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**“RIGHTS LAB” TO PREMIERE AT HIGH CONCEPT LABS THIS JANUARY**

*Civil rights web series by Scrappers Film Group and Truthout.org premieres January 16, 2016*

CHICAGO, IL — Surveillance. Civil liberties. Protests. Arrests.

From the rise of the Occupy movement to the outrage over the National Security Agency’s data collection, these words have become familiar to anyone who scans news headlines.

But if you take a step behind the scenes, a complex interplay of social power and ever-changing legal precedents are the real drivers behind who is allowed to march and who can be surveilled and how.

[Scrappers Film Group](#), in collaboration with [Truthout.org](#), present a multi-part web series to turn the camera on the most pressing civil liberties issues of our day. The series will premiere January 16 at [High Concept Labs](#) in Chicago.

The first episode, *Can the Government Spy on My Phone?*, uses cinema verite techniques and motion graphics to illuminate the legal and social dynamics behind Stingray surveillance devices. We bring you from protests in the street of Chicago through to a need-to-know explainer of telephone surveillance.

By using real-life case studies, featuring local activists and offering clear and compelling explanations of ongoing legal debates, our series will explore Stingray surveillance, when and how it is legal to film a police officer, the burgeoning debate behind consumer drone flight, what you can and can’t do on social media, and much more.

Along with a screening of the *Stingray* episode of Rights Lab, the event will have a panel discussion including civil liberties lawyer Jerry Boyle and FOIA activist Freddy Martinez, with improvised music by Radio Trio appropriating police technology to ulterior ends.

**Rights Lab premiere: *Can the government spy on my phone?***

High Concept Labs

2233 S Throop St, Chicago, IL 60608

(Located in Mana Contemporary Chicago; enter on Cermak Rd)

Saturday, January 16, 6:30 pm

FREE

more information: [bit.ly/22GKjOA](http://bit.ly/22GKjOA)

**About Scrappers Film Group:** Scrappers Film Group takes their name from their documentary *Scrappers*, which chronicles the story of two men and their families who collect scrap in Chicago’s alleyways and was named [one of Roger Ebert’s best documentaries](#) of 2010. Their work has included *Central Standard: On*

*Education*, a web series about disparities in public education for PBS Digital Studios and *Popcorn Politics*, a series about the hidden ideologies of Hollywood blockbusters for the A.V. Club.

**About Truthout.org:** [Truthout](http://truthout.org) is an online newsmagazine which works to spark action by revealing systemic injustice and providing a platform for transformative ideas, through in-depth investigative reporting and critical analysis. Truthout's investigative reporting has touched on issues including the environment, Guantanamo Bay, immigration and transgender rights.

**About Radio Trio:** Radio Trio (Alex Inglizian, Will Faber, and Ben LaMar Gay) plays with transmission, reception, and interference across the AM/FM/SW dials, scraping speech, advertisement, and song: deconstructed pop hits, pitch-shifted banda, looped opera, and the noise between stations are all on the dial and tuned into synths, cornet, voice, and fretless guitar. All active members of Chicago's music community, Ben Lamar Gay is also a member of the AACM and composed the original score for Rights Lab; Will Faber is a doctoral candidate in Music at the University of Chicago, and Alex Inglizian is chief engineer at Experimental Sound Studio.

**About High Concept Labs:** High Concept Labs is a Chicago-born not-for-profit arts service organization and cultural platform dedicated to supporting working artists and engaging the Chicago community with arts and culture. Partnering with artists at every step of the creative process, HCL offers high-quality custom support services through its Sponsored Artist and Institutional Incubation Programs. HCL also curates and hosts Cultural Conversations, hosts artist showcases, presents special community events, and facilitates educational arts partnerships. With a vibrant cycle of programs, and process-support, High Concept Labs grows community alongside culture and fosters new audiences for the arts.

[highconceptlabs.org](http://highconceptlabs.org)

HCL is supported in part by the generosity of Mana Contemporary Chicago, The Chicago Community Trust, MacArthur Funds for Arts and Culture at The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, the Norwottock Charitable Trust, the Samuel J. Baskin Charitable Trust, the Chicago Dancemakers Forum, the Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation, and individual donors.

website: [highconceptlabs.org](http://highconceptlabs.org)

calendar of events: [highconceptlabs.org/calendar/](http://highconceptlabs.org/calendar/)

facebook: [facebook.com/highconceptlabs](https://facebook.com/highconceptlabs)

HCL is based at Mana Contemporary Chicago in the Pilsen neighborhood, at 2233 S. Throop St. Chicago, Illinois 60608.

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