

## The Thea Project & Acknowledgements

Born on May 12, 1973, Thea St.Omer grew up in Santa Barbara, CA, and did her undergraduate studies at UC/Berkeley. In 1996 she entered the graduate film program at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, completing her MFA in 2004. She taught in film programs at UC/Santa Barbara and the Newhouse School of Public Communications/Syracuse University. The Jerome Foundation, the NYS Council on the Arts, the NYS Foundation for the Arts, the Bronx Council on the Arts, New York Women in Film & Television, and the Onondaga County Cultural Resources Council provided grants for her projects. Her films have screened in festivals in the US and Jamaica. Additionally, she left unfinished films, notebooks, and recorded interviews. St.Omer was also a writer, painter, shop owner, encourager par excellence of other artists, and worked a variety of jobs at all hours to support her passion for making movies. She died suddenly on April 3, 2015, in her Armory Square loft space in downtown Syracuse, New York.



The collection of online articles and material in this special section of Moving Images for *Stone Canoe* #10 (2016) is a beginning step in an on-going effort to preserve and archive her body of film work and find ways to have others see it. A large amount of material remains that is not included in this section at this point.

We are fortunate to have other filmmakers and artists who knew her join in this effort. Each person who has participated in this project has been provided with a DVD “review pack”—a set of DVDs containing St.Omer’s seven finished films.

It goes without saying that none of this would have happened without the trust and support of Thea's parents, Garth and Lucy St.Omer.

James Richards at NYU and Jason Kohlbrenner at the Newhouse School in Syracuse have both been familiar with her work and worked closely with her on its production over a significant span of time, and filmmaker Kyle Corea, now based in Brooklyn, first knew her when he lived in Syracuse. In particular, their counsel and commitment to St.Omer have been a bedrock of this project. Film editor and Newhouse faculty Tula Goenka has offered support in more ways than we could list here, with compass readings of True North among them. Thanks to NYU's David Irving, chair of the graduate film program during a part of her time there, for his remarks about her "grit and grace," and to filmmaker and former NYU faculty Boris Frumin for his insight that St.Omer's films are best seen as a body of work. Sheril D. Antonio, Associate Dean of the Kanbar Institute of Film and Television at the Tisch School, has also been most encouraging.

Thanks to Michael Davis, *Syracuse New Times*, for use of his photographs of Thea St.Omer; to James Richards for his photograph of the Palace Theater marquee on 5/28/15 during the memorial gathering; to Alberto Urroz for his photograph of himself and Thea as graduate students.

Special thanks to Seán Horsford and Mary Kasprzyk for recovering three early films—a *Touch of Tutelage*, *Love in an Elevator* and *En Los Ojos*—from now-fragile and difficult-to-play media formats, and for resurrecting the closed caption version of *Writing Outside School Walls*.

St. Omer left specific designs for three DVD covers and material that suggested designs for the others. Special thanks to graphic artist Jessica Fatigate for invaluable design and technical assistance in preparing the DVD "review pack" graphic components.

Gratitude to filmmaker Malinda Massing for her videography and editing of the Marcelle Haddix-Georgia Popoff conversation and for preparation of the seven completed St.Omer films for online access in this section.

Amy E. Bartell, Johanna Keller and Ty Marshall provided general stewardship.

Thanks to Phil Memmer of the YMCA's Downtown Writers Center in Syracuse, new managing editor of *Stone Canoe*, for enthusiastically agreeing at once to a

special edition of the online Moving Images section devoted to St.Omer's filmmaking.



## The Thea Project

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