

# THE CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES

## 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



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## **A Message from the Center for Home Movies Founders**

2007 was another banner year for the Center for Home Movies and Home Movie Day. Highlights included the release of *Living Room Cinema*, the first Home Movie Day DVD compilation; the finalization of a collaborative agreement with the Library of Congress; the naming of a second consecutive Home Movie Day rediscovery to the U.S. National Film Registry; and the celebration of the fifth annual Home Movie Day, held in a record number of cities and countries.

The Board of the Center for Home Movies thanks all of its friends and sponsors, and looks forward to an even more fruitful and productive year in 2008.



Photo: Center for Home Movies Board  
Katie Trainor, Brian Graney, Snowden Becker, Chad Hunter, Dwight Swanson (l. to r.)

## The Center for Home Movies 2007 Annual Report

### CHM and THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In the spring of 2005, the CHM board was invited to meet with David Francis, Greg Lukow and Mike Mashon to begin discussions regarding an official relationship between the Library of Congress and CHM. The Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division offered CHM workspace and collections storage in the new National Audio-Visual Conservation Center in Culpeper, Virginia. This year we were very happy to announce that a three-year contract between CHM and the Library was signed. Under the terms of the contract, CHM will be able to start developing its own collection of amateur films and home movies. Incoming collections deemed to be of national importance may become part of the CHM/LOC collection under the permanent care of the Library.



Mike Mashon, Head of the Moving Image Section of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division at the Library of Congress, and Robbins Barstow, CHM Advisory Board member, at the CHM cubicle at the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center. Photo by Dan Barstow.

### LIVING ROOM CINEMA

2007 saw the release of the DVD compilation *Living Room Cinema: Films from Home Movie Day, Vol. 1*. The DVD contains 22 films screened at various venues internationally during the first two years of Home Movie Day

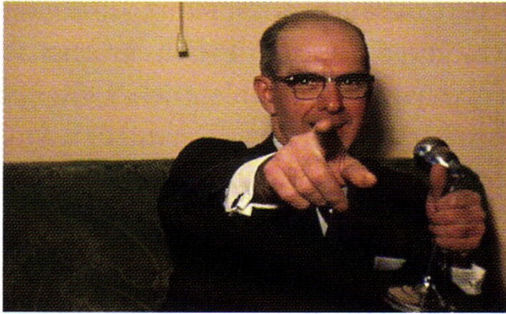
Since its release on Home Movie Day '07, the disc has been sold online through our website [www.livingroomcinemadvd.com](http://www.livingroomcinemadvd.com). More than 200 copies have been sold so far, with many more discs given away to HMD representatives and CHM friends and supporters. During the Association of Moving Image Archivists' conference, a portion of proceeds from sales of the DVDs went to the Maryann Gomes Award fund, which provides funding assistance for regional archivists to attend the Annual AMIA Conference. CHM is now in negotiation with a distribution company for international commercial distribution of the title, and plans are underway for a second volume featuring more great films.

Selections from the DVD have been screened publicly at Home Movie Day events and at special screenings in New Mexico, San Francisco, and elsewhere. In 2008, we are

interested in continuing to schedule screenings, discussions, and special events around the DVD.

Review from *Film Comment*, November/December 2007:

■ **DIY PICK** LIVING ROOM CINEMA: VOL. 1 (THE CENTER FOR HOME MOVIES, \$24.95)



IF THERE'S ONE SURE AXIOM ABOUT THE CUSTOMS of family life, it's this: home movies are always boring. That being said, the people at the Center for Home Movies have somehow managed to crack this tautology of tedium with *Living Room Cinema: Vol. 1*, a collection of highlights from Home Movie Day events around the world that offers a novel exception: what about the home movies of complete

strangers? With 22 films amounting to two hours of utterly non-boring footage that spans approximately 70 years, and optional commentaries by archivists, film historians, and the sometimes hilarious families themselves, *Living Room Cinema* proves to be much more than a cultural artifact, or a collectible item for film freaks and small-gauge enthusiasts; it's really a must-have for anyone who's ever been captivated by the wordless draw of moving images, or the common intimacies of other people's lives.—Margaret Barton-Fumo

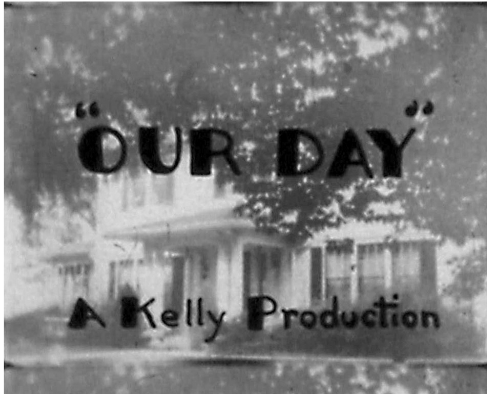
## HOME MOVIE DAY REDISCOVERY *OUR DAY* NAMED TO U.S. NATIONAL FILM REGISTRY

For the second year in a row, the Librarian of Congress named a film rediscovered at a Home Movie Day event to the National Film Registry. *Our Day*, a day-in-the-life of painter, artist, novelist and home moviemaker Wallace Kelly, joined last year's selection *Think of Me First as a Person* to the Library's list of twenty-five "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" American films. The Library of Congress describes the film as follows:

Wallace Kelly of Lebanon, Kentucky, made this exquisitely crafted amateur film at home in 1938. "Our Day" is a smart, entertaining day-in-the-life portrait of the Kelly household, shown in both idealized and comic ways. This silent 16mm home movie uses creative editing, lighting and camera techniques comparable to what professionals were doing in Hollywood.

His amateur cast was made up of his mother, wife, brother and pet terrier. "Our Day" also contains exceptional images of small-town Southern life, ones that counter the stereotype of impoverished people eking out a living during the Depression. The 12-minute film documents a modern home inhabited by adults with sophisticated interests (the piano, literature, croquet) and simple ones (gardening,

knitting, home cooking). Kelly was also an accomplished photographer, painter, and writer. He began shooting film in 1929 and continued until the 1950s.



Kelly's daughter Martha, sensing that the film was something special, brought the film to the New York City Home Movie Day at Anthology Film Archives, after reading about HMD in the *New Yorker*. The film was an instant hit with the audience, and in particular Dan Streible, a CHM Advisory Board member, NYU Film Studies professor, founder of the Orphan Film Symposium, member of the National Film Preservation Board, and a native Kentuckian. Prior to the National Film Preservation Board meeting, Dan sought out a DVD copy of the film and arranged for it to be screened for the Board during the annual meeting. The Board was awestruck by the impressive artistry and craftsmanship of the film. Dave Kehr, Board member and *New York Times* film critic, noted that the film "displays a more sophisticated sense of mise-en-scene than the great majority of current Hollywood features."

Dan has arranged with fellow CHM Advisory Board member Russ Suniewick for a 35mm print of the film to be made by Colorlab, with a screening of the new print to be held at the Orphan Film Symposium at NYU in March 2008.

### **HMD in the *NEW YORKER***

The August 6, 2007 issue of the *New Yorker* featured a "Talk of the Town" feature by Charles Graeber on a film screened at Home Movie Day '06 in New York. The film, a wedding film of boxing champion José Torres, had been brought to the screening by filmmaker and *Living Room Cinema* contributor Jeanne Liotta. Audience member Craig Lopez was so taken by the film that he tracked down Mr. and Mrs. Torres, making contact coincidentally on the day of their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. After talking to the couple he learned that the film had been missing for many decades until found by Liotta on the streets of Manhattan. Billy Powers, a longtime art director at *Time Magazine*, had shot the reel, a gorgeous black & white document of the couple and the ceremony. The print was rushed to Colorlab for transfer so that a copy could be presented to the couple in time for their anniversary party in Puerto Rico. It was screened again at Anthology Film Archives last summer as part of their Norman Mailer film series, where it screened alongside Mailer films in which José Torres acted.

## **BILL O'FARRELL JOINS CHM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

In October, the Center for Home Movies voted to invite long-time friend and mentor William O'Farrell to join the CHM Advisory Board. Bill is the former Chief of Moving Image and Audio Conservation at the National Archives of Canada, a recognized leader in all aspects of North American film preservation efforts, and a true friend to everyone in the audiovisual archives field.

## **HOME MOVIE DAY 2007**

Each year since the inaugural event in 2003, Home Movie Day has grown bigger and better, and 2007 was no exception. More than three dozen events were held across the United States, and the international representation was better than ever, with events in Japan, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Slovenia.

### Highlights:

- Dallas, Texas was chosen as the spotlight city for 2007, with a first ever event at the Sixth Floor Museum, which hosted screenings of home movies of and related to the Kennedy assassination, including the George Jefferies Collection, which garnered international attention for its stunning Kodachrome imagery of the presidential motorcade.
- Toronto saw an explosion of interest from both the press and the public this year, with an astonishing 514 films submitted for consideration for the event at the Film Reference Library at the Cinematheque Ontario. Local "home movie history project" Homemade Movies sponsored a second Toronto event at the University of Toronto.
- One of the most historically interesting films of the year came from the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies' Home Movie Day, where they uncovered an original home movie with scenes from the 1957 Little Rock Central High desegregation crisis. The film contains images of the Little Rock Nine arriving at Central High School in September of 1957, the U. S. Army's 101st Airborne division escorting the Little Rock Nine into the school, troops with bayonets lining the streets and images of an empty Central High School.
- And finally, once again Kae Ishihara and Film Preservation Society managed to add even more Japanese events to the calendar. This year there were an impressive 12 events across the country, with promises of even more in 2008.

The next Home Movie Day will be held on October 18, 2008. This October date was the result of discussions by HMD local organizers, who felt that autumn has fewer scheduling conflicts and could attract larger crowds than the now-traditional August date. As always,

we are seeking to increase the number of participating cities and countries. Updates for all HMD activities can be found on the [www.homemovieday.com](http://www.homemovieday.com) site.

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the volunteers who have contributed to the success of Home Movie Day this year. This worldwide event is conducted and coordinated through the collective efforts of hundreds of volunteers working at the local level.

Additionally, a number of people have made volunteer contributions to the central framework of HMD and to new initiatives of the CHM. In past years, we have benefited enormously from the work of volunteers Liz Coffey (HMD 101), Leo Enticknap (Projection Guidelines), Sarah Lipkin (Electronic Press Kit), and Tim Wilson (Film Transfer Survey). In 2007, the following joined their ranks:

Robert Auritt -- pro bono legal services

Skip Elsheimer -- established the "Home Movies" sub-collection at Internet Archive and donated digitization services for some of its initial content.

Brian Meacham -- continued to provide content for the blog (created in06) and to offer his expert assistance in coding and design for the Home Movie Day website.

Albert Steg -- CHM Collections database research and design.

## **HMD 2007 CITIES**

Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Athens, Georgia  
Austin, Texas  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Berkeley, California  
Berlin, Germany  
Beverly, Massachusetts  
Blacksburg, Virginia  
Brisbane, Australia  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Burlington, Vermont  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Chicago, Illinois  
Columbia, South Carolina  
Dallas, Texas  
Hachioji, Tokyo, Japan  
Hanover, New Hampshire  
Hirosaki, Japan  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Jacksonville, Illinois  
Knoxville, Tennessee  
Kobe, Japan  
Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan

Kyoto, Japan  
La Jolla, California  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Los Angeles, California  
Nagano, Japan  
Nagoya, Japan  
Nashville, Tennessee  
New Haven, Connecticut  
New York City, New York  
Osaka (Hiranu-ku, Abeno-ku, Minato-ku),  
Japan  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
Oxford, Mississippi  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Phoenix/Scottsdale, Arizona  
Portland, Maine  
Portland, Oregon  
Providence, Rhode Island  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
Rimini, Italy  
Rochester, New York  
San Francisco, California



## **HMD 2007 Cities, cont.**

Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Seattle, Washington  
Setagaya, Tokyo, Japan  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
Urbana, Illinois

Washington, DC  
Wellington, New Zealand  
West Columbia, South Carolina  
Weston, Florida  
Yanesen, Tokyo, Japan

## **HMD Organizers:**

Akinori Kaneko, Albert Steg, Alex Howel, Alojz Tersan, Andreas Busche, Andrew Lampert, Anna Morshedi, Asako Takemori, Ashley Maynor, Atsushi Matsumoto, Ayuno Takano, Ben Grillot, Bradley Reeves, Brian Graney, Bruce Posner, Chad Hunter, Claudio Giapponesi, Deborah Marine, Diana Little, Dwight Swanson, Evangelina Loguercio, Gemma Perreta, Gianmarco Torri, Gypsye Legge, Hannah Palin, Ieyasu Kimura, Jean-Pierre Sens, Jen Sidley, Jennifer Snyder, Jimi Jones, Joanna Poses, Julia Nicoll, Julie Lofthouse, Kae Ishihara, Karen Eberhart, Karianne Fiorini, Kathleen Fairweather, Katie Trainor, Keiichi Shima, Kelli Hicks, Kenji Emori, Kevin Spitzer, Leandro Listorti, Lia Friedman, Liz Coffey, Lou Ellen Kramer, Louisa Trott, Lucy Laird, Lynn Zook, Mark Rukavina, Marsha Orgeron, Martin Johnson, Mat Darby, Michelle Emanuel, Mirco Santi, Molly Wheeler, Nancy Watrous, Natasha Adkins, Nick Nguyen, Nozomi Nakagawa, Pablo Marin, Pamela Jean Smith, Paolo Simoni, Pat Doyen, Paula Felix-Didier, Philip Borgnes, Rob McIlwain, Robert van Ackeren, Ruta Abolins, Satoe Tamura, Satoshi Umeda, Sean Savage, Sibel Melik, Simona Monizza, Skip Elsheimer, Snowden Becker, Stephen O'Riordan, Stephen Parr, Tatjana Rezec Stibilj, Tina Harvey, Yasuhiro Hayata,

## **HMD Volunteers:**

Alan Stoker, Albert Birney, Albert Mudrian, Alex Wagenblass, Ali Tonn, Amy Gallick, Andrea Benefiel, Andrea McCarty, Andrei Gravelle, Andy Urich, Anna Bigelow, Anna Louise Richardson, Anne Shelton, Anne Wells, Arthur Yeung, Averie Cohen, Aya Hisamatsu, Barbara Heck, Barry Snyder, Ben Tucker, Beth Rennie, Betty Tweedy, Bill Proctor, Brian Drichell, Brian Hanish, Brian Meacham, Brock Silversides, Bruce Manke, Bruce McDonald, Candance Lewis, Carl Belfor, Caroline Rubens, Carolyn Faber, Celine Ruivo, Charlie Allen, Charlotte Walton, Chris Edwards, Chris Lane, Christina Stewart, Christina Stewart, Clare Denk, Daisuke Yamada, Dave Zahn, David Gallagher, Devin Orgeron, Doug McLaren, Ed Stratmann, Emily Happell, Eve Goldin, Germaine Fodor, Gisella Gaspari, Fritz Herzog, Hikaru Tsuneta, Hiromi Osaka, Hubert Toh, Ian McDermott, Jamie Moffitt, Jan-Christopher Horak, Jenn Libby, Jennifer Accardo, Jessye McDowell, Jim Hamilton, Jim Haverkamp, Jing Jing Chang, Jillian Borders, Jonathan Culp, Joshua Mabe, Junko Nabetani, Kae Ishihara, Karen Spenn, Kate Klutz, Kate McKay, Kathleen Burns, Kenichi Nabetani, Kentaro Oishi, Kristen MacDonald, Lance Watky, Laura Cowell, Laura Tatum, Laurie Thompson, Leah Churner, Leah Kerr, Leah Wagner, Leanda Gahegan, Lee Noble, Leslie Lewis, Lindsay Klick, Lindsay Miller, Lisa Dare, Luke Savisky, Lynne Kirste, Mami Kanda, Maria Bergh, Maria Roig Alsina, Mariko Goda, Mariko Ogawa, Mariko Sasanuma, Masako Kitamura, Mat Darby, Megan Peck, Michael Neault, Michelle Puetz,

Mike Wozniak, Miyuki Takeda, Moa Rachbauer Naron, Momoe Matsusaki , Nancy Kauffman, Nao Kanauchi, Naoko Kumagai, Paul Elsasser, Renee Cawley, Rich Schemitsch, Robert Blair, Robert Chehoski , Robin Klatskie, Ronel Namde, Ryuji Nakayama, Sadanobu Iida , Sadanobu Iida , Sam Adelman, Sarah Burge, Sarah Callahan, Siue Moffat , Sonoko Amano , Stefan Palko, Stephen Naron, Steve Ross, Steve Wilson, Steve Wright, Susan Rittereiser, Sylvia Frank, Takeshi Fujitsuka, Tania Reilly, Tanya Allen, Taylor Whitney, Tom Whiteside, Tom Wills, Ty Beddingfield, Yasuhiro Kawamura, Yasuki Kanamori, Yoji Hasegawa, Yuki Tsukada, Yuko Fujitsuka

Note: The roster of volunteers has been culled by reports from local HMD hosts, and is not a complete list of all of the hundreds of people who have assisted in the local events. We thank everyone who has helped out and apologize for any names not listed.

## **THE HOME MOVIES OF HELEN HILL**

Last spring CHM received its first film preservation grant from the New York Women in Film and Television's Women's Film Preservation Foundation (WFPPF) to preserve the home movies of the late filmmaker Helen Hill. The films are poignant documents of her life in New Orleans before and after Hurricane Katrina.

Before her tragic death in January 2007, CHM began working with Helen on preserving the home movies that had been partially destroyed when her New Orleans home had been flooded following Hurricane Katrina. Helen and her husband Paul Gailunas rescued the films upon their brief return home, and brought them back to their home in Columbia, SC during their period of displacement. Helen heroically set up a film inspection station in her basement and painstakingly cleaned and rescued as much of the films as she could, and paid for a portion of the "Flooded Films" to be preserved on 16mm stock. It was at the screening of these films at the Orphan Film Symposium in Columbia in 2006 that CHM first began its partnership with Helen, a friendship which grew during her participation in the 2006 Home Movie Day in New Orleans.

The WFPPF grant is being matched by funds from the Harvard Film Archive, the repository of the Helen Hill Film Collection. The grant will pay for the preservation of 10 reels of her Super 8 home movies by Colorlab, Inc. Three additional reels are being preserved by the Maxine Greene Foundation, and will be screened in an opening night tribute to Helen Hill at the Orphan Film Symposium at NYU on March 26 2008.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **National Council on Public History**

Snowden Becker, Brian Graney, Dwight Swanson and Katie Trainor gave a presentation about Home Movie Day at the annual conference of the National Council on Public History in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The New Mexico trip also included screenings of films from *Living Room Cinema* at Santa Fe's Center for Contemporary Arts

Cinematheque, and the Experiments in Cinema festival at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

### **Becoming a Film-Friendly Archivist**

Katie and Snowden continued their ongoing series of film preservation workshops. The “Becoming a Film-Friendly Archivist” presentations, sponsored by the Society of American Archivists, were held in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania and Loma Linda, California.

### **Home Movie Day at Five: Evolving Rituals**

Home Movie Day veterans Guy Edmonds and Liz Coffey co-chaired “Home Movie Day at Five,” a panel session at the Association of Moving Image Archivists’ conference in Rochester, New York. The panel looked back over the five-year history of Home Movie Day from an archival context. Guy and Liz’s report follows:

Snowden Becker kicked off the session by setting out the role of the Center for Home Movies and displaying a charming group portrait of the five Home Movie Day founders. Her point however was not to develop a personality cult but rather to reveal their essentially back stage role in supporting the world's HMDs. CHM is the center of a year- round network of advocacy and expertise and any HMD host is necessarily part of that network. However, an HMD is "owned and individualized" by the regional organizers. She also underlined that it was not their intention to amass a vast collection of home movies, indeed their message, and the message of HMD, was to encourage effective preservation in the home, however if necessary CHM could be a depository of last resort.

Nancy Watrous of Chicago Film Archives related her experience of running HMDs at different locations in Chicago and described them as a useful 'Welcome Mat/ Magnet' for her organization. Her experiences dealing with the historical, genealogical and monetary value of the home movies arriving at her events led her to suggest the establishment of ethical guidelines for the hosts to follow when advising about deposits/donations. She described some issues of competition with other archives as well as with stock footage seekers and film transfer houses. CFA ended up making film-to-video transfers part of their mission, finding it was an important service to the community to have a reputable transfer option, and also a good way to acquire film for the archives.

Karianne Fiorini of Archivio Nazionale del Film di Famiglia, Bologna, Italy also shared her experience of holding HMDs in different locations but on a national scale. The important thing for them was to find local partners who are already engaged in local history/ cultural memory projects. Karianne's presentation therefore stressed the importance of networks as had Snowden's. This is surely the key to expanded coverage. Perhaps HMD hosts can, additionally to running their own events, use their own networks to try to recruit organizers for other complimentary events, whether on a regional, national or even international scale.

Skip Elsheimer of A/V Geeks, organizer of the Raleigh NC Home Movie Day, chose to talk about the thorny topic of Home Video and how it should fit into future HMDs. He pointed out that for the vast majority of people the term 'Home Movies' refers to content not medium and suggested that hosts should proactively talk about video preservation rather than simply acknowledging it as an issue if raised by an attendee. One answer would be to suggest uploading to the Internet Archive Home Movies section as a means of indefinite preservation.

## **SPONSORS**

We would like to once again thank our generous 2007 national sponsors:

- [Colorlab](#)
- [Ascent Media](#)
- [Cineric](#)
- [The Orphan Film Symposium](#)

There are many additional sponsors who have supported local HMD events with cash and in-kind donations.

For information about contributing to Home Movie Day or the Center for Home Movies, contact [film@homemovieday.com](mailto:film@homemovieday.com) or any of the CHM board members.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The 2007 CHM Financial report is available upon request

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

As the activities of Home Movie Day and the Center for Home Movies continue to expand into new areas, we are always in need of your support.

Things we need for 2008:

- Film and video equipment in good working condition
- Donations of printing costs for letterhead and promotional brochures
- Legal counsel, including help with contracts, copyright issues, tax filings, and other concerns as they arise
- Assistance with accounting
- Your time and labor for local events and international projects
- And, of course, cash