

THE BRIDGE

DIRECTOR

Karl Lemieux

DURATION

3:30

YEAR

1998

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE

English

CATEGORY

Experimental

**DESCRIPTION**

Very first film shot by the director at the age of 17 while studying at Galena High in the United States, inspired by Lee Ranaldo's *The Bridge*.

SHOOTING FORMAT

S-VHS

FURTHER INFORMATION

"I was still in high school at the time. Sonic Youth was an important influence when I was younger. I was listening to their music a lot, and at some point I got interested in their more experimental projects, like Lee Ranaldo's solo material. I got the chance to shoot my first short film in Nevada, while I was in school there. They had a VHS camera that we could use to make a short video piece. When I started to write and work on it, it was inspired by one of Ranaldo's songs. It was a spoken word piece called "The Bridge." It's funny, because when I arrived down there I couldn't speak English very well. I had trouble understanding what all the words meant. I was writing everything down to figure out what the piece meant. I could understand most of it: that it was about him and his father going in this old Chevy pick-up truck, delivering some furniture to his brother, or something like that. I found one of these old trucks—it was a GMC, not a Chevy, though. But I found this truck, and I was in the desert. The picture on the cover of the album was a photo by Ranaldo's partner, Leah Singer. It was a black-and-white photo of an old truck in the Nevada desert, where I was basically. All these things came together at once.

It wasn't until a couple of years after I had finished the film that I finally understood why it was called "The Bridge." What he's actually talking about in the song is crossing the Brooklyn Bridge. [Laughs.] I completely missed that part in my interpretation of the piece. The nice thing about it, though, is that my teacher insisted I send Ranaldo a copy. I was a bit shy doing this, so we wrote the letter together and we sent it to him. I didn't expect him to write back, but he actually did. He wrote me a letter, saying that he liked the film. I was extremely pleased by his response: it was by first piece, so it meant a lot to me." - Karl Lemieux, *INCITE Journal of Experimental Media*

See also:

Kashmere, Brett. "[Against the Current: A Two-Part Interview with Karl Lemieux \(and Daïchi Saïto\)](#)", *INCITE! Journal of Experimental Media Manifest*

KEYWORDS

Landscape, roads, vehicles, United States, roadtrip

THEMES

Private life