

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
HOUSING, HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH AND CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 2PM, APRIL 24TH, 2013

Film Forum

Screenings of Films Relating to the Work of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Adam Sekuler**

Today's Presenter is **Mike Attie**

Today's Screening: "In Country"
by Mike Attie & Meghan O'Hara
4 minutes

Most of us are familiar with Civil War and World War II reenactments. These wars were long enough ago that they evoke a certain nostalgia and even romance. But what would compel someone to reenact a morally ambiguous and unpopular war? What would compel someone to reenact Vietnam? IN COUNTRY is a feature documentary that follows 2/5 1st Cav (R), a "platoon" of hardcore war reenactors. These men live in the woods for days at a time, sleeping in foxholes and eating canned rations. They carry heavy packs and period M16s through dense jungle while an unseen enemy lays in wait, ready to strike the moment their guard is down. Trying to access the past, reality and fantasy collide as multi-tour veterans of the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Vietnam join history buffs to create a simulated war that is both emotionally and physically punishing. The film reveals as much about the unsettled history of the Vietnam War as the struggles of soldiers who fight in today's unpopular wars. It's a world where men are trying to relive a war that most people want to forget. War is hell. Why would anyone want to spend their weekends there?

Mike Attie's award-winning short documentaries have shown at major documentary festivals including SilverDocs, San Francisco International, Black Maria and Cinequest. Prior to receiving his MFA from Stanford University's Documentary Film program, Attie worked as a production assistant and assistant editor for Academy Award-winning filmmakers Alan and Susan Raymond on films for HBO and PBS. Attie's Stanford MFA thesis film, FAMOUS 4A (2009), was nominated for the International Documentary Association's David Wolper Award and won 1st Jury Prize for short films at the Kos International Film Festival and CILECT's Documentary Film Prize. His previous short film, MR. MACK'S KITCHEN (2008) played at the San Francisco International Film Festival and the Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival. Attie received a BA in American History from Vassar College. He currently lives in Seattle, working as a freelance film producer and teaching at Seattle University.

Council Film Forum Curator **Adam Sekuler** serves as the program director for Northwest Film Forum located on Capitol Hill. Before arriving in Seattle he was programmer for the nation's first and only dedicated non-fiction theatre, The Bell Auditorium. He is co-founder of Search and Rescue, an ongoing effort to present and preserve discarded archives of 16mm films. He also programmed for the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival and Sound Unseen. In his early years he booked music for the Whole Music Club, Minneapolis' only all ages venue. During his spare time, Adam makes short films that have screened at festivals and museums. You can find him scheming about bus cabarets and penciling in words on crossword puzzles on the weekends.