

What people are saying about

De Profundis is the latest in a series of visually and intellectually complex works by Lawrence Brose... In place of narrative, it offers coherence; in place of hummable melody, its audio track rewards close listening with shifting layers of meaning. And I do mean rewards. Brose requires his audience to meet him far more than halfway, but the result is worth the trip, if together they wind up breaking new ground.

– Ron Ehmke, *The Buffalo News*

The critical darling of the international experimental film circuit!

– 1999 Madri Gras Film Festival, Sidney, Australia

In his brilliant independent film *De Profundis*, Lawrence Brose uses Wilde's final testament as the centerpiece to a symbolic portrait of deliberate sexual transgression. ... More than anything, this film is about sound and imagery, how they can be manipulated, mixed, looped, even mutilated with startling results. It is an immersion experience and demands full commitment from the eyes, ears, and brain. ...As a long time fan of experimental film and new music, I was entirely enthralled by Brose's masterly combination of the two genres.

– Elizabeth Licata, *ARTVOICE*, Buffalo

But by far one of the most accomplished and impressive films of MIX -97 was Lawrence Brose's *De Profundis*. 65 minutes of over-processed, abstracted images of men washed in opalescent fashion colors, set to a rhythmic, looping score of overlapping voices and text from Oscar Wilde. *De Profundis* is a rigorously structured investigation of queer identity at the end of the millennium.

– Ed Halter [director of the New York Underground Film Festival], *indiWIRE*

One of the most important films of the year...

– MIX-97

Lawrence Brose's dense but haunting *De Profundis* is inspired by and infused with Oscar Wilde texts. Brose still sees sound as a vital element of cinema; dissecting his tracks is a reward all its own.

– Mark J. Huisman, *Village Voice*

DE PROFUNDIS

De Profundis is Technicolour Quicksilver: Beautiful and Poisonous!

– Gordon Bowness, *Toronto XTRA!*

Brose's hand- and chemical processing mimics and exploits the effects of the vintage film's deterioration, and like Ahwesh's (*Color of Love*) film the result is sublime. Explosive colors and textures glorify the long-ago illicit love scenes, with a defiance that matches Wilde's words. Indeed Wilde's advocacy of perversion as an ethics and an aesthetic seems to influence the film's ethos of contamination: figures bleed into the surface patina as a final voice-over whispers, "It is so easy to convert others – that is why they think us dangerous."

– Laura U. Marks
Loving a Disappearing Image Cinemas

A strong cautionary message against our assimilation and "normalization."

– Andrew Currie, *Capital XTRA!*, Ottawa

De Profundis is a terrific piece of work: using the words of Oscar Wilde and manipulating hand-processed images to create something both sensual and disturbing. This film looks and sounds like the sexual fantasy that creeps into your head and takes you by surprise; it's the desire you didn't know you had. I was aroused and upset all at once.

– Matthew Kelty, *Lesbian & Gay New York*

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