



CENTERS FOR THE ARTS BONITA SPRINGS

2 CENTERS | 1 MISSION | ARTS FOR ALL
VISUAL ARTS CENTER, 26100 OLD 41 RD
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 10150 BONITA BEACH RD
ARTCENTERBONITA.ORG
[MEDIA DROPBOX](#)

Media Contact:
CHRISTINE ELZINGA
Marketing & Creative Director
marketing1@artsbonita.org
239.495.8989 x806

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Screening of the Powerful 2005 Documentary

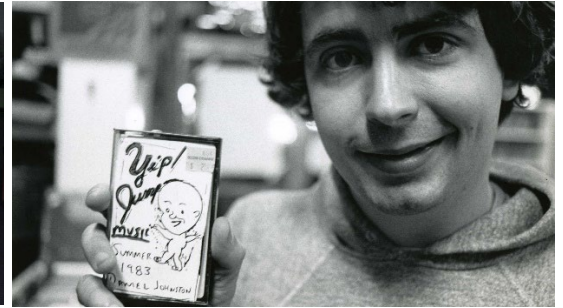
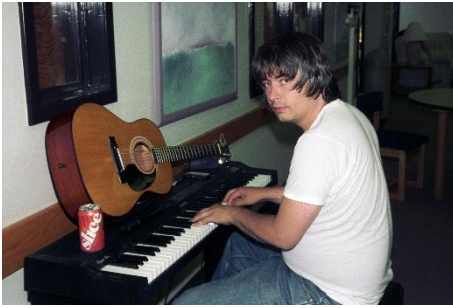
THE DEVIL AND DANIEL JOHNSTON

An exploration of the profound relationship between mental illness and artistic expression

Monday, July 10, 2023, 7pm

General Admission Tickets: \$8

Performing Arts Center, Moe Auditorium & Film Center
10150 Bonita Beach Rd, Bonita Springs



[Photos in DROPBOX](#)

The Devil and Daniel Johnston is a thought-provoking documentary that delves into the tumultuous life of the musician and visual artist Daniel Johnston. Directed by Jeff Feuerzeig, the film offers a poignant exploration of the profound relationship between mental illness and artistic expression. Through a raw and unfiltered lens, it invites viewers to reflect on the captivating yet troubled world of a truly unique artist. *The Devil and Daniel Johnston* will be screened as part of Arts Bonita's Film as Fine Art Series on Monday, July 10 at 7pm. The evening will begin with a brief introduction about the film and audience members are welcome to take part in a discussion immediately following the screening. Tickets are \$8 for general admission and are available online at artsbonita.org, by calling 239.495.8989, or by visiting the box office.

THE LIFE AND STRUGGLES OF DANIEL JOHNSTON

Daniel Johnston, born in 1961, emerged as an extraordinary talent despite his lifelong battle with mental illness. The documentary provides a glimpse into the life of a man who was both consumed by his demons and driven by his art. From an early age, Johnston exhibited signs of mental instability,



CENTERS FOR THE ARTS BONITA SPRINGS

2 CENTERS | 1 MISSION | ARTS FOR ALL
VISUAL ARTS CENTER, 26100 OLD 41 RD
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 10150 BONITA BEACH RD
ARTCENTERBONITA.ORG
[MEDIA DROPBOX](#)

Media Contact:

CHRISTINE ELZINGA

Marketing & Creative Director

marketing1@artsbonita.org

239.495.8989 x806

struggling with manic depression and schizophrenia. These conditions heavily influenced his artistic output, often becoming an integral part of his work.

Art as Catharsis

The Devil and Daniel Johnston explores how art served as a cathartic outlet for Johnston, enabling him to navigate the depths of his emotional turmoil. His drawings, paintings, and music became a vessel through which he could communicate his innermost thoughts, fears, and fantasies. Through the medium of art, Johnston found solace, giving voice to his anguish and providing a platform for self-expression that transcended his mental health challenges.

The Duality of Creativity and Mental Illness

One of the documentary's central themes is the intricate relationship between creativity and mental illness. Johnston's art is a testament to the notion that some of the most profound artistic expressions arise from the depths of human suffering. His vivid illustrations and haunting lyrics resonated with many, offering a glimpse into the complex terrain of his mind.

While mental illness posed significant challenges for Johnston, it also seemed to fuel his creativity. As the film unfolds, viewers witness the contradictory forces at play—moments of brilliance followed by periods of despair and self-destruction. This dichotomy demonstrates the delicate balance between the tortured artist's desire for artistic greatness and his ongoing struggle for stability and well-being.

Impact on the Artistic Community

The Devil and Daniel Johnston highlights the profound impact Johnston had on the artistic community. Despite being relatively unknown during his early years, his unique talent eventually garnered attention from notable musicians and artists, including Kurt Cobain (Nirvana), Sonic Youth, and Tom Waits. Johnston's story serves as a testament to the power of raw creativity and the enduring influence that artists grappling with mental illness can have on the world around them.

A Call for Empathy and Understanding

Beyond Johnston's artistic prowess, the documentary serves as a reminder of the importance of empathy and understanding when it comes to mental illness. Johnston's experiences shed light on the challenges faced by individuals with mental health conditions, emphasizing the need for a compassionate approach. By sharing his story, the film fosters a broader conversation about the complexities of mental health and encourages greater acceptance and support for those who experience it.

The Devil and Daniel Johnston is a profoundly moving documentary that shines a light on the indomitable spirit of an artist grappling with mental illness. Through his art, Daniel Johnston managed to rise above his personal struggles, leaving behind a remarkable legacy that continues to resonate with audiences worldwide. By examining the intersection of mental illness and art, the film invites us to appreciate the power of creativity as a means of healing, expression, and understanding in the face of adversity.



CENTERS FOR THE ARTS BONITA SPRINGS

2 CENTERS | 1 MISSION | ARTS FOR ALL

VISUAL ARTS CENTER, 26100 OLD 41 RD

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, 10150 BONITA BEACH RD

ARTCENTERBONITA.ORG

[MEDIA DROPBOX](#)

Media Contact:

CHRISTINE ELZINGA

Marketing & Creative Director

marketing1@artsbonita.org

239.495.8989 x806

ABOUT THE CENTERS FOR THE ARTS BONITA SPRINGS

The Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs (Arts Bonita) is committed to enriching the lives of the community by providing year-round opportunities for artistic expression, education, and appreciation. There are two Arts Bonita locations dedicated to the visual and performing arts.

The Visual Arts Center, 26100 Old 41 Road, is a 10-acre, four-building campus, which consists of multiple fine art galleries, fully equipped art studios, a gift shop, beautiful sculpture gardens, and a nature preserve. A variety of classes are offered at this center including painting, drawing, clay, sculpture, glass, mixed media, and more. This center offers unique, year-round art exhibitions and other special events.

The Performing Arts Center, 10150 Bonita Beach Road, is a 4-acre, two-building campus, which is home to the 400-seat Hinman Auditorium and Gallery in the Round, the 200-seat Moe Auditorium & Film Center/Dance Studio, and fully equipped art studios. At this diverse center, patrons can enjoy an ongoing array of live concerts, theatre, comedy, film, lectures, youth and adult dance classes, music lessons, and art classes for all ages and skill levels.

ARTS FOR ALL—Seeking to serve the educational and cultural needs of the diverse community, Arts Bonita offers year-round programming, plus, three top-rated Art Festivals in January, February, and March each year, which draw hundreds of remarkable artists from around the world to beautiful, historic Downtown Bonita Springs, Florida.

###