



## BRENDAN DONOVAN

Where are you from originally? **Howick, Auckland, NZ** Describe where you live in NY. **A tenth floor studio apartment overlooking a Gothic cathedral on 16th Street in Manhattan.** What brought you here? **I wanted to scare myself (and I succeeded).** How long have you been here? **Six years.** Occupation/what do you do? **I direct commercials and short films. I had a design firm in NZ, then came here and got into advertising. I became Creative Director at a Manhattan ad agency (Kirschenbaum & Bond), then started directing commercials. I've just made a twelve minute 35mm film, *Here*. It stars Lee Majors as an ageing hitman who finds redemption in Niagara Falls in winter. It's a moody, atmospheric drama. My most recent highs have been getting the film into the 2001 Slamdance Film Festival, finishing my first feature script and being able to yell "MORE GLITTER!" on a film set. That's a childhood dream come true right there... "MORE GLITTER!"** What do you notice? **The noise. The sheer wall of noise that Manhattan throws at you. The naked, unadorned ambition that seeps from the streets. The longing. People in NY are always longing for something—to get out, to get in, to fall in love, to have a bigger apartment, to be famous...** What surprised you about NY? **For the first three months I walked around with my mouth literally agape, the place truly astonished me. But now what surprises me is that it feels so normal, it feels like the city that I live in. I knew that NY was normal to me when my cab was being sideswiped repeatedly by another car up Sixth Avenue at 60mph and all I could think was, "Do I have enough cash on me to pay for this ride?".** Who/what here inspires you? **My friends inspire me, my girlfriend inspires me. The sheer energy of this place inspires me. You can't do nothing here, all around you THINGS ARE BEING DONE. And that's invigorating, there's a palpable sense of achievement in the air. It's infectious. People don't come to New York to chill out, they come here to get busy. And while at times that's tough to be around, on the whole it's a good thing. Just be warned, in general, NY is fucking HARD—you've got to find a way to hook into the energy grid before it hooks into you.** Favourite places in NY? **Passerby Bar on 15th Street between 9th and 10th. The PS1 contemporary art gallery, Carapan Spa, Clinton Fresh Food.**