



**SEPTEMBER 4 – OCTOBER 24, 2009**

**TIVOLI SCREENING:**

THU SEPT 3, 7:30PM FREE! (FIRST COME, FIRST SEATED)

Tivoli Cinemas Westport Manor Square

4050 Pennsylvania Ave. KC, MO 64111

(PARKING GARAGE IS FREE IF YOU TELL THE GARAGE ATTENDANT YOU'RE GOING TO THE CINEMA)

**GRAND ARTS OPENING RECEPTION:**

FRI SEPT 4, 6-9PM

**ARTIST BANTER:**

SAT SEPT 5, 2PM AT GRAND ARTS

**SSION**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AUGUST 12, 2009**

Grand Arts is pleased to present **BOY**, a new feature film by **SSION**, written and directed by **Cody Critcheloe**. **BOY** will premiere at the Tivoli Manor Square Cinema on September 3rd at 7:30PM and at Grand Arts with an Opening Reception on Friday, September 4th from 6-9PM. The exhibition continues through October 24th, 2009.

Critcheloe's feature-length directorial debut and most ambitious project to date combines footage from separately shot but jointly conceived music videos for **SSION**'s 2007 record *Fool's Gold*. **BOY** is semi-autobiographical and the songs and script employ **SSION**'s signature camp, glitter and punk high jinks. The movie includes a rotating cast of **SSION** characters, hundreds of extras staged in auditions and concert scenes, candid interviews and tour footage to create a queer-utopian musical narrative, what Critcheloe calls "A gay-punk Forrest Gump."

Additionally, the Grand Arts show will include a frenzy of **SSION** ephemera. The installation will feature documentary photographs and Critcheloe's signature punk drawings covering the gallery walls. **NOISS**, a **SSION** cover band, will perform at the Opening Reception.

**SSION** is Critcheloe's ongoing project—part punk rock band, part performance art. Critcheloe formed **SSION** while a high school student in Lewisport, Kentucky and continued to manifest **SSION** as a student in the Printmaking department at the Kansas City Art Institute. Critcheloe swept onto the local punk scene in 2003 with a small entourage of friends turned collaborators. Each of **SSION**'s four album projects features a different aesthetic, punk/pop styling, and array of cultural references. Since **SSION**'s barnyard animals belted out punk ballads demanding, "Opportunity Bless My Soul!" and "I Fucking Care About You!" from

their 2003 album, *Opportunity Bless My Soul*, recent tours and performances have become full-out multi-media explosions. SSION puts on an impressive live pop show complete with animated drawings, music videos, stage sets, costumes and choreography.

In the past few years, SSION has garnered a world-wide fan base, touring with the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, CSS, Tilly and the Wall and most recently Fischerspooner. Critcheloe was the guest MC for The Gossip's London Record Release party in June and is a regular contributor for Vice Magazine's blog. He has produced music videos for Tilly and the Wall and the Liars, and also designed album art for the Yeah Yeah Yeahs *Fever To Tell*. SSION and Critcheloe have performed regularly with WHOOP DEE DOO at a host of local venues and at Deitch Projects in New York. Critcheloe was a 2007 Charlotte Street Visual Arts Award recipient. Last year, Critcheloe was invited to Athens, Greece to perform at Andreas Melas's gallery AMP, in "Mail Order Monsters" a show curated by Kathy Grayson. In September, Critcheloe will be featured in an exhibition at the University of Chicago's Smart Museum titled "Heartland." SSION's pop shows have achieved increasing acclaim from music critics and mainstream media, but until now SSION has been mostly under the radar of contemporary art. *BOY*, SSION's Grand Arts project, will situate Critcheloe's oeuvre in a gallery context, celebrated in Kansas City, his home base.

Cody and SSION would like to give special thanks to the following for their support and collaboration: Drew Bolton, Megan Mantia, Shannon Michalski, J. Ashley Miller, Zach Van Benthussen, and Gnarly Enterprises.

More information on SSION is online at [www.myspace.com/ssion](http://www.myspace.com/ssion).

For further information on this project and Grand Arts visit our website and blog [www.grandarts.com](http://www.grandarts.com) or contact:

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