PRESS RELEASE

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PHOTOS: incredibly cool photos available upon request (some on the EPK)

INTERVIEWS: with the director and/or urban explorers in your area available upon request

URBAN EXPLORERS SUBCULTURE IS THE FOCUS OF A NEW DOCUMENTARY TO PREMIERE AT CINEQUEST Director Melody Gilbert's fourth feature doc introduces us to thrill-seeking urban explorers from around the world

February 16, 2007 (St Paul, Minnesota): The world premiere of Melody Gilbert's newest documentary **URBAN EXPLORERS: INTO THE DARKNESS** will take place at the Cinequest Film Festival (www.cinequest.org) on Saturday, March 3 at 7pm at the Camera 12 theater in San Jose, California. This film was one of 13 selected from almost 2000 entries to premiere in the documentary competition section of Cinequest, one of the top ten film festivals in the country. Director Melody Gilbert (A LIFE WITHOUT PAIN, WHOLE) spent three years following urban explorers around the globe to uncover the secrets of this unusual hobby. The feature-length doc is directed, produced and shot by Ms. Gilbert and edited by Charlie Gerszewski in association with Channel Z Films in Minneapolis.

URBAN EXPLORERS: INTO THE DARKNESS plunges into the world of urban exploration, a growing international subculture of adventure-seekers who explore places where most people would never dream of going. Ms. Gilbert follows Max Action, Shane, Katwoman, Mr. X, Slim Jim and Turbozutek on their 'missions' to infiltrate sewers, 'lunatic asylums,' drains, faded tourist attractions, secret government sites and even the forbidden Catacombs in Paris. Some do it for the thrill of being where they're not supposed to be and not knowing what lies ahead. Others do it to document history before these long-forgotten places are demolished. To view a trailer and for more information about the film and upcoming screenings in Boston, Fargo and Minneapolis, go to: myspace.com/urbanexplorers.

Ms. Gilbert worked on the film for three years and gained the trust of urban explorers in Minnesota, Miami, Chicago, Orlando, Scotland and France. She even attended the first European urban explorers convention in Glasgow. "Like many people, the only 'urban exploring' I had done prior to making this movie had been as a kid snooping around my suburban neighborhood," Ms. Gilbert said. "But as an adult, you tend to give up that youthful way of looking at the world. So I have really grown to appreciate this hobby." She was mesmerized by the photography, the architecture and the sense of history that lives in places where time stands still. "Yes, it was

defintely exciting, but more importantly there is a powerful connection with the past that you get when visiting abandoned and forgotten spaces."

URBAN EXPLORERS: INTO THE DARKNESS features an original soundtrack created by David Salmela along with contributions from well-known bands and musicians such as John Munson (Semisonic), The Hopefuls, The Owls, Big Fuckin Skull, Cave Man, Big Quarters, P.O.S. and more. Additional cinematography from Adrian Danciu and the sound mix by Ken Chastain of Pixel Farm. To see a trailer and for more information about the film and upcoming screenings in Boston, Fargo and Minneapolis, go to: myspace.com/urbanexplorers.

Melody Gilbert is an award-winning independent documentary filmmaker who shoots, directs and produces her films. She has made three feature-length independent documentaries in the past three years: A LIFE WITHOUT PAIN, WHOLE and MARRIED AT THE MALL. A LIFE WITHOUT PAIN (www.alifewithoutpain.com) features three children who can't feel pain and it premiered at the SXSW (South by Southwest) Film Festival in competition in 2005. It has been featured on Oprah, Good Morning America and CNN and it has been broadcast The Sundance Channel and on more than a dozen television networks overseas including TF5 France and TV2 Denmark. Her controversial documentary, WHOLE (www.whole-documentary.com), which is about people who want to become an amputee, premiered in competition at the Los Angeles Film Festival (2003) and has screened in film festivals and on television around the world, including The Sundance Channel. Both WHOLE and A LIFE WITHOUT PAIN are available through NETFLIX. Ms. Gilbert's debut documentary, MARRIED AT THE MALL (2002), has also screened worldwide. Ms. Gilbert has received grants and fellowships from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Jerome Foundation and in 2004 she was named IFP/McKnight Foundation Artist Fellow for Filmmaking. She is also an educator who has taught documentary production courses at the University of Minnesota, the Walker Art Center, IFP MN Center for Media Arts and for students in Romania and Kyrgyzstan. Her production company, Frozen Feet Films (www.frozenfeetfilms.com), is based in St. Paul, Minnesota.

PRESS QUOTES ABOUT URBAN EXPLORERS: INTO THE DARKNESS

"In her upcoming film Urban Explorers: Into the Darkness...Director Melody Gilbert (Whole, A Life Without Pain) examines an internet-based subculture of thrill-seeking youths who rappel, climb, and squeeze their way into defunct buildings and other landmarks of urban decay, marveling at "snotsicles" that droop from sewer pipes and appreciating dead factories as if they were national parks. "

-John Behling, City Pages

" The lively soundtrack and haunting still photography and cinematography keep you watching until the end." - Stett Holbrook, Metroactive

" Never one to shy from subjects that many may consider too alien, director Melody Gilbert's (Whole, Life Without Pain) Urban Explorers uncovers a fascinating subculture and offers a rare

opportunity inside a world of odd, and somewhat misunderstood individuals, who willingly bask in the underground frontier.

- Cinequest Catalogue

"I saw URBAN EXPLORERS: INTO THE DARKNESS on Friday and wanted to tell you that I thought it was amazing. I was very impressed with the level of expertise of the explorers and how knowledgeable they were about their sites. Not just thrill seekers but passionate about it in every way. And having the Explorers there at the screening was the icing on the cake , especially Slim Jim! It's like meeting an instant celebrity!

~ Sara from Minneapolis

"Traveling from Minneapolis to Miami to Glasgow to Paris, Gilbert reveals an extraordinary underground world of individuals bonded by their innate sense of curiosity and adventure."

-Walker Art Center Catalogue

EN BAN EN BRERS

INTO THE DARKNESS A DOCUMENTARY

FROZEN FEET FILMS PRESENTS A FILM BY MELODY GILBERT IN ASSOCIATION WITH CHANNEL Z FILMS

You'll never look at a manhole cover the same way again...

SLIM JIM SHANE MAX ACTION KATWOMAN MR. X TURBOZUTEK BHV-FRED URBAN EXPLORERS INTO THE DARKNESS

DIRECTOR-PRODUCER MELODY GILBERT A CO-PRODUCTION OF CHANNEL Z FILMS
CINEMATOGRAPHERS MELODY GILBERT ADRIAN DANCIU EDITOR CHARLIE GERSZEWSKI
ORIGINAL SCORE DAVID SALMELA SOUND DESIGN KEN CHASTAIN
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR CARRIE BUSH ASSOCIATE PRODUCER RITA BEATTY

MYSPACE.COM/URBANEXPLORERS CHZFILMS.COM

URBAN EXPLORERS: INTO THE DARKNESS

plunges into the world of urban exploration, a growing international subculture of adventure-seekers who explore places where most people would never dream of going. Documentary filmmaker Melody Gilbert follows Max Action, Shane, Katwoman, Mr. X, Slim Jim and Turbozutek on their "missions" to infiltrate sewers, "lunatic asylums;" storm drains, faded tourist attractions, secret U.S. government sites and even the forbidden Catacombs in Paris. What will they find? Who will they meet? Will they get arrested? After watching this documentary, you'll never look at a manhole cover the same way again!

"In her upcoming film Urban Explorers: Into the Darkness...Director Melody Gilbert (A Life Without Pain, Whole) examines an internet-based subculture of thrill-seeking youths who rappel, climb, and squeeze their way into defunct buildings and other landmarks of urban decay, marveling at "snotsicles" that droop from sewer pipes and appreciating dead factories as if they were national parks."

www.urbanexplorersfilm.com www.myspace.com/urbanexplorers



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Melody Gilbert (URBAN EXPLORERS: INTO THE DARKNESS)

I first heard about urban explorers in December of 2003 after police arrested six men dressed in dark clothing in the middle of the night in St. Paul, Minnesota. The men had two-way radios, flashlights, night vision equipment and maps at a time when the U.S. was on high alert for terrorism. All six spent the weekend in jail as suspected terrorists. It turns out that the men weren't terrorists at all. They were "urban explorers."

I wanted to be find out more. I met some local explorers and started going on "missions" with them. And then I started filming. I discovered that explorers are typically young, educated, employed and technically astute risk-takers. Some locations, like abandoned tourist sites, are not difficult to access. But other explorations are often unsafe and potentially deadly. Besides falling bricks, rotten floors, sewer water and exposure to industrial wastes, this growing subculture also sometimes involves trespassing. Why, you might ask, would anyone want to go to these dangerous places? That's the question I kept asking myself as I travelled from Minneapolis to Miami to Scotland to Paris. I even went to one of the first UE "conventions" attended by people from all over the world where I met dozens of explorers from Australia to Alaska.

What I discovered during the last two years is that most explorers are photographers, historians and techno-geeks who want to document historic places before they are lost forever. They share their stories and photographs of the destruction of historical structures on the Internet, where they are connected to explorers from all over the world. Many of these photos, including sewage, rust and rotting buildings, are surprisingly beautiful.

And the explorers are regular folks—many college students, including one woman from a Christian college (she's not supposed to dance or drink, but her religious training doesn't say anything about going in drains!). A computer programmer. An aerobics instructor. They are us, but they do something most of us would never do.

There's "Slim Jim," an engineer from lowa who is obsessed with maps, and "Max Action," the founder of the "Action Squad" in Minneapolis. Shane from Miami, a student who can't stop thinking of ways enter one incredible location. And "Katwoman" who struggles with her faith in God and her love of the hobby. A 40-year-old Frenchman who enjoys parties with his friends 100 feet below Paris in the forbidden Catacombs. "Turbozutek" from Glasgow who organized the first European UE convention. Faith from Mexico who came to that convention and grows from a newbie to confident explorer during one weekend. Our adventures forged a powerful bond.

I still marvel at the incredible places I have seen and the people I have met on this journey. As a mother of a teenager, I am certainly among the oldest explorers out there. I've climbed down 100-foot deep manholes and squeezed through tiny crevices to get in places where I shouldn't have been. I have to say that these experiences have changed me. I have been touched in ways that are surprising as I've walked through history, experienced teamwork and trust. I also learned that I can do just about anything. I like to say the past two years have been my own mid-life version of "Outward Bound."

In the end, I hope this documentary captures the joy and thrill of urban exploration that I have discovered. I also feel confident that URBAN EXPLORERS: INTO THE DARKNESS will encourage you to see the everyday world around you a little differently.



CREW LIST for URBAN EXPLORERS: INTO THE DARKNESS

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER: MELODY GILBERT A CO-PRODUCTION OF: CHANNEL Z FILMS

CINEMATOGRAPHERS: MELODY GILBERT and ADRIAN DANCIU

EDITOR: CHARLIE GERSZEWSKI

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR: CARRIE BUSH

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: RITA BEATTY

POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR: ACE ALLGOOD

ORIGINAL SCORE: DAVID SALMELA

ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY: THE HOPEFULS, THE OWLS, P.O.S., MARK MALLMAN, BIG FUCKIN SKULL, KID DAKOTA, CAVE MAN, TERRY EASON, BIG QUARTERS, JOHN MUNSON AND MORE.

SOUND DESIGN: KEN CHASTAIN

SOUND MIXERS: JESSE MARKS, ZAC BATES

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: MICHAEL FORSTEIN, MATT OLSON

INTERNS: TONY CAMMARATA, BILL LINDEKE, LISA JOY MURRAY, SAMANTHA PETTY, JUAN ANTONIO DEL ROSARIO, DAIN

SILVOLA, ERIN VENKER

PROFILE

She points her camera at urban explorers

Who she is: Melody Gilbert of St. Paul is a documentary film-maker who has made movies about couples who have gotten married at the Mall of America, about people who want to have healthy limbs amputated and about a girl with a rare disorder that makes it impossible to feel pain.

What's next: A film about people who like to crawl into abandoned sewers, tunnels and buildings is her next project. Gilbert started working on "Urban Explorers: Into the Darkness" in 2003 after reading about a group of men dressed in dark clothing arrested in the middle of the night near the Gopher State Ethanol plant in St. Paul.

Police found them equipped with two-way radios, flash-lights, night-vision equipment, climbing gear, a gas mask, a camera and a notebook with directions to various tunnels in Stillwater, Duluth and Minneapolis.

The authorities initially suspected terrorism. But the men turned out to be merely urban explorers, people with updated tetanus shots and the underground hobby of worming into the neglected corners of urban infrastructure, fueled by a sense of adventure, curiosity and even an interest in documenting forgotten history.

Gilbert started talking to urban explorers in Minnesota but ended up making contact with the urban explorer subculture around the country and the world.

"It's almost a secret society in a way," she said.

How she ended up in a lunatic asylum: Gilbert attended an urban explorers convention in Scotland, delved into catacombs in Paris and has followed explorers into drains, sewers and abandoned buildings, including a forgotten "house of the future" in Florida.



PHOTOS COURTESY MELODY GILBERT

Documentary filmmaker Melody Gilbert of St. Paul focuses on the underbelly of adventure.



Gilbert's locations often include abandoned tunnels and sewers.

"One of my favorites is an abandoned lunatic asylum in Scotland," she said. "You're walking through history, but it's a different way of walking through history."

Where you can see her film: Gilbert is putting the final touches on the movie, with the goal of a film festival premiere in early 2007. But a rough-cut preview will be screened Nov. 10 at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. Second St., Minneapolis.

The event, a fundraiser to help pay for the completion of the film, will include a cash bar and a post-screening discussion with Gilbert and some of the urban explorers featured in the film. Urban explorers' photographs of hidden Twin Cities locations Know someone doing something new, interesting, inspiring or just plain weird in the Great Outdoers? We'd like to hear about it. Contact staff writer Richard Chin at 651-228-5560 or rchin@pioneerpress.com.

will be on display, and guided minitours of hidden places in the Washburn A Mill — a destination for urban explorers before it became the Mill City Museum — will be given.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the screening will be at 8 p.m. Admission costs \$12 for Minnesota Historical Society members, \$15 for nonmembers.

For more information: To find out more about the film, go to www.urbanexplorers film.com. Some online urban explorers' sites include the Minnesota www.actionsquad.org and www.uer.ca.

- Richard Chin

PHOTO CAPTION AND CREDIT INFORMATION URBAN EXPLORERS: INTO THE DARKNESS

1. MRX_sliding_in_drain.jpg

"Mr. X", an urban explorer, slides in a drain in Minnesota photo credit: Melody Gilbert

2. Fencehop.jpg

An urban explorer jumps a 10 foot fence to infiltrate an abandoned building.

photo credit: Melody Gilbert

3. mel katwoman with cam.jpg

Filmmaker Melody Gilbert captures urban explorer "Katwoman" crawling through

a subterranean passageway.

photo credit: Melody Gilbert

4. Melody with camera in chicgo school.jpg

Filmmaker Melody Gilbert inside an abandoned school

in Chicago

Photo credit: Eric Grimes

5. Charlies_Angels_pose_in_drain.jpg

Filmmaker Melody Gilbert and two urban explorers, Flame and Katwoman, strike a pose in a drain.

Photo credit: : Karl Stoerzinger

6. Nivelo_climbing_in_castle.jpg

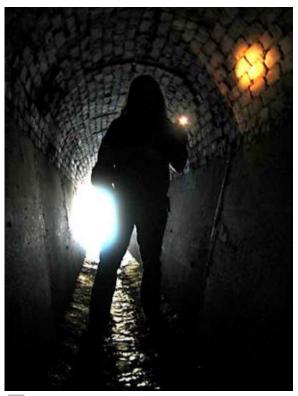
During the European Urban Explorers in convention in Scotland, "Nivelo" pulls herself inside an abandoned "lunatic asylum."

Photo credit: Melody Gilbert

7. Melody_and_camera.jpg
Documentary Filmmaker Melody Gilbert
Photo credit:© Graeme Ford

Urban exploration

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



An urban explorer stands near the outfall of a muffin shaped brick and concrete storm drain, under Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Urban exploration (often shortened as **urbex** or **UE**) is the examination of the normally unseen or off-limits parts of human civilization. Urban exploration is also commonly referred to as *infiltration*, although some people consider infiltration to be more closely associated with the exploration of active or inhabited sites. In the USA, it may also be referred to as "draining" (when exploring drains) "urban spelunking", and "urban caving", "vadding", "building hacking", "Reality hacking" or "roof and tunnel hacking".

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[edit] Targets of exploration

Urban explorers often attempt some or all of these subsets of urban exploration.

[edit] Abandonments



Abandoned Foundry building in Providence, RI.

Ventures into abandoned structures are perhaps the most common example of urban exploration. Abandoned sites are generally entered first by locals, and often sport large amounts of graffiti and other vandalism. Explorers face various risks in abandoned structures including collapsing roofs and floors, broken glass, guard dogs, the presence of chemicals, other harmful substances, most notably asbestos, and sometimes motion detectors. Some explorers wear respirators to protect their airways.

Exploration targets vary from one country to another, but some of the more popular or high-profile abandonments include grain elevators, missile silos, hospitals, asylums, and sanatoriums.

Most, if not all explorers of abandonments find the decay of uninhabited spaces to be beautiful; many of these explorers are also photographers. Some abandonments are heavily guarded with motion sensors and active security. Others are more easily accessible and carry less risk of discovery. Abandonments are also popular among history buffs, 'urban archaeologists,' 'ghosthunters' and fans of graffiti art.

[edit] Active buildings

Another aspect of urban exploration is the practice of exploring active or *in use* buildings. This includes seeing secured or "member-only" areas, mechanical rooms, roofs, elevator rooms, and other normally unseen parts of such buildings. The term 'infiltration' is often associated with the exploration of active structures.

[edit]Catacombs

Catacombs such as those found in Paris, Rome and Naples have been investigated by urban explorers. The catacombs under Paris, for instance, have been considered the "Holy Grail" by some due to their extensive nature and history.

[edit] Sewers and storm drains

Entry into storm drains, or *draining*, is another common form of UE. Groups devoted to the task have arisen, such as the Cave Clan in Australia. Draining has a specialized set of guidelines, the foremost of which is "When it rains, no drains."

A small subset of explorers enter sanitary sewers. Sometimes they are the only connection to caves or other subterranean feature. Sewers are among the most dangerous locations to explore.

[edit] Transit tunnels

The subset of urban exploration deals with exploring active and abandoned subway and underground railway tunnels and bores. Since these are in major cities, they carry stiff penalties if one should be caught while trespassing in these, especially after the September 11, 2001 attacks. As a result, this type of exploration is rarely publicised. Although they exist worldwide, those who partake in this often reside near New York City, Toronto, London, Sydney and Moscow, along with many other major cities throughout the world.

[edit] Utility tunnels



A picture of a Utility tunnel taken by an Urban Explorer under a university in Toronto Ontario, Canada

Universities and other large institutions, such as hospitals, often distribute steam for heating buildings from a central heating plant. These steam ducts are generally run through utility tunnels, which are often accessible solely for the purposes of maintenance. Many of these steam tunnels, such as those

on college campuses, often also have a tradition of exploration by students. This was once called vadding at MIT, though students there now refer to it as roof and tunnel hacking.

Steam tunnels in general have been getting more secure in recent years, due to their use for carrying network backbones and perceived risk of their use in terrorist activities, safety and liability.

Some steam tunnels have dirt floors, no lighting and can have temperatures upwards of 115 degrees Fahrenheit (46° C). Others have concrete floors, bright light, and can even be quite nice and feature a cool temperature. Most steam tunnels have large intake fans to bring in fresh air, and push all of the hot air out the back.

[edit] Ethics

Most urban explorers understand the risks that they face if caught while trespassing or breaking and entering. The crime is generally seen as a means to an end, however, rather than being the focal point of the hobby. There are some urban explorers that tend to stick to a basic set of "ethical practices" out of respect for the locations that they visit, as well as for any other explorers who may want to visit later. The hobby, however, is still ultimately an unstructured one, and there are rarely two explorers who share the same views on ethics. As such, there are many exceptions to these "practices". To some, the idea behind these "ethical practices" is to leave buildings in the same state that they were in before they were visited. The common, but not always entirely accurate catchphrase for this ethical standpoint is the Sierra Club's motto: "take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints." Some try and adhere to this motto which frowns heavily upon theft, vandalism, tagging, graffiti, and any other crime except for trespassing.

Some explorers, though, remove items from abandoned sites to preserve them or to keep as souvenirs. More often than not, these explorers save these items from further decay or destruction when a location has become a target of vandalism or is being demolished.

Another counterpoint to the "leave no trace" ethic is tagging. Graffiti in drains is sometimes condoned or encouraged as long as speleothems and other features aren't damaged. Drainers may use it to indicate how far down the drain a given explorer has been. Similarly, tags may be left in very inaccessible places such as inside false ceilings, at the tops of elevator shafts, and so on.

Some locations contain a small area reserved for leaving tags, known as a *guest book*. These vary from actual books to blackboards to pieces of scrap metal or wood, or even the dust on an old piece of machinery. Rarely,

employee guestbooks will be found, made before the business in question closed. Tags, especially those left in guest books, are sometimes referred to as "sign-ins", and the process of leaving them is "signing in". In marked contrast to the values of mainstream U.S. urban graffiti, tags are generally made to be unobtrusive, being written in conventional or slightly enlarged handwriting with pens or markers rather than larger markings made with paint. As with many other cases of ethical principles, it is primarily up to the individual to make their own decisions based on their viewpoints and their current situation.

[edit]Popularity



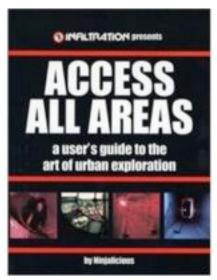
West Virginia State Penitentiary in Moundsville, West Virginia. It offers tours to the public. The rise in the popularity of urban exploration can be attributed to its increased media attention. Recent television shows, such as "Urban Explorers" on the Discovery Channel, MTV's Fear, and the ghost hunting exploits of The Atlantic Paranormal Society have packaged the hobby for a popular audience; interviews, such as on "New Morning" on the Hallmark Channel, look more closely at the everyday aspects of the activity [1]. Talks and exhibits on urban exploration have appeared at the 5th and 6th Hackers on Planet Earth Conference, complementing numerous newspaper articles and interviews. With the advent rise in the relative popularity of the hobby due to this increased focus, there has been increasing discussion on whether the extra attention has been beneficial to urban exploration as a whole [2] [3].

The growing popularity of the activity has resulted not just in increased attention from explorers, but also from vandals and law enforcement. The illicit aspects of urban exploring, which may include trespassing and breaking and entering, have brought along with them critical articles in mainstream newspapers. In one recent article [4], web-postings and photographs from the web-site Urban Exploration Resource were cited as evidence that explorers were trespassing in a closed prison in Northern Virginia. Users had posted specific details on entry points and how "easy" it was to gain entry to the disused facility [5].

In that regard, some explorers have become wary of posting information and photographs on UE-related websites for fear of being prosecuted for trespassing. Two popular web-sites, Urban Exploration Resource and Deggi5, have been locked in argument about the structure of urban exploration websites. UER has an open forum and a database of abandonments and active "infiltrations", while Deggi5's forum is open only to those that the moderators know personally. Additionally, arguments focus on whether online listings of explorable structures undermine the "underground" aspect of urban exploration. [6] [7]

Along with the rise in the popularity of urban exploring, numerous events have been hosted throughout the world. These organized meetings have included campouts, barbeques, day-long explorations, and tours of active and abandoned sites. While most of these are illegal in the sense that they involve trespassing or breaking and entering, a handful of meets, such as a recent event held at the West Virginia State Penitentiary, involve tours or lock-ins. Others include UE-related gatherings, such as a meet held by an urban explorer who calls himself Shiroi in which stunts were performed in an abandoned structure [8]. This has received mixed criticism from the urban exploration community[9].

[edit]In the media [edit]Books



☐ Access All Areas book authored by Ninjalicious.

Many urban exploration books are available, including:

- Ninjalicious (2005). Access All Areas: A user's guide to the art of urban exploration. PO Box 13, Station E, Toronto, ON M6H 4E1 Canada: Infilpress. ISBN 0-9737787-0-9
- Wand, Eku and Arnold, Dietmar (2000). Berlin im Untergrund: Potsdamer Platz. Eku interactive e. K., Berlin, Germany. ISBN 3-935709-02-1
- Deyo, L.B. and Leibowitz, David "Lefty". Invisible Frontier: Exploring the tunnels, ruins & rooftops of hidden New York. Three Rivers Press. ISBN 0 -609-80931-8
- Solis, Julia. New York Underground: The Anatomy of a City. Routledge. ISBN 0-415-95013-9
- The Urban Adventure Handbook. Ten Speed Press.

The following two photography books by Chilean-born, New York-based photographer and documentarian Camilo José Vergara are not explicitly about urban exploration, but Mr. Vergara uses many of the same techniques as urban explorers to gain access to the abandoned buildings which he photographs to document their decay.

- Camilo José Vergara. "American Ruins". Monacelli. ISBN 1-58093-056-5
- Camilo José Vergara. "The New American Ghetto". Rutgers University Press. ISBN 0-8135-2331-1

Fiction:

 Urban explorers (termed "creepers") and their culture are at the core of the thriller Creepers by well-known author David Morrell[10].

[edit]Magazines

 5100: A Canadian Urban Exploration magazine focusing mainly on Western Canada.

- The Cave Clan Magazine: Australian draining magazine.
- Jinx: United States urban exploration magazine.

[edit] Movies

- Doom Asylum (1987) A demented coroner inhabits an abandoned mental asylum. When several teenagers trespass on his property, he proceeds to kill them off one by one. Filmed on location at the since-demolished Essex Mountain Sanitorium in New Jersey.
- Pray for Rain's "After...", (2006) a supernatural thriller about three urban explorers who get more than they bargain for when they set out to explore the secret world beneath Moscow. It has just been accepted into AFI Fest.
- Red Scream Films' "Prison of the Psychotic Damned", (2006) the world's first exploitation style UE film.
- Brad Anderson's "Session 9" (2001) is a movie about an asbestos cleaning crew working in an abandoned mental hospital. Tensions rise as the horrific past of the mental institution seems to be coming back.
- Phillip Booth's "Death Tunnel" (2005). Set in Waverly Hills TB Sanitarium in Louisville, Kentucky, five college women were locked in the hospital for an initiation stunt. Deep under the hospital is the infamous 'Death Tunnel' which was once used to remove the dead from the grounds of the hospital.
- Terry Gilliam's "12 Monkeys" (1995) Used a number of abandoned locations for filming its futuristic scenes, including abandoned powerplants in Baltimore and Philadelphia and Philadelphia's Eastern State Penn, an old abandoned prison which is now open to the public for tours.
- The films Subway and Real Genius both contain characters who live in utility spaces of the sort that are the subject of Urban Exploration, and sequences in which other characters discover these spaces.

[edit]Short films and documentaries

- David L. Cunningham's documentary short, which documents a research trip he and screenwriter Kevin Miller made in preparation for writing "After...", a supernatural UE thriller about three urban explorers who get more than what they bargain for when they set out to explore the vast secret world under Moscow.
- Melody Gilbert's "Urban Explorers: Into the Darkness" (2006), a documentary about some of the world's urban explorers.
- Robert Fantinatto's "Echoes of Forgotten Places" (2005), a visual essay on the allure of abandoned buildings and industrial relics.

[edit] Television

 A 2004 episode of CSI (Down the Drain) involved a person supposedly killed while 'draining'.

- A 2005 episode of Supernatural entitled Asylum was filmed in an abandoned sanitarium and features two thrill seeking urban explorers.
- A 2006 episode of Law & Order involved urban exploration.
- The Discovery Channel filmed and aired a 5-episode TV series with the title Urban Explorers.[10] The 5 episodes are Buffalo, Chicago, Denver, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh. Discovery does not sell these episodes, and does not intend to.
- A 2006 episode of CSI:Miami (Free Fall) involved two urban explorers taking artifacts from an abandoned hotel.

[edit]See also

- Caving
- Cave Clan
- Catacombs of Paris
- C.H.U.D.
- Freedom Tunnel
- Parkour
- Psychogeography
- Reality hacker

[edit]References

- 1 ^ Digital, Mike. "Whispers from the Past." New Morning. Hallmark Channel. 19 Apr. 2006. 31 July 2006 [1].
- 2 ^ Last NINE. "Infiltration/UER in the news again." Online posting. 27 July 2006. Urban Exploration Resource. 31 July 2006 [2].
- 3 ^ "Re: UE news story on Fox." Online posting. 17 Feb. 2006. Urban Exploration Resource. 31 July 2006 [3].
- 4 ^ Jacks, Jason. "Going in where others broke out." Times Community 26 July 2006. 31 July 2006 [4].
- 5 ^ "Lorton Prison." Online posting. 8 Oct. 2005. Urban Exploration Resource. 31 July 2006 [5].
- 6 ^ Greenburg, Andy. "Caught in their own web." DragonFire 26 July 2006. 31 July 2006 [6].
- 7 ^ Cahal, Sherman. "Have we started pandering to the tourists?" Online posting. 11 May 2006. Abandoned. 31 July 2006 [7].
- 8 ^ "Shiroi Meet Simplified." Online posting. 2 Aug. 2006. Urban Exploration Resource. 3 Aug. 2006 [8].
- 9 ^ "Shiroi Meet '07." Online posting. 21 June 2006. Urban Exploration Resource. 31 July. 2006 [9].

10

^ Steve Duncan. undercity.org. Retrieved on 2007-1-10.

[edit] Further reading

- alt.college.tunnels newsgroup archive (1994)
- Abandoned
- Dark Places
- Forbidden Places
- Infiltration Zine
- Urban Adventure
- Urban exploration & draining web-ring
- Urban Exploration Resource
- Urban Explorers
- Urbex Forum