

## **Gravitational Lensing: Feminist Film Dialogues**

### **Program 12: Myths, Tales & the Feminist Unconscious**

#### **Shapeshifters Cinema, October 24, 2025**

#### ***Pythoiness* by Amy Halpern, 1979, 16mm film, 2 mins**

Pythia or the Pythoness was the priestess of Delphi. "Introspection must be clear for the tongue to speak the truth." (A.H.)

#### ***Panyen Banbou* by Laïssa Christelle Alexis, 2023, DV, 12 mins**

Framed by the storytelling traditions in the artist's family, *Panyen Banbou* combines home video and archival footage to contemplate ideas of domesticity, the intimate space of the home and what is shared in that space.

#### ***Calypso* by Mariangela Ciccarello, 2021, DV, 47 mins**

Angela and Paola are preparing a play loosely based on *The Odyssey*. Angela assumes the role of Ulysses and Paola that of his lover who has summoned him from the dead for a final meeting. When the play intersects with the young women's lives, a rupture occurs. Transported, they reinvent themselves through new identities and the open space of the rehearsal stage. *Calypso* navigates between individual desire and collective unconscious, reclaiming mythology from its normative foundations.

\*\*\* INTERMISSION \*\*\*

#### ***Elfmädchen* by Mirka Morales, 2009, 16mm shown on DV, 16 mins**

*Elfmädchen* (or elfgirls) is an abstract portrait of a narcoleptic girl, a fairy tale without a prince charming, set amongst the urban decay of San Francisco's SoMa District. Her dreams become weirder, more lucid, flowing in & out of reality. Each dream study has its own feel, from tropical to wacky to ominous and back to childlike.

#### ***The Story of Lillith* by Lynne Sachs, 1997, 16mm film, 35 mins**

In a lively mix of off-beat narrative, collage and memoir, *A Biography of Lillith* updates the creation myth by telling the story of the first woman and for some, the first feminist. Lillith's betrayal by Adam in Eden and subsequent vow of revenge is recast as a modern tale with present-day Lillith (Cherie Wallace) musing on a life that has included giving up a baby for adoption and work as a bar dancer. Interweaving mystical texts from Jewish folklore with interviews, music and poetry, Sachs reclaims this cabalistic parable to frame her own role as a mother.

***Gravitational Lensing: Feminist Film Dialogues*** is dedicated to exploring the visions, voices, concerns and lineage of women, non-binary, genderqueer and trans filmmakers through public film screenings, workshops, conversations and presentations.

**Curators:** Amy Reid and Kathleen Quillian

**Advisory Board:** Erina C Alejo, Bill Basquin, Miriam Campos-Quinn, Adrienne Finelli, Kristy Guevara-Flanagan, Irene Lusztig, Rocio Olivares, Elena Pardo, Rosario Sotelo, Anjali Sundaram, Ellie Vanderlip, Patricia Ledesma Villon, Leila Weefur

Presented in Association with San Francisco Cinematheque

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**<https://shapeshifterscinema.com/gravlens/>**