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# With His First Film, *Redmond Hand, Private Dick*, The Selby Is in the Movies

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by JOHN ORTVED



Photographer and illustrator Todd Selby has made a career documenting the spaces of his creative friends. Now he's stepping behind the camera in a whole different way: His first film, a short about a notorious private eye on the hunt for a legendary cactus, debuts today on Vogue.com.

"I've done a lot of documentary short films and documentaries-related TV commercials," Selby says. "But I wanted to figure out a way to bring what I do as a creative documentarian into a fully scripted realm." He'd been mulling over the idea when he found himself in Echo Park's Cactus Store, where he overheard a discussion about a cactus that survives solely on the moist fog in a desert where it has not rained in 400 years. "That story is the great analogy and centerpiece of the film," he says.

The film is perhaps the first Technicolor, partially animated, psychedelic gumshoe noir. It tells the story of Redmond Hand, Los Angeles's "most notorious detective . . . On her quest to find a beautiful woman's missing cactus." Spoiler: She "gets caught up in some crazy shit and then dies." It's a funny, wild, unexpected take on the classic detective story, with tons of hot pink, drag queens, and a baby (Selby's own!) who shoots lasers from her eyes.

