



**IAIN SINCLAIR and ALAN MOORE present
ENGLISH JOURNEY REVISITED
Closing Night Performance at AV FESTIVAL 10
International Festival of Electronic Arts
(5-14 March 2010) www.avfestival.co.uk**

The North East based biennial **AV Festival's** closing night performance brings together leading writers, filmmakers and musicians at The Sage Gateshead, (Sunday 14 March, 8pm), to present the World Premiere of a new commission, **English Journey Revisited**, conceived by filmmaker and writer **Iain Sinclair** (*Lights out for the Territory*, *London Orbital*), and cult graphic novelist **Alan Moore** (*Watchmen*, *V for Vendetta*).

Sinclair and Moore's new work is inspired by **JB Priestley's** 1933 recession era journey from London to the North East, which he immortalised in his famous travel book *English Journey*. From the drowsy idyll of rural backwaters to the dark satanic landscapes of industrialised cities, his account combined his perceptive writer's eye with a warm human sensibility. The resulting book defined an age, and went on to influence the political thought of the Forties and Fifties.

English Journey Revisited will be a contemporary journey offering new observations and predictions for the future, with a soundscape performed by musicians **Stephen O'Malley** (founder of leading drone doom bands Sunn O))), KTL, and Gravetemple), **Susan Stenger** (leading performer of music by John Cage and Christian Wolff and co-founder of Band of Susans, The Brood, Big Bottom), and **FM Einheit** (percussionist from influential 1980s German avant-garde band, **Einstürzende Neubauten**). It also features a new moving image work by Iain Sinclair and artist Graham Dolphin, which follows their residency at the Northern Region Film and Television Archive, Middlesbrough.

Moore and Sinclair are friends who have sometimes been compared since their work inhabits complex geographical spaces. They also share a common fascination with the Jack the Ripper Murders, which Moore described in his comic novel *From Hell*, and Sinclair examined in his first novel *White Chappell*, *Scarlet Tracings*. However their styles are very different, and while Sinclair sketches the emotional geography of real places, Moore prefers to map out a fantasy terrain.

Iain Sinclair is one of Britain's most original writers and filmmakers. Since the 1960s his work has presented a new vision of modern Britain often focused on urban landscapes. He first attracted critical attention for his novel, *Downriver*, (1991), an account of London river life in Thatcherite Britain, which won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. However his later nonfictional works, *Lights Out For The Territory* (1997), a collection of essays

about London, followed by *London Orbital* (2002), in which he walked around the M25, brought him widespread acclaim. Often described as a 'psychogeographer', Sinclair himself describes what he does as "*psychotic geography*" or "*stalking the city*".

Alan Moore is a reclusive British writer most famous for his powerful work in graphic novels (*V for Vendetta*, *Watchmen*, *From Hell*, *League of Gentlemen*), many of which have been adapted for the big screen. Described recently by The Observer as "*an unsung British creative giant who looks more like a shadowy character from one of his own cult comics than a mighty creator of worlds*". This "*novelist, magician and guru of the graphic novel*" (The Guardian) is rarely seen in public and his participation in *English Journey Revisited* is eagerly awaited by his legion of fans.

Ends.

For AV Festival 10 press enquiries please contact:

Nicky Harrison, White Hot Communications
T: 0191 280 8020 / 07824 390826
E: nicky@whitehotcomms.co.uk

Clare Wilford PR
T: 020 7729 6751 / 075 4575 6462
E: clarewilford@o2.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

AV Festival 10: Energy
AV Festival, c/o Tyneside Cinema, 10 Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6QG
www.avfestival.co.uk

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 Northeast 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, Sunnyside 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

AV Festival 10 is supported by: One North East, Arts Council England North East, Northern Film & Media, UK Film Council, Middlesbrough Council, Sunderland City Council, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Big Lottery Fund, The Wellcome Trust, Codeworks, PRS Foundation for Music, 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