

Grand Arts presents:

a new film by **Laurel Nakadate**

Stay the Same Never Change

February 1, 2008 – March 15, 2008

Opening Reception: Friday, February 1st, 6-9pm

Preview Screening*: Thursday, January 31st, 7:00pm

at the Screenland Crossroads Theater, 1656 Washington, KC, MO 64108

*Free with limited seating

**Gallery Discussion with artist Laurel Nakadate and Owen Ashworth of
Casiotone for the Painfully Alone:** Saturday, February 2nd, 2:00pm



Laurel Nakadate, Still photograph from *Stay the Same Never Change*, 2007. Digital C-Print.

GRAND ARTS PRESENTS "STAY THE SAME NEVER CHANGE" A LAUREL NAKADATE FILM STARRING AN ALL-ORIGINAL KANSAS CITY CAST
SHOT ON LOCATION IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI MUSIC BY CASIOTONE FOR THE PAINFULLY ALONE PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAUREL NAKADATE
PRODUCED BY GRAND ARTS WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY LAUREL NAKADATE ©2007 STSNC/STAY THE SAME NEVER CHANGE
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Press Release

January 10, 2008

Grand Arts is pleased to present *Stay the Same Never Change*, a new movie by Laurel Nakadate, with an original score by Casiotone for the Painfully Alone.

Stay the Same Never Change is a feature-length film shot in Kansas City in the summer of 2007. Featuring amateur and first-time actors culled from open casting calls in Kansas City, *Stay the Same Never Change* is both a fictional account of everyday lives, and a portrait of a real place. "Filled," as Neil LaBute has written in his essay to accompany the show, "with the silence of modern neighborhood life and the serenity and terror of childhood," *Stay the Same Never Change* is an unsettling fiction delivered through familiar places, events, and experiences of youth and the American Midwest. Bathed in the blinding light and sticky heat of Kansas City's summer, local landmarks set the stage for this keenly observed and deeply unsettling coming-of-age story.

From its first frames, *Stay the Same Never Change* sounds the low hum of something awful about to happen. The male lead, a 'family man' whose wife encourages him to join a club so he can socialize with other men, cruises suburban streets at night in his four-door sedan, peering through living room windows and fantasizing his escape from the doldrums of daily existence. It doesn't take him long to find what he's looking for.

Based on an original script by Nakadate, *Stay the Same Never Change* is largely improvised by its cast, who generously opened their real-life homes, yards, bedrooms and other private spaces to Nakadate's inquisitive lens. Situated alongside such films as Harmony Korine's *Gummo* and Stephen Sodebergh's *Bubble*, which employed amateur casts along with a fair number of trained actors, *Stay The Same Never Change* distinguishes itself as a highly ambitious project by a female director, made in just six months with the participation of only one professional actor.

Stay the Same Never Change will run continuously in Grand Arts' main gallery, and will be accompanied by a series of printed film stills on view in the side gallery.

Laurel Nakadate was raised in Ames, Iowa and now lives and works out of both New York and Los Angeles. A 2001 graduate of Yale's MFA photography program, she began her career as a documentary photographer, which eventually led to making documentary-style videos featuring the artist paired with random men who she persuaded to "perform" with her in front of the camera. Nakadate's first video installation for which she is probably best known, "I Wanna Be Your Midlife Crisis," was exhibited by Daniel Silverstein Gallery in the 2002 Armory Show. "We Are All Made of Stars," Nakadate's first New York solo show, was also presented by Daniel Silverstein gallery in 2002. Since this debut, Nakadate has continued to perform for the camera in work for her two solo shows presented by Danziger Projects in New York: 2005's "Love Hotel and Other Stories," 2006's "A Message To Pretty" and 2007's "Laurel Nakadate" presented by Chalk Horse Gallery in Sydney, Australia. For Grand Arts, Nakadate has produced her first feature-length film, using a script to build the fictional narrative and notably removing herself from the picture. In 2007 Nakadate participated in several group shows nationally and internationally including *Americans in New York* at Gallery Michel Rein in Paris, *Identity Thieves* at Sydney's Asia-Australia Arts Centre-Gallery 4A, and *50,000 Beds* at the Aldrich Museum in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Nakadate has exhibited at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles, MOMA/PS1's *Greater New York Show*, the Reina Sofia in Madrid, the *Kunstfilm Biennial* in Cologne, the *Berlin Biennial*, New York's *Asia Society* and at Mary Boone Gallery in New York. Nakadate's work has been reviewed in the *Village Voice*, *Artforum*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Sun*, *French Vogue*, *Frieze*, and *Flash Art*. Ms. Nakadate has been interviewed by Scott Indrisek for *The Believer* in 2006 and by Erin Krause for Vice TV's "Art Talk" in 2007.