



# Adam Bohman: By Biro and Umbrella Spring

A film by Cathy Soreny

a Peak Signal 2 Noise production  
Documentary feature, 60 mins

Adam Bohman is a polymath of outsider arts and music, gleaning everyday detritus to create a familiar yet beguiling take on the world around us. A portrait of a compulsive creator who transforms the mundane and banal into something quite extraordinary.



## Film synopsis

Since childhood, Adam has been invariably fascinated by the details and nuances of the most prosaic everyday things. The more expendable, pedestrian and disregarded the better. Anything that hints at a new purpose is slipped into his dependable shopping bag, and joins the throng of objects spilling out of every available space in his cozy cluttered flat in Catford. Here is where Adam masterminds his manifold wonders - day in, day out. Epic improvised music performances conjured from umbrella springs, letter racks, lightbulbs and violin bows. Momentous spoken word pieces invoked from takeaway menus and instruction leaflets. Kaleidoscopic collages diligently forged from tin can labels, newspapers and biro ink.



Continually Adam records a narrative on daily life upon his trusty cassette tape dictaphone, his singular observations and descriptions paint a rich picture of what appeals to him most. Many hundreds of tapes from this thirty-year-plus habit have been posted globally to his friends and collaborators. As the real life inspiration for Gilderoy, the central character in Peter Strickland's *Berberian Sound Studio*, Adam is an under-recognized and particular sort of national treasure.

Spend a day in his company, as he genially guides us through his habitual combing of the streets and charity shops of Catford, concocts collages at his kitchen table, and finds drama in the signage of Lewisham hospital. Eavesdrop on his multitudinous reflections upon his creative predilections, and become wonderfully enmeshed in the richly woven web of his creative processes.







"Scavenger improv artisan, junk mail poet and scrapbook illustrator – Cathy Soreny's documentary on Adam Bohman is an essential portrait of one of Britain's most idiosyncratic and quietly prolific artists."

- Peter Strickland, Director

"Delightful, intimate and illuminating portrait of this idiosyncratic artist. We are shown a compulsive magpie and eccentric hoarder, and are invited to appreciate Bohman's self-realisation as flâneur and bricoleur."

- Julian Cowley, The Wire, November 2019

"Cathy Soreny's intimate portrait of Adam reveals the clutter, the chazzers and the unusual text sources he draws inspiration from, bringing us closer to knowing this idiosyncratic mind, the truest gem of the UK musical underground."

- Vicky Langan, Experimental Film Society

**Online preview:**

[ps2n.org/bohman-biro-film](http://ps2n.org/bohman-biro-film)

**Contact:**

[peaksignal2noise@gmail.com](mailto:peaksignal2noise@gmail.com)

**Crew:**

Director and Producer  
Director of Photography  
Additional camera  
Sound design  
Editing

Cathy Soreny  
Emma Vickers  
Cathy Soreny  
Andie Brown, Cathy Soreny  
Cathy Soreny, Andie Brown, David Naden

**Screenings:**

Preview screening  
Work-in-progress screenings

Cafe OTO, London, Aug 2019  
Colour Out of Space festival, Brighton  
TUSK festival, Sage Gatehead

