



Heartland Film Society

presents

Man on Wire (2008)

Thursday, March 4th 2010



In 1974 Philip Petit walked on a wire strung between the two towers of the World Trade Center. It was the peak of his career as a guerrilla performer whose stage was the great buildings of the world. His exploits often led to arrest but were always a quiet victory for a man who apparently had no fear. He danced his way across the wire between the towers, back and forth while New Yorkers gazed from below in awe of the grace and daring of the man whilst the police looked on, waiting to arrest him. James Marsh's documentary mixes interview with Petit and his co-conspirators, contemporary footage and reconstruction of the day the Twin Towers were linked by an unofficial wire and a man walking.

What the critics said: What Marsh shows us is Petit's childlike innocence and almost transcendental faith: faith in himself, faith in his leadership abilities, faith that the escapade would be a success, and faith that he would not fall. His sheer hypnotic self-belief meant that I found it quite impossible to imagine him losing his balance and plunging to his death: he defies gravity. In our world of elf'n'safety, a world where success and fame means working within very well-understood corporate structures, Petit is a rare, exotic beast, and a wonderful one.

Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian

Length and certificate: 118 minutes

Language: English

Coming next month... April 1st and 2nd I've loved you so long

For more information about our programme of films see

www.heartlandfilmsociety.org.uk