

**Los Angeles Filmforum presents**  
**Watching the Way You Move: An Evening with Kevin Jerome Everson**  
**Tuesday May 12, 2026, 7:30 pm**  
**At 2220 Arts + Archives**

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2026 is our 51st year. [www.lafilmforum.org](http://www.lafilmforum.org)

West Coast premieres! (+ a world premiere!)

In person: Kevin Jerome Everson

Filmforum welcomes back Kevin Jerome Everson with a compelling array of recent work (2023-2026) (+ a short from 2016), ranging from observations of state bird-watchers to a powerful examination of the now shuttered Ohio State Reformatory in his hometown of Mansfield Ohio, to a short tribute to Gail Fisher, the first Black woman to win an Emmy. It's difficult to encapsulate the range of Everson's prolific and varied films. He creates a wide array of distilled interpretations of aspects of Black life in the USA, in part producing an archive of lived experiences that have been erased in dominant culture. An artist, not a documentarian, he erases the line between staging and verité, and, through his films, insists on and deliberately enacts the presence and importance of family, labor, athletics, art-making, politics, and community. He listens to the echoes of people in empty spaces, re-values almost-forgotten historical figures, and arranges performances for the camera of actions that are regularly carried out without being recorded or appreciated. Every time we host Everson, we share in the beauty and energy of the ever-growing project of his film artistry.— Adam Hyman

**Kevin Jerome Everson** (b. 1965 Mansfield, OH, lives and works in Charlottesville, VA) is the Commonwealth and Ruffin Foundation Distinguished Professor of Studio Art, Director of Studio Arts, University of Virginia. Everson's art practice encompasses printmaking, sculpture, photography and film, including 13 features and over 300 solo & collaborative shorts. He is the recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship, Berlin Prize, Heinz Award, Alpert Award, and Rome Prize, & grants and commissions from Ford Foundation/Just Films, Knight Foundation, The Brick & Creative Capital among others. He is currently in post-production on his first fiction feature *Lowndes County*.

A 3 DVD boxed set, *Broad Daylight and Other Times*, was released by Video Data Bank in 2011 and a DVD dedicated to films focusing on the rituals and gestures of labor, *I Really Hear That: Quality Control and Other Works* was released by VDB in 2017. His ongoing 'Black Fire' film collaboration with UVA colleague Claudrena N. Harold includes 13 films to date and the 2025 VDB release *Can You Move Like This*. The two disc Blu-ray *How You Live Your Story: Selected Works of Kevin Jerome Everson* was released by the UK based boutique label Second Run DVD in Fall 2020 and Park Lanes, a two-disc special edition Blu-ray with essays and interviews by Michael B. Gillespie, Matthew Barrington and Elena Gorfinkel was released by Second Run in February 2025.

Special Thanks to Madeleine Molyneaux, Kate Lain, the Academy Museum.

Films appear courtesy the artist; trilobite-arts DAC; Picture Palace Pictures

## **Screening:**

### **Cactus Wren**

2024. 16mm to digital, color, sound, 3:10. West Coast premiere

A film about a birdwatcher looking for the state bird of Arizona as well as seven other states. (Premiered at National Gallery of Art, 2024)

### **Hough 66**

2023, 16mm to digital, b&w, silent, 7:18. West Coast premiere

has the talented firebreather Fuego Mansa Mufasa exhibiting the visuals of the 1966 Cleveland Ohio uprising. (World Premiere, Doc Fortnight (MoMA NYC) March 2023.)

### **If You Don't Watch the Way You Move**

2023, 16mm to digital, color, sound, 12:20. West Coast premiere

*If You Don't Watch the Way You Move* features Derek "Dripp" Whitfield Jr. and Taymond "ChoSkii" Hughes of the music group BmE composing and recording their latest composition, "Shiesty", in the Columbus, Mississippi studio of Jermaine "Country Blakk" Brown only to be interrupted by a John Cage score. (World Premiere Berlinale 2023: Cinema du Reel (intl Competition); New York Film Festival + over 15 intl festival screenings)

### **Necessary Trip**

2025, 16mm to digital, b&w, sound, 4:50. West Coast premiere

About a heyday of vice in Mansfield Ohio when it used to be called Little Chicago. (Premiere: Prismatic Ground, May 2025)

### **Simca Vega Cricket**

2025, 16mm to digital, color, sound, 2:10. World premiere!

*Simca Vega Cricket* are the automobiles that the actor Gail Fisher, the first Black woman to win an Emmy, as the secretary Peggy Fair, drove in the United States hit television show *Mannix*.

### **Banging on Their Bars in Rhythm**

2024, 16mm to digital, b&w, sound, 11:36. West Coast premiere

Contrasty black and white footage of the old Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio which also creates the sound on the audio track. The title is from the film script for *Air Force One* (1997) which (like *The Shawshank Redemption*) was filmed on location at the reformatory. (World Premiere, First Look/Museum of Moving Image, 2024)

"*Banging on Their Bars in Rhythm* is another in Everson's recent suite of films made in the now-decommissioned State Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio. These films are potent works, not just because of the physical history of the prison, which of course reflects the misery of inmates from across several eras. Everson keeps finding different ways to represent the prison space, resulting in provocative variations on the theme. *Banging on Their Bars* is maybe the most shocking of these films; in it, Everson moves his camera at different angles to turn the prison bars into an abstract set of black lines on a white field. The soundtrack, meanwhile, mirrors this formal approach, since it is composed of the images of the bars traveling along the projector head. With its graceful, handheld spatial disorientations, *Banging* feels like a distant cousin to Ernie

Gehr's *Side / Walk / Shuttle*, while the minimalist striping resembles Tony Conrad or Lis Rhodes. There is something genuinely disturbing about Everson's use of the Reformatory to generate such formalist images, and this frisson makes *Banging* one of Everson's most impressive films." - Michael Sicinski, In Review Online,  
<https://inreviewonline.com/2024/03/19/illuminations-program-elsewhere-here/>

### **Out of State Plates**

2026 16mm to digital, b&w, silent, 3:24. West Coast premiere

A film about the dangers of driving in the south during the Freedom Summer of 1964. (World Premiere: Odds & Ends Festival, Charlottesville, 2026)

### **Eason**

2016, 16mm to digital, color, sound, 15:00

Commissioned by the Scribe Video Center, part of the one-hundred anniversary of the great Black migration in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

*Eason* is loosely based on the life of James Walker Hood Eason (1886-1923) a long-time member of the UNIA of Philadelphia. Filmed in Philadelphia, Salisbury, North Carolina, and New Orleans.

### **California Quail**

2024, 16mm to digital, b&w, sound, 3:14. West Coast premiere

A film about a birdwatcher looking for the state bird of California and Arizona.

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Coming soon to Filmforum:

Sun May 17, 7:30 pm – Cosmic Rage – Fundraiser for L.A. Tenants Union & Community Self-Defense Coalition Los Angeles (CSDCLA)

Thurs May 21, 7:30 pm — Adam Green Explains Harry Smith + *Heaven* + *Earth Magic* (1957) screening — Adam Green in person! — co-presented by 7th House & Los Angeles Filmforum, at the Philosophical Research Society

Sat May 30, 10:55 pm— Co-presenting The Computer-Laser-Videos of Raphael Montañez Ortiz at the UCLA Film & TV Archive, Billy Wilder Theater

Sun May 31, 4:00 pm - Filmforum presents Harry Smith's *Film #18: Mahagonny* (1980, screening at 2220 Arts + Archives — co-presented by the Harry Smith Archives and 7th House

Memberships available, \$40 Student \$75 Individual, \$125 Dual, or \$225 Silver Nitrate

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