

WHAT IS IT ABOUT HATS?

A Documentary About the People Under the Brim

The secrets of hat wearers uncapped.



A film by Andee Kinzy

Kinzy Productions, Un-Limited
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www.WhatIsItAboutHats.com

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Produced by Kinzy Productions, Un-Ltd.

TRT: 29 mins

NTSC Digital Video – 4:3 Interlaced – Color – (no MPAA rating)

Completed Production - 2005

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CREW

Produced, Directed & Edited by

Andee Kinzy

Story Editor

Fernanda Rossi

Cinematography by

Carrie Holt - Chicago, IL

Shaya Mercer – New York, NY

Andee Kinzy – TX, NY

Sound Editor

Leslie Wilkins

Music Composed by

Sam Sutton

FEATURING

Milliners

Eia Radosavljevic

Nicole Le Blanc

Raymond Hudd

Ian Dellar

Blythe Savage

Lisa Farrell - Ooh La La

The Millinery Arts Alliance

Stephanie Davis

Truly Biggs

Hat Groups

Charming Hats in Chicago (CHIC), Les Chapeaux at Brasserie Jo (IL), La Fête des Catherinettes (IL), Brown Memorial Baptist Church (NY), Dallas Hat Band, Houston Hat Net, The Hat Society (TX), Austin-tatious Red Hat Society, NY Easter Parade, NY Hat Extravaganza

Hat Resources

Myra Walker, Curator & Director, Texas Fashion Collection at the Univ.of North Texas, Denton

Tina Llorente, Assistant Curator, Textiles & Costume, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Kay Killen, The Hat Society

Jackie Stewart, The Classy Lady Boutique

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SYNOPSIS

"If we wore more hats we would not have to have so much Prozac," says milliner (a.k.a. hat-maker) Blythe Savage in this lighthearted documentary that uncaps the benefits, the power and the confidence that comes when a woman places a chapeau on her head.

From the bonnet to the pillbox, beret, cloche, turban, cap, derby or topper – whatever the style, hats used to be an indispensable component of dress for every woman from every walk of life. In recent decades, however, hats have fallen out of the wardrobe and by the fashion wayside. Sadly, the ubiquitous baseball cap may now define "hat." Skin cancer is on the rise. Schools and the corporate world have marked hats as taboo. Travel has made wearing hats inconvenient. Magazines and newspapers only offer token hat articles near Easter time. In the media and in general, a deluge of women (and men) their long tresses flowing and blowing in the wind have eradicated the hat as daily attire.

"WHAT IS IT ABOUT HATS?" celebrates this neglected fashion accessory by focusing on the unique person under each hat, showing that a woman, who places a hat on her head, enters a secret and privileged world.

Indeed, there's something about a hat. Filmmaker Andee Kinzy believes that hats make a strong statement whenever they appear - in part because so few people are daring enough to don one. "A hat beckons people. It's like you're getting this free peek at someone's soul. And such blatant self-expression is very alluring. At the same time, it can be extremely intimidating." Emotions 'brim' to the surface, for example, when a woman's face is half hidden by her hat. She becomes mysterious, tantalizing and is subconsciously elevated to a position with prestige or entitlement.

Wearing an interesting or beautiful hat has the ability to affect our own mood and state of mind, as well. "You can completely transform, not just your appearance, but the way you feel, the way you act," says Eia Radosavljevic, Milliner. It alters your feelings, changes your posture and embodies aspects about your personality that may have been forgotten. The right hat completely changes everything. Besides, they're just plain fun.

Peppered throughout with mini-hat-wearing lessons, this is the insider's guide to the art and practice of expression by head decoration. All around the country, these hat aficionados proudly exclaim that hats should regain their rightful place as the fashion accessory *de rigueur*. "Hats may have a chance, after all," says Kinzy with a tip of her hat.

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BIOGRAPHIES

ANDEE KINZY (Producer/Director/Editor) Andee is a Woman of Many Hats. Working with an independently developed group called *QuickFlicks*, she has created over a dozen short films including *Brimful*, a humorous look at the world from a hat's POV. She also has made industrials for NY City Center's *ENCORES* program and NYC's *SummerBridge at the Town School*. She was the President of the nonprofit organization, *CineWomen NY* from 2001-2004. Always an avid hat wearer, she studied at FIT and has been designing and making hats for over six years. From her online retail site, she's developed a virtual hat community, gathering hundreds of hat designers and hat lovers together under the auspices of HatChat, an email discussion list. Her hat designs are featured on dozens of (not-so) ordinary people throughout the country.

FERNANDA ROSSI (Story Editor) Fernanda is a script/documentary doctor, writer and filmmaker. She has worked on over seventy documentaries and fiction scripts, among them *Boys to Men* by *Hoop Dreams'* co-maker Frederick Marx; the PBS broadcast documentaries *The Flute Player* by Jocelyn Glatzer; and *Flag Wars* by Lynda Bryant and Laura Poitras. Besides her private consultations, she gives lectures and seminars nationwide, such as *Doctoring your Doc* and *Trailer Mechanics*, as well as hosting the AIVF program *Docu Dialogues*. She also pens the monthly column *Ask the Doc Doctor* for *The Independent Film & Video Monthly* and is the author of the book *Trailer Mechanics: A Guide to Making your Documentary Fundraising Trailer*. She has been featured in *Filmmaker Magazine*, *New York Times* and other publications.

CARRIE HOLT (Cinematographer) Carrie is founder of Holt Productions, a company created with the intent to support new and experimental film, video and theater works. Some of Carrie's projects include the stage productions, *Debt*, *Just Say Blow Me* and *The Architect and the Emperor of Assyria*; video productions, Leah Ryan's *Short Order* and *ImageBomb99*; films, *Dzine in Africa*, *Chierologic Tragedy*, *Land of the False Clocks*, *Eye of Cruelty* and *Meditations of Trafficking*. Since 1996 Carrie has been collaborating on video/multimedia projects that have premiered in Nairobi, Kenya; Cornwall, England; Trondheim, Norway, Paris, Berlin and Chicago.

SHAYA MERCER (Cinematographer) Shaya Mercer is an award-winning, critically acclaimed filmmaker with over ten years of experience in the film and television industry. She has worked in various capacities on commercials, music videos, television shows, documentaries, short films, feature films, and film festivals. She co-produced and co-wrote *Trade Off*, which was awarded Best Documentary at the Seattle International Film Festival 2000. In 2001, she was invited to participate in the Fly Filmmaking Challenge at the SIFF for which she wrote and directed a short called *Baby Express*. She traveled to the 2002 Gay Games in Sydney Australia as a producer for Dyke TV and her production credits include First Assistant Director of *Slaves to the Underground*.

SAM SUTTON (Composer) Sam is a composer for film, television, theatre and dance. Broadcast television credits include *Rocky and the Dodos* (Children's ITV and Nickleodeon); *The Outlaw and Bird becomes Bird* (Channel 4) and *Waiting* (S4C). She has scored many independent films that have played at festivals around the world, notably the award-winning *Wrong Powder* (British Short Film Festival); *Gina and Stella* (London Film Festival) and *Basic Emotions* (Los Angeles Film Festival). Live commissions include *One to Four* for the Eurythme Dance Group *Kosmos* (UK tour) and incidental music for *A Handful of Rain* (Uptrodden Productions at the New End Theatre, Hampstead) and *Love and Despair* (Edinburgh Festival).

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STILLS (Available online in digital format or on CD.)
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NY Easter Parade. © 2005 Kinzy Prods. Un-Ltd. All Rights Reserved.



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Aquilla Staton-Middleton.
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Production Stills – Andee Kinzy filming Shaya Mercer. © 2005 Kinzy Prods. Un-Ltd. All Rights Reserved.

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