding him to get a hobby. Against his oatmeal's better judgment, he takes on a new pastime involving stolen meat."

New York Underground FF, March 1997

"Who ever thought a conversation with a bowl of oatmeal would make for intriguing cinema? *Bowl of Oatmeal* is the story of a paranoid shut-in who tries to take advice from his kvetching breakfast. The camerawork is basic, but the dry humor of the script keeps things moving. (...)"

Neil Gladstone, Philadelphia City Paper, March 1997

"You need money to eat, to have a good glass of wine. But you can do life with oatmeal and water, too, believe me."

Jean-Claude Van Damme, US Magazine, October 1998

"An eloquent and controlling bowl of oatmeal attempts to dominate the solitary life of a grimy glutton in this smartly shot descent into the meat of loneliness."

Eric Brummer, Hollywood Underground Forum, April 1997

"Atmospheric and strangely compelling."

Fangoria, # 176, 1998

"Bowl of Oatmeal serves as a dress rehearsal for the final film, but in its own right stands as unsettling cinema. An agoraphobic loner inexorably loses his mind within the confines of a bed-sit. Not even the revelation that a bowl of unappetizing oatmeal is taunting him alleviates the gloom. As the high fiber breakfast continues its needling, the man develops a keen interest in dead meat, but the film takes this into an area unexpected and haunting."

Rob Daniel, England, 1998

"Bowl of Oatmeal" finds a lonely slob in a dreary apartment taking advice from a bowl of oatmeal (no, I'm *not* kidding). I won't tell you what the oatmeal tells him to do, but I'll hint that it involves stealing lots of raw meat. Offbeat and oddly disturbing, if you dig that sorta thing.

Flipside Movie Emporium, 2000

The other standout is Bowl of Oatmeal which is just hysterical. I don't remember who directed this, but I would love to see more of his/her stuff as well. Dark, dark humor!"

Fan, 1999

"'Bowl of Oatmeal', to which six separate creators are credited, is a bizarre "Eraserhead"-like tale of a lonely schmuck whose sentient breakfast treat taunts him to madness."

Fan, 1998

This darkly comical short was included in EI Independent Cinema's anthologized VHS release of "Cutting Moments." This is definitely the strangest one, as it's about a seriously disturbed loner who imagines (?) that his only friend is his talking bowl of oatmeal. When the guy begins to unhealthily obsess over what he can do with meat, a rift is driven between them. In tone and thematics, the absurd, pathetic alienation and insanity of this story brings "Eraserhead" to mind, but it's definitely its own beast. (I know, a lot of stuff gets compared to "Eraserhead," usually by people who aren't sure what to compare something to.)

Rate Your Music – Cinematery, 2013

I was lucky enough to see this film about 5 years ago. I have been looking for a copy ever since. This film is able to convey a mans sense of isolation and depression perfectly. The dialog is spot on. Will Bartlett (The Oatmeal) plays his part wonderfully. His voice is calming and adds some dark humor to the heavy, depressing vibe of the film. It is also very realistic. This man could be your neighbor or a co-worker. You never know. I did see this on a VHS compilation and I think that even though it was a dubbed copy, it looked and sounded great. It might have even added to the experience. It has a classic look to it. A very enjoyable short!

Taco Montana, Fan on IMDb

A talking bowl of oatmeal, mental illness and raw meat. Combine the three and you've got one hell of a film. The dark short tells of a lonely shut-in who is taunted by a talking bowl of breakfast porridge. Isolation, despair and madness eventually lead the man to construct an imaginary lover. The film is perfection and the final scene will stay with you for days. I first saw 'Bowl of Oatmeal' back in 1996 as part of a student film & video festival and have never forgotten it. Since then I have been searching for a copy to share with others so that they may see the brilliance for themselves. This is one film that should be in everyone's video library!

Maggie Stiles, Philadelphia 2013

Dietmar Post's BOWL OF OATMEAL could gel alongside Jim Van Bebber's ROADKILL as a low budget exploration of isolation, despair and insanity. The central character is an overweight loner hidden away in his flea-pit bed-sit, who instigates a conversation with a bowl of porridge. The cereal advises the man to get a hobby - and suggests the likes of fishing, horse riding and chess. Rubbishing these suggestions (so he's not COMPLETELY insane then!), the man instead chooses to rob a stack of meat from his local butchers. Why? Watch it! You'll enjoy the final frame!

Stu Willis, 1998

Festivals

UFVA Student Film and Video Festival in Philadelphia (USA), September 1996
10th Stuttgart Filmwinter (Germany), January 1997
4th New York Underground Film Festival (USA), March 1997
Philadelphia Underground Film Festival (USA), March 1997
4th Hollywood Underground Forum (USA), April 1997
New York Moonwork-Festival of Original Works (USA), May/June 1997
4th Chicago Underground Film Festival (USA), August 1997
2nd 1 Reel Film Festival-The Seattle Arts Festival (USA), August/September 1997
15th Central Florida Film and Video Festival (USA), September/October 1997
Festival Internacional Valdivia Cine & Video (Chile), October 1997
Cultureel centrum't Paard in The Hague (Netherlands), October 1997
Champaign-Urbana Freaky Film Festival (Illinois, USA), October/November 1997
Taboo Film Festival Amsterdam (Netherlands), October/November 1997
31st New York Expo of Short Film & Video & Interactive Multimedia (USA), November 1997
Circles of Confusion-3rd World Wide Film&Video Festival Berlin (Germany), November 1997
3rd Honolulu Underground Film Festival (Hawaii), November 1997
5th Chicago Underground Film Festival (USA), August 1998
Ohio Independent Film Festival (Cleveland, USA), November 1998
Interfilm - 14. Internationales Kurzfilmfestival Berlin (Germany), December 1998
Fantasia Film Festival Montreal (Canada), August 2003
Kurzfilmfestival Weicht, September 2007
Pornfilmfestival Berlin, October 2007

Awards

Winner of the Director's Choice Award at the UFVA Student F&V Festival in Philadelphia, September 1996
3rd Winner of the Audience Award "eject" at 14.Intern. Kurzfilmfestival Berlin (Germany), December 1998

Technical Data

USA 1996 – 9:23 min – 16 mm – optical sound – VOD with German and Spanish subtitles.
Audio version: 6:21 min – wav/mp3 - English

Directed & produced by Lawrence Gise, Dietmar Post, David Patrick White, Leslie Hucko, Matthew Bezanis, Hsiao Huey Wu.

News on the actor

Pietro González, a well-known American-Chilean actor from New York with a long trajectory in theater, recently has appeared in "Severity of a Tyrant's Tale" from Vargas Llosa at the Spanish Repertory in New York.

"Pietro González (an actor who looks disconcertingly like a diminutive Mikhail Gorbachev) plays Joaquín Balaguer, Trujillo's longtime second-in-command and powerful successor with the craft of a master plotter awaiting his chance."
(New York Times, BRUCE WEBER, March 11, 2003).

González appeared in the Sidney Pollack movie The Interpreter side by side with Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn.

More info / Weitere Infos

<http://www.playloud.org/bowloatmeal.html> (OFFICIAL MOVIE SITE)

<https://www.facebook.com/bowlofatmeal> (OFFICIAL FACEBOOK SITE)

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0806031/> (OFFICIAL IMDb SITE)

Bookings of the film

Through play loud! at
info@playloud.org

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(Fangoria)

"Intriguing and unsettling cinema."

(Philadelphia City Paper)

"A morbidly fascinating look at the effect two of the major
food groups have on a lonely man's life."

(Chicago Underground Film Festival)



also available as audio only within the “play loud! word series



BOWL OF OATMEAL

Listen to the entire dialogue of the film

Voices by **Pietro González** and **Will Bartlett**



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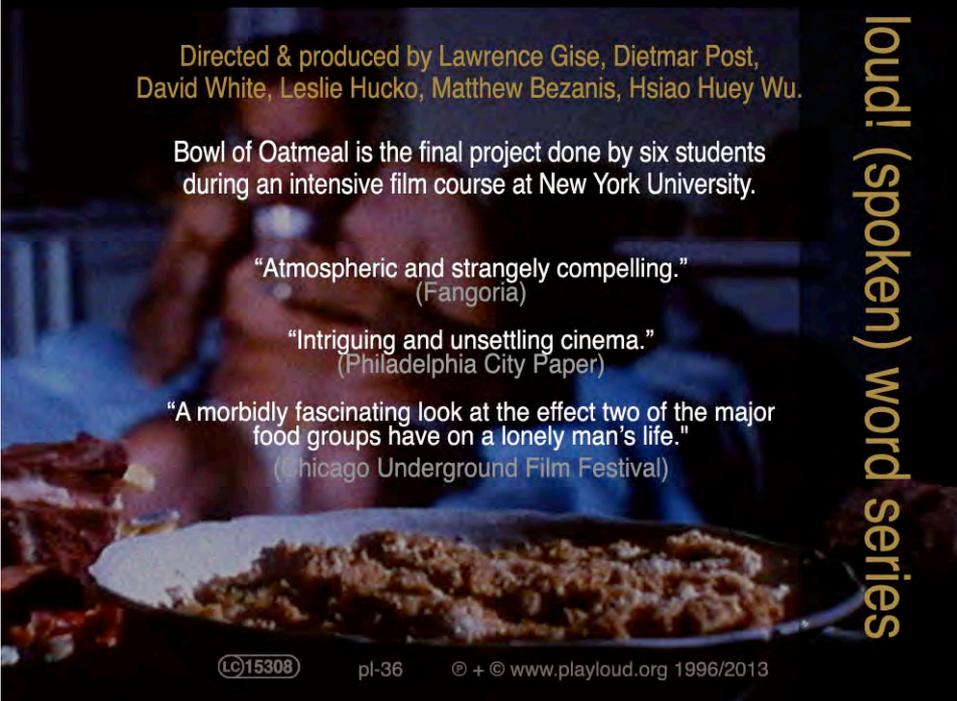
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