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City Paper's Arts and Entertainment Blog

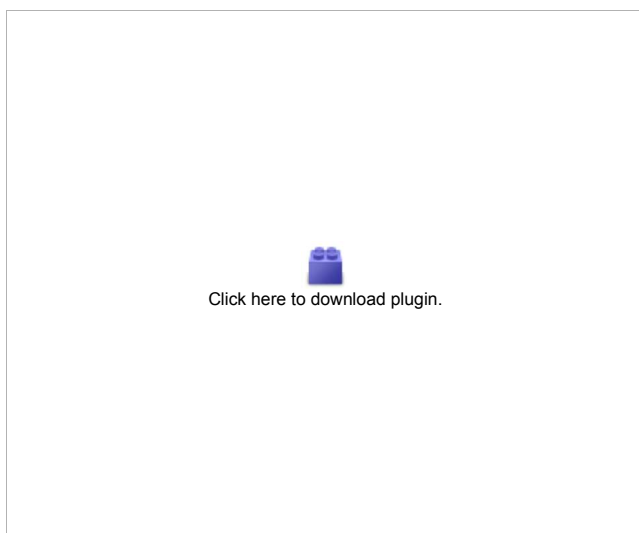
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previous ART PHAG: Lt. Dan Choi on being outed and then ousted, LGBT Read-a-Thon, Pink Pub Crawl
next WHAT WE HEART: *Street Fighter* Snuggie

► "Alright, let's rock it to Russia": Wesley Willis doc screens at National Mechanics

Thursday, November 19th, 2009 at 2:36 pm
posted by Molly Eichel

categories | Movies, Music, screening



Wesley Willis, Chicago's answer to Daniel Johnston, was a schizophrenic rock 'n' roll troubadour and outsider artist. His songs are simple, often just a drum machine or keyboard, all under Willis' endearingly tone deaf voice. Incredibly prolific, Willis recorded over 50 albums. Filmed over the last four years of his life, the documentary *Wesley Willis' Joy Rides* premiered at the 2008 Slamdance Film Festival (where Philly-set *The New Year Parade* took home top honors) and went on to the win the Gold Hugo for Chicago Award at the Chicago International Film Fest. The title refers to how Willis famously saw rock 'n' roll — as joy ride music.

In anticipation of *Joy Rides*' December 8 DVD release, **National Mechanics** will host a free midnight screening of the doc on **Monday, November 30**. Trailer is above. What's your fave Wesley Willis song? Nothing beats my first experience with Willis, which was "**Rock 'n' Roll McDonalds**." Enjoy.

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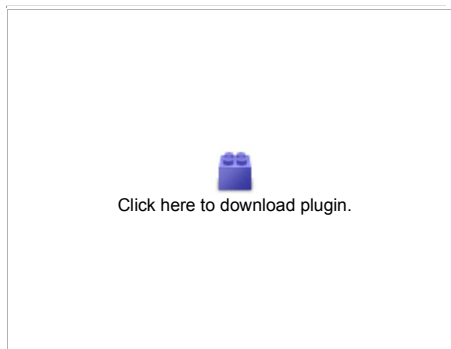
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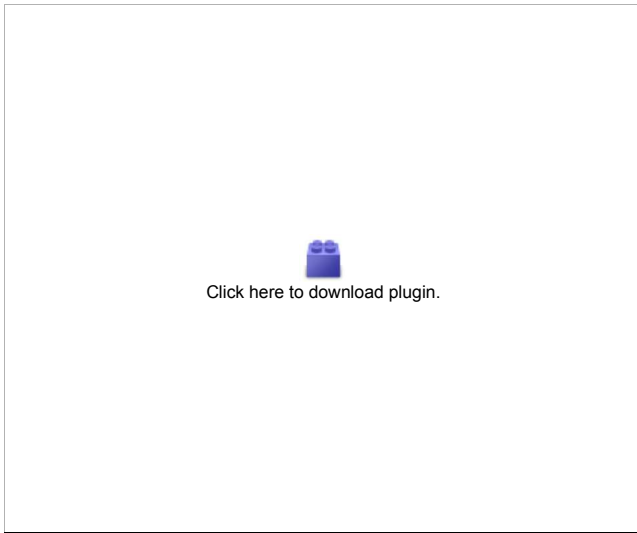


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Video



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Wesley Willis Joyrides, Mon., Nov. 30, midnight, free, National Mechanics, 22 S. Third St., 215-701-4883.

Tags: national mechanics, wesley willis, wesley willis joyrides



This entry was posted on Thursday, November 19th, 2009 at 2:36 pm and is filed under [Movies](#), [Music](#), [screening](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0 feed](#). You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

3 Responses to "“Alright, let's rock it to Russia”: Wesley Willis doc screens at National Mechanics”

[...] "Alright, let's rock it to Russia": Wesley Willis doc screens at ... Share and Enjoy: [...]

by Xbox 360 Rock Band 2 Special Edition | Daily Gaming Blog on November 19th, 2009 at 9:59 pm

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by NEW INTERVIEW WITH J-14 MAGAZINE | Ashley Tisdale | Ashley Tisdale Celebrity Monitor on November 19th, 2009 at 11:33 pm

Alright...I saw this at a screening in LA recently and it was fantastic! people should go and see this touching portrait of an afflicted man with some amazing talents. I never knew about his drawings until I saw this, they are fantastic!

by Ed Rothstein on November 20th, 2009 at 8:54 am

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- steve: Elliott Yamin is hardly ugly and can sing better than Taylor Hicks and Katharine McPhee. Both Yamin and Chris...
- Jesse D: Pretty good turnout for the "Literacy 'Freeze' You" event. It was more regimented.
- Ed Rothstein: Alright...I saw this at a screening in LA recently and it was fantastic! people should go and see...
- red2blues: The whole "match" is really pointless. The two were both great artists: dancers/...
- Stuart Friedman: I read your excellent article. While I haven't seen the show (I do have the catalogue)it is...

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