



FILM HIGHLIGHTS at AV FESTIVAL 10
International Festival of Electronic Arts
(5-14 March 2010) www.avfestival.co.uk

The North East based biennial **AV Festival** is one of the UK's largest international festivals of electronic arts. It returns to NewcastleGateshead, Middlesbrough, and Sunderland, this year (5-14 March), presenting a diverse programme of work including 24 exhibitions, 20 performances, 10 screenings, 14 talks, 4 club nights and 3 symposia, by over 100 visual artists, musicians and filmmakers, and will include 15 World Premieres of new AV Festival commissions.

The theme of this year's Festival is 'energy', which is examined from a variety of different perspectives ranging from kinetic, sound, light and electromagnetic energy, to the spiritual and human.

AV Festival 10 Film Highlights include:

* ***English Journey Revisited*** with **Iain Sinclair & Alan Moore** - Filmmaker (*London Orbital*) and writer (Sinclair) and cult graphic novelist (Moore) whose work has been adapted for several features (*Watchmen*, *V for Vendetta*, *From Hell*, *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*), present a unique evening of words, music and film, on Sun 14 March, at The Sage Gateshead.

* ***Recycled Film*** - Are rubbish skips the film archives of our time? A series of talks, screenings, and a national one-day symposium (12 March) at Tyneside Cinema on the art of recycled film and archive footage.

* ***Kenneth Anger*** - Legendary American filmmaker and writer (*Hollywood Babylon*) whose fans include Martin Scorsese and Andy Warhol visits Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle on 12 March.

* **ENGLISH JOURNEY REVISITED**, with **IAIN SINCLAIR** and **ALAN MOORE** – Renowned filmmaker/writer Sinclair, and cult graphic novelist Moore present the world premiere of a new work inspired by JB Priestley's legendary 1933 travel book *English Journey*, which ended in the North East. Closing Night performance on Sun 14 March (8pm at The Sage Gateshead, Tickets: £12/£10 plus concessions)

Over 75 years since JB Priestley's account of his recession era journey, Iain Sinclair (*Lights out for the Territory*, *London Orbital*), and Alan Moore (*V for Vendetta*, *Watchmen*), will present a contemporary journey offering new observations and predictions for the future, with a soundscape performed by musicians **Stephen O'Malley**, **Susan Stenger** and **FM Einheit** (percussionist from influential 1980s German

avant-garde band, **Einstürzende Neubauten**). A moving image work by Iain Sinclair and visual artist Graham Dolphin will accompany the piece, which was developed following their residency at the Northern Region Film and Television Archive.

* **RECYCLED FILM** – A series of screenings, performances and talks, which focus on artists who produce new work using found film footage and archive material. Various dates, times and venues throughout the Festival but including, RECYCLED FILM SYMPOSIUM on Thurs 11 March at 6.30pm (launch event) and Fri 12 March at Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle (9.30am-5pm, Tickets: £25/£20 concessions).

'*Garbage Dumpsters are the archive of our times,*' according to filmmaker Craig Baldwin. **The Recycled Film Symposium** is a national one-day seminar which will bring together international experts on film archives ranging from online film archives in the cultural sector, leading film organisations, filmmakers, artists and archivists to discuss online access to film archives and the creative use of this material in the digital age. Speakers include: a keynote speech from San Francisco based **Rick Prelinger**, (from the Prelinger Archives, a collection of over 60,000 films, acquired by the US Library of Congress); **Kenneth Goldsmith**, American poet and founder of UbuWeb, the largest archive of avant-garde material online, and filmmaker **Iain Sinclair**, artist in residence at the Northern Region Film and Television archive. The symposium is launched with a screening of Prelinger Archive films on the theme of energy, *A is for Atom*, on Thurs 11 March (6.30-8.30pm).

Other related Recycled Film screenings include: A guest appearance by **Craig Baldwin** founder of the Other Cinema in San Francisco with a screening of his latest film, *Mock Up On Mu* (2008), a radical mix of spy, sci-fi, western and horror genres using archive films of amongst others, L. Ron Hubbard and Aleister Crowley (Thurs 11 March, 9pm); **Christian Marclay's** *Up and Out* (1998), a feature length collage in which Michelangelo Antonioni's 1966 classic *Blow Up* is overlaid with the soundtrack of Brian De Palma's 1981 thriller *Blow Out* (Sat 6 March, 12pm); **Johan Grimont's** *Double Take* (2008) uses an assemblage of TV and newsreel to muse on Hitchcock's persona (Sun 7 March, 12pm); the world premiere of a new feature-length montage film by **Rick Prelinger** made specially for AV Festival and introduced by the artist (Sat 13 March, 12pm), and *King Coal: A Century of Coal Mining on Film*, (Sun 14 March, 12pm), a compilation of short films drawn from the BFI National Archive including footage from the North East.

* **KENNETH ANGER** - Legendary American experimental filmmaker and writer (*Hollywood Babylon*) visits Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle on Fri 12 March (7pm, Tickets: £8/£7 concessions).

Kenneth Anger is a pioneering force in avant-garde cinema and a prolific writer about Hollywood's rich and famous, probably best known for his 1959 bestselling expose, *Hollywood Babylon*. Creating films since the 1940s his work explores themes of counterculture and the occult and he has influenced generations of filmmakers. He famously used tracks by Elvis, Bobby Darin (*Blue Velvet*), and Ray Charles in his seminal 60s film *Scorpio Rising*, and collaborated with Mick Jagger on *Invocation of My Demon Brother* (1969) after the original footage was mysteriously buried in Death Valley! For 20 years from the early 80s he released no new material, however he has recently started directing again and new films include *Mouse Heaven* (2004), a montage of toys from the 1930s, and *Ich Will!* (2008), a visual poem about Hitler Youth using archive material. Anger will introduce a screening of his films and talk about his extraordinary

career on 12 March.

Ends.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

AV Festival 10: Energy
AV Festival, c/o Tyneside Cinema, 10 Pilgrim Street,
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AV Festival was initiated in 2003 to acknowledge the growing role that technology plays in creativity. Three editions of the AV Festival have taken place to date, in 2003, 2006 and 2008. 43,038 people attended AV Festival 08, which was held across three urban centres in the North East.

Electronic art is a vibrant interdisciplinary field of creativity. It includes work across the spectrum of visual art, music, performance and film created using technology and electronic media. It includes artists working collaboratively with scientists and occupies diverse spaces.

AV Festival 10 is organised by Audio Visual Arts North East, an independent charitable company. AV Festival 10 forms part of North East England's world-class programme of festivals and events developed by culture¹⁰.

AV Festival 10 collaborators to date include: amino, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, BBC Big Screen, Bow Brand, Contemporary Art Society, Circa Contemporary Art Projects, Cleer, CRUMB, Culture Lab, Discovery Museum, EAT! Festival, Environment Agency, Gallery North, Great North Museum: Hancock, Habit, Gallery: Great North Museum, Laing Art Gallery, mima (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art), Middlesbrough Town Hall, MMM, Narec, National Glass Centre, Newcastle ScienceFest, Newcastle University, Nexus, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Northern Lights Film Festival, No-Fi, NRFTA, Polytechnic, PRMNT Vibes, Road to Rimini, Reg Vardy Gallery, Science City, Star & Shadow Cinema, Sunderland Aquatic Centre, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Sunniside Partnership, Teeside University, The Arts Catalyst, The Sage Gateshead, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Tyneside Cinema, and Vane.

Media partners include: The Wire magazine and Little White Lies

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Gulbenkian Foundation, Big Lottery Fund, The Wellcome Trust, Codeworks, PRS for Music Foundation, Sasakawa Foundation, Office for Contemporary Art Norway, The Sir James Knott Trust, William Leech, Go North East, and the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust.

The full programme and website for AV Festival 10 will be launched in January 2010:
www.avfestival.co.uk