**EPK**

***Love song for the apocalypse***

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***Synopsis & character bios***

We’ve all passed that abandoned farmhouse and wondered who lived and died there, or the derelict motel just off the highway built by the sweat of someone’s dream, or a factory from a bygone era, once all action and turbulence by design, now rusting and untroubled by human endeavour. Their slumping decay, as if back into the natural elements they sprang from, filled with a ragged beauty and mystery like passing micro-museums of recent history.

And maybe once, if we had time, we might have stopped and stepped carefully around these places with a camera, and sampled the nostalgic stories embedded in the images there.

Broken window framing broken chair with velvetmold wallpaper.

Dandelions through concrete.

Nature’s coming back.

Instagram, Flikr, Pinterest,

then back on the road again.

But a new phenomenon is evolving the abandonment scene into a subcultural high art-form and something more intangible. A celebration of fleeting human spaces and what returns after we are gone. A search for something we are missing in a world without us.

This burgeoning global movement is growing, driven by secretive members-only websites, social media, and GPS co-ordinates, where thousands of people have begun to actively search for abandoned places and compete with each other to enter ever more risky spaces.

Locations include abandoned houses and factories, yes. But also old prisons, military installations, theatres, and sometimes some not so abandoned “off-limits” places in operational public or private buildings. Those places beyond the felt barriers of public containment or behind the police tape or the “visitors prohibited” signs where outsiders are not allowed to peer.

It’s a movementcalled Urban Exploration aka Urbex: gain entry or infiltrate abandoned or still operational spaces, observe, research, record, and re-use, leaving no trace…and don’t get caught. (e.g., [***www.ontarioabandonedplaces.com***](http://www.ontarioabandonedplaces.com))

And you cannot reveal how you got in. Ever.

Because of course, it’s all illegal.

But that’s an afterthought.

***Love song for the apocalypse*** is a short doc about abandoned places and the growing numbers of people that illegally enter them and make use of them in these and many other creative ways.

We’ll be guided by Jeremy, whose online persona is “Jerm IX”, and his fiancé Nicole, who pride themselves on having visited hundreds of locations around Canada without ever having been caught as they undertake a process they call “jermalism”.

They’ve gathered and published a mother-load of gorgeous pictures and research, blogging dozens of curated stories about the places they’ve been on their own boutique web site ([***www.myabandonmentissues.blogspot.ca***](http://www.myabandonmentissues.blogspot.ca)). They’ve inspired the descendants of original owners to both praise them for preserving the memories and histories of their family tree, and curse them for stirring up bad memories or entering private property.

Jerm IX traces his special interest in abandoned places, especially abandoned institutions like prisons and mental hospitals, to his own troubled past. Because when Jerm IX was 13, he went to jail for the first time, and stayed in jail, off and on, until he was 19 for a series of break and enters and drug charges. Jerm IX was also sexually abused when young and he grew up with an alcoholic, addict father…who abandoned him.

Today, Jerm IX himself is clean and at the age of 36 has not returned to prison, at least as an inmate. He feels a kinship between his gut-wrenching personal story and the physical manifestations of abandonment he finds at each and every location. And he and his fiancé, a specialist in rehab and mental health, are obsessed with what they find a “healing journey”, and the thrills and rush of uncovering, documenting, and adding ever more extreme abandoned or forbidden locations to their repertoire.

Through Jerm IX and Nicole we meet others on the circuit with equally unique backstories and interests. Others with names like “terapr0” and “rashomon”. We’ll see them undertake performance art, story-telling, and photographic happenings amongst the broken pieces of other people’s lives, in intriguing places few have ever seen before. And we’ll learn the history of each place as we go. How it intertwines with the stories of the people who visit and what and why they choose to do while they are there.

***Love song for the apocalypse*** tells a story of nostalgia, beauty, pain and danger in the decay and detritus of humanity. It is lyrical like *Manufactured Landscapes*, visually and aurally experimental like *Leviathan*, and like *Paris is Burning* and *Jesus Camp* exposes us to the underbelly of a sub-cultural scene that crosses the terrains of the artistic and psychological, the historical and the natural, to preserve and re-purpose in its last moments the worlds and life narratives we construct, and then leave behind.