

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PRESENTS THE THEATRICAL PREMIERE OF BOB BYINGTON'S INDIE COMEDY *HARMONY AND ME*, SEPTEMBER 18-24

**MoMA Presents: Bob Byington's *Harmony and Me*
September 18–24, 2009
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters**

New York, August 24, 2009—The Museum of Modern Art presents the theatrical premiere of Bob Byington's slacker comedy *Harmony and Me* (2009), from September 18 through 24, 2009, in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters. Director Byington will be present at the September 18 and 19 screenings to introduce the film and participate in a post-screening question and answer session.

A major highlight of the 2009 New Directors/New Films festival, the longstanding collaboration between The Museum of Modern Art and The Film Society of Lincoln Center, *Harmony and Me* takes place in the independent film capital Austin, Texas, where a melancholy young lyricist named Harmony (Justin Rice) refuses to let go of the heartbreak caused by a crushing break-up with his girlfriend. He remains stubbornly unhappy, reducing his story of lost love to a broken-record spiel that he repeats to friends, family, and anyone else who will listen. Although his depression annoys his tough mom, Harmony's friends, as oddball and eccentric as he, seem largely unaffected by his cultivation of misery.

In addition to Rice, a musician who is also front-man for the band Bishop Allen, the film features Kevin Corrigan as Harmony's sidekick Carlos. Byington's film employs a barebones aesthetic to present a contemporary portrait of a descent towards rock bottom that ultimately resolves in redemption.

Harmony and Me received an Annenberg Fellowship from the Sundance Institute in 2008, and, in addition to New Directors/New Films, was also screened at the 2009 Edinburgh International Film Festival and the Los Angeles Film Festival. Director Byington was recently awarded the Stanley Kubrick Award for "Bold and Innovative Filmmaking" at the Traverse City Film Festival.

MoMA's weeklong run of *Harmony and Me* is organized by Laurence Kardish, Senior Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

Harmony and Me. 2009. USA. Directed by Bob Byington. 75 min.
Friday, September 18, 7:00 (introduced by Bob Byington)
Saturday, September 19, 1:30 (introduced by Bob Byington)
Sunday, September 20, 5:00
Monday, September 21, 4:00
Wednesday, September 23, 7:00
Thursday, September 24, 8:00

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For downloadable images, please visit www.moma.org/press

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Public Information: **The Museum of Modern Art**, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019

Hours: Films are screened Wednesday-Monday. For screening schedules, please visit www.moma.org.

Film Admission: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D. \$6 full-time students with current I.D. (For admittance to film programs only.) The price of a film ticket may be applied toward the price of a Museum admission ticket when a film ticket stub is presented at the Lobby Information Desk within 30 days of the date on the stub (does not apply during Target Free Friday Nights, 4:00–8:00 p.m.). Admission is free for Museum members and for Museum ticketholders.