

ART VANGUARD IN COLLABORATION WITH VIDEO JAM PRESENTS PROJECT RE-RITE



*A shower of crude rhythmic sounds spreads around
the room, your body is trapped in its inner dance
automata and your mind keeps channelling mysterious
fantasia-like images. In no time you find yourself
surrounded by an empty aura of silence.*

FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER – 6:00^{PM} £2

Project re-Rite

Studio Theatre, Royal Northern College of Music

Art Vanguard organises multi-disciplinary art events and tonight is their debut. They have collaborated with Video Jam to create a new audio/visual rendition of Stravinsky's *The Rite Of Spring* marking the centenary since the work was premiered.

PROJECT RE-RITE CONCEPT

Conductor	Jack Sheen
Performers	Emma Smith, Ruta Skudraite, Otto Willberg, Diego Vassallo, Alastair Penman, David Bainbridge, Airi Koike and Annabel Gascoyne
Composers	Laurence Tompkins, Tom Rose, David Curington, Thomas Stewart
Filmmakers	Hannah and Amy Buckley, Sarah Hill, Christopher Daniels, Simon Brooks and Oliver White

One hundred years ago, when Stravinsky chanted about the immemorial customs of Pagans for the public of Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, too much noise on and around the stage made people walk out. However, the only thing they escaped to was a dissonance of the 20th century.

While celebrating the centenary of this prophetic work, we find ourselves at the same crossroads themed around innovation, collaboration and society. The idea of an artist struggling to overcome history to generate something new is as much alive now as it was in the time when Stravinsky discovered his wellspring of inspiration being in the rituals of the past. The idea of challenging our own, and audience's preconceptions of this work, is our way to re-echo Stravinsky's example to create a mystic presentness on the subject of the past.

Aiming to find an innovative voice within the score produced a century ago, we integrate two minds from the fields of sound and moving image to work together. The process of four pairs of composers and visual artists creating individualised responses to Stravinsky's music as a core material, is only one strand of collaborative work. It is extended with instrumentalists playing violin, guitar, saxophone, banjo, double bass and piano, who work directly with composers towards four authentic arrangements of the score.

RUNNING ORDER

Act 1	Introduction/ Augurs of Spring/ Ritual of Abduction
Act 2	Spring Rounds/ Ritual of the Rival Tribes/ Procession of the Sage/ Dance of the Earth
Act 3	Introduction/ Mystic Circles of the Young Girls/ Glorification of the Chosen One
Act 4	Evocation of the Ancestors/ Ritual Action of the Ancestors/ Sacrificial Dance

Stravinsky's complicated rhythms of The Rite forced The Ballets Russes to develop a method of counting and spend time on arithmetics rather than details of movement. We, therefore, try to open yet another realm of creative conversation between the past and the present, adding an element of digital sound crossing the paths in one unique live performance.

Almost 120 years after the Lumiere brothers began the motion-picture era, The Rite of Spring celebrates its centenary. Tonight we experience the magic of the cinematic experience in a raw and experimental form which has been mutually developed alongside the progression in the composition. The ability of moving image to convey meaning and messages lends itself perfectly to this new exploration of one of the most well known pieces of the 20th Century.

As much as being a structured process, this audio-visual rendition of The Rite of Spring allows young artists to use their creative license to work freely, inspire each other through a shared experience and nurture their individual expression. Reawakening The Rite for yet another life we want to stimulate an audience's knowledge and appreciation for different media as well as testify this work's ability to inspire, engage and provoke debate.

For tonight's event Art Vanguard has collaborated with experimental film and music night Video Jam with Art Vanguard curating the music side of the programme and Video Jam selecting filmmakers to create films responding directly to various sections of The Rite Of Spring.

ABOUT ART VANGUARD

Art Vanguard is a creative space for various artist collaborations and a travelling idea that initially has no form or body. With every new project it adapts and welcomes new artists from all around the world. As a shared creation, Art Vanguard has no limits – our home can be everywhere – concert halls, galleries and street. Sometimes we can be neatly prepared and sometimes our work will be completely improvised... We create wherever we are, with the resources we have - all to provide young people with a chance to meet and inspire unique collaborations, or even use art as a tool to raise awareness of cultural and social issues of the time. Our mission is to organize events, performances, and workshops that cultivate each artist's innate talent, help connect with other artists, and encourage cooperation among different forms of art.



ABOUT VIDEO JAM

The original concept of Video Jam is based around the brief precis 'an experimental evening of short films with a variety of live musical accompaniment.' Our programmes feature a wide variety of short films of all genres, from amateur and professional artists alike. For each of these films we commission a different musical act to compose an original soundtrack of their own interpretation to be performed as a live accompaniment, resulting in what we call a 'blind collaboration'. As curators, we act as the go between, bringing together these two elements to create a new, third entity to be witnessed as a live experience. Tonight's event is a reverse Video Jam and not our usual 'blind collaboration' process. Filmmaker and musician have worked very closely together over a focused period of time.

We are delighted to be collaborating with Art Vanguard especially for their first ever public event. Their process for tonight's event is similar to our original process - having a concept, curating the programme and then stepping back and having trust and faith in the artists to deliver exceptional outputs. Video Jam's objective is to create events which provoke thought, stimulate conversation, form new creative partnerships and challenge an audience's understanding of these two mediums. Video Jam is all about recognising potential - not only in the talent of the individual artists we work with, but ultimately the unlimited potential of sound to transform our experience of watching film.



ACT 1

AMY AND HANNAH BUCKLEY AND DAVID CURINGTON

CONCEPT

“Our invitation to create new video work for re-Rite has led to a thoroughly enjoyable, informative and thought provoking few months for which we are grateful. When beginning the process of making the piece there were certain components we wanted to include. We were both drawn to the folk element of the original ballet and were keen to incorporate this in some way. Alongside this, we wanted to bring contemporary issues into the work. With the female figure central to the original Ballet and feminist ideals central to ourselves we decided to begin from here. Via images of Kate Bush, Ruth St Dennis and Miley Cyrus we came to two words as our starting point for this video: female and revolution. It was filmed using a mixture of digital and 16mm Bolex cameras.”

– *Amy and Hannah Buckley*



BIOGRAPHIES

AMY AND HANNAH BUCKLEY

We are Amy and Hannah Buckley. Our relationship as identical twins acts as a starting point for collaborative work and our multi disciplinary training - Hannah is a contemporary dancer and Amy a photographer - results in an artistic practice based both in movement and visual art. An additional factor in our artistic practice is the fact that for the last three years we have been negotiating the act of living in two different countries (Hannah in Manchester and Amy in New York) whilst at the same trying to build an artistic collaboration and body of work. With the Internet and our laptops as important as the cameras we use, this way of working across continents can be at the same time both restrictive and freeing.

www.negotiationofspace.net

DAVID CURINGTON

David is the recipient of an RNCM Studentship to study composition at doctoral level with Fabrice Fitch and Larry Goves. He graduated masters' level holding the Soroptomist International Award for composers and the Evelyn Rothwell Prize for oboists. He has been a participant on the LPO Leverhulme Young Composers Scheme and was awarded with the 2011 RPS Composition Prize. David is a dedicated performer of new music, and his solo repertory includes music by Ferneyhough, Cascken, Birtwistle, Saxton, Cage, Carter, Yun, Holliger and commissions for composer colleagues Emily Wright, Michael Cutting and Steven Jackson. He performs regularly with ACM Ensemble, the ddmmy series, at Classical Revolution and Sounds of the Engine House and was given a showcase as both oboist and composer.

www.davidcurington.com

ACT 2

SARAH HILL AND TOM ROSE

CONCEPT

“Tom and I connected as artists from the very beginning through a shared enthusiasm for experimentation and intuitive approach to working.

As an artwork *The Rite of Spring* was an undermining of what came before it in almost every way. As well as connecting the piece to visual art forms such as Cubism and collage we were particularly struck by the ways in which it re-considered ballet as an art form, prioritising expressiveness of the individual over technicality, and contorting dancers into ‘unnatural’ positions. Throughout the devising process I was keen to explore the relationship between choreography and moving image, drawing on themes and ideas relating to Stravinsky’s piece such as nature and the urban metropolis.

Using familiar instruments, *The Rite* discovered a new noise for its time and for the nervous system of its audience. To me, the music expresses a feeling of instability; of things disturbed and turned inside out. Through working on our piece I wanted to discover a new way of seeing or a visual language that would capture something of my own visceral experience of listening to the music.”

– Sarah Hill

“The music I’ve made for this project changed over time. While the order and direction of sounds altered throughout the process Sarah and I went through: making little bits of film, isolating still images, scratching at drawings and humming stuff; the overwhelming feeling of physically moving with the deepness and deterioration of the sounds - leaving things bare and sometimes fizzling-out, was sustained. These isolated moments were mapping out a series of sensations: some obviously going somewhere else and others almost paralysed. They are all perhaps completely unrelated, or perhaps similar things: but all of them lead to violent dancing.”

– Tom Rose

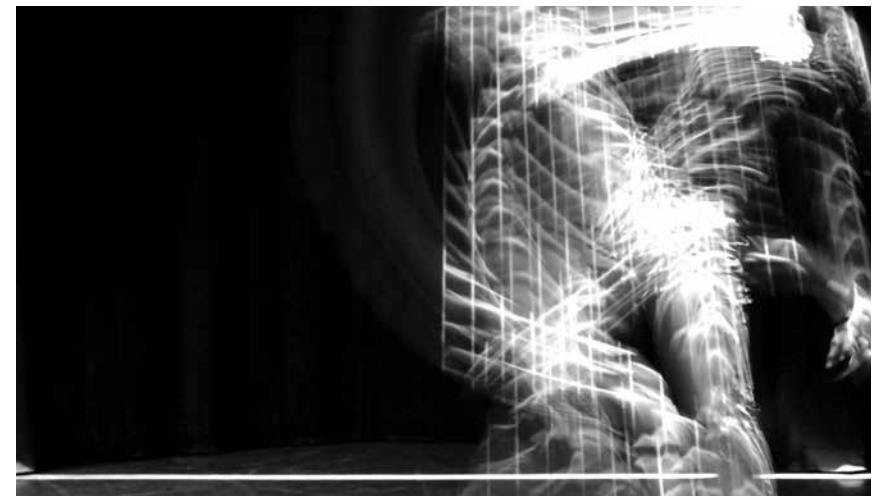
BIOGRAPHIES

TOM ROSE

Tom Rose is a composer and musician based in the UK. His work unravels in the spaces between instrumental and electronic performance practices, and often where they bleed into each other. His music has been performed at the Bridgewater Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Royal Festival Hall, The Sage, Gateshead, Snape Maltings, and broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and 4. He co-directs experimental record label Slip Discs: releasing new acoustic and electronic music, and is a co-founder of ddmmyy: a concert and event series. In 2010 he took up a scholarship and the Royal Northern College of Music, where he studies with Larry Goves.

SARAH HILL

Sarah Hill is a Manchester based artist and one of the founding members of Video Jam for which she curates the film programmes. An interest in collage informs much of her work, which currently encompasses short experimental film and mail art. With no formal training in filmmaking she prefers to forge her own hands-on methods of working, generating moving image by combining modern and outmoded equipment, experimenting with materials and drawing on different mediums. Amongst recent work, she has premiered a 45 minute film commission to accompany a soundscape comprised of recordings from the electronic composer Delia Derbyshire.



ACT 3

THOMAS STEWART AND CHRIS PAUL DANIELS

CONCEPT

“We have created work for the section entitled ‘Mystic Circles of the Young Girls.’ it was hard to ignore such an evocative visual image within the work. Through kind permission of the Armit Museum and Library in Ambleside I was able to accelerate and edit a selection of J W Brunsell’s portraits of Cumbrian residents, specifically women who would have lived in the overlapping decades of the premiere of Stravinsky’s work.

The concept of young girls being selected as the ‘Chosen One’ to be glorified and sacrificed by dark and supernatural forces continues as a resonant theme throughout popular and film culture, from ‘Suspiria’ through to ‘The Wicker Man’ and not least the current billboards and marauding bus adverts for ‘The Hunger Games’. I wanted to deliver a visual piece that was as intense as the original score and its original raucous reception.”

– *Chris Paul Daniels*

“To ‘re-rite’ The Rite of Spring is a daunting task. I decided to adapt the sections of the piece allocated to me to a chamber context, without changing too much about the way in which the actual notes worked. I settled on what I felt was an appropriately interesting duo and used the instruments to create the sounds I like to think Stravinsky would have done had he written the original for this duo. Stravinsky’s orchestration is dazzling in the number of sounds and colours it manages to create, and instead of trying to recreate his orchestra with just a violin and a double bass, I have tried to re-think (‘re-rite’!) these sounds in the contexts of the instruments for which I wrote. Chris’s video does something not too dissimilar. It takes the atmosphere of the work and its plot and reworks it to create a piece with a distinct identity as a piece of video art, but which still feels appropriately ‘Stravinsky’ in its playful and bizarre juxtapositions.”

– *Tom Stewart*

BIOGRAPHIES

CHRIS PAUL DANIELS

Chris Paul Daniels is a British Film and Video Artist originally from South Yorkshire. He has exhibited and screened work nationally and internationally, including BFI Southbank, Groninger Museum, IKON Gallery, Chisenhale Gallery, the National Media Museum and Cornerhouse. He won the Deutsche Bank Award for Art in 2010 for his collaborative project Unravel, the longest hand painted film in Britain after graduating in the same year with a Masters Degree from the Royal College of Art. Recent works include a sixty minute artist’s film entitled ‘Premier/Divisions’ which is the outcome of a Triangle Network and Gasworks Gallery funded residency at Kuona Trust Arts Centre in Nairobi, Kenya and a major commission for Virgin Records 40th Anniversary.

www.chrispauldaniels.com

TOM STEWART

Tom Stewart is studying for a Masters’ degree in composition with Larry Goves at the RNCM, supported by the RVW Trust. His music was performed at venues including Sage Gateshead, the Southbank Centre, Snape Maltings concert hall in Suffolk, and at the Royal College of Music, where it was recorded for broadcast by BBC Radio 3. Tom is very interested in connections between music and visual art and he often finds a painting, photograph, sculpture or video a stimulus to his own ideas. As an undergraduate, he actively wrote for theatre, contributing music to productions. Tom’s premières include New Music North West festival at RNCM as well as his ensemble piece Tok performed by the London Sinfonietta as part of the Nancarrow centenary celebrations.



ACT 4

LAURENCE TOMPKINS, SIMON BROOKS AND OLIVER WHITE

CONCEPT

For project re-Rite Simon and Oliver are bringing both of their skill sets to the table to produce a cutting edge live visual performance. Using new techniques, Airi Koike, a ballet dancer from the Northern Ballet School will be projection mapped during a contemporary re-imagining of the original ballet routine. The projections will consist of audio reactive animations that will be controlled directly from the composer, Laurie Tompkins' musical output.

With their involvement in project re-Rite Simon and Oliver aim to create a piece of work that highlights the interconnection between nature and technology. During the original sacrificial dance of The Rite of Spring, The Chosen One cannot escape her fate as she sacrifices herself for the benefit of the people and their balance with nature. Simon and Oliver aim to take this concept and relate it to our modern world by asking the audience; are we sacrificing human life for technology and if so would we be able to escape our fate?

Laurie's approach to the last three parts of the Rite has been to create a sense of monumental, unpredictable momentum through vastly scaled down means: an amplified banjo and electronics.



Photo Credit

BIOGRAPHIES

LAURENCE TOMPKINS

Laurence is a composer and musician based in the UK. His practice seeks to forge new possibilities in the no man's land between established contemporary composition and electronic music disciplines. His music has been performed at the Royal Festival Hall, Snape Maltings, The Sage, Gateshead, and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Laurence is a co-founder and co-director of the experimental record label Slip Discs. Recent and future projects include radio play SHUCK!, with writer Sam Quill, which was premiered on Resonance FM and released on Slip Discs; new music for 'cellist Oliver Coates with electronics; and collaborative work with visual artists Dori Deng and Meta Drcar as part of the LSO Soundhub scheme.

SIMON BROOKS

Simon is a Manchester based video director with a background in audio-visual composition and projection mapping techniques. He has created music videos for a selection of some of Manchester's finest up and coming talents including JP Cooper and Frameworks and also worked on video installation projects across the UK. His video work has been showcased at several Video-Jam events.

OLIVER WHITE

Oliver is a Manchester based creative programmer with a background in music composition and technology. He has been involved in music and audiovisual projects throughout the UK including being a member of the bristol based electro-funk band, "burly Chassis" who were regulars at the Shambala festival and has also composed sound designs for the performance group, Invisible Circus. Oliver has performed at Video Jam in the past scoring an electronic soundtrack for one of the film submissions.

MUSICIANS AND PERFORMERS BIOS

JACK SHEEN/ CONDUCTOR

Jack Sheen is a composer and conductor from Manchester. His music has been performed by ensembles such as the BBC Philharmonic, the Aurora Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra, Terra Nova Ensemble and Vaganza in venues across Britain and the Channel Islands, as well as being broadcast on BBC Radio 3. He currently studies composition on the GRNCM Joint Course at the RNCM and University of Manchester with David Horne and Larry Goves, as well as conducting with Mark Heron. As a conductor, Jack has worked with the National Youth Orchestra's New Music Ensemble, Kaleidoscope Orchestra, ACM Ensemble, Vaganza and Stockport Youth Orchestra amongst others. He is conductor and co-manager of ddmmy, a new music concert/event series.

www.cargocollective.com/jacksheen

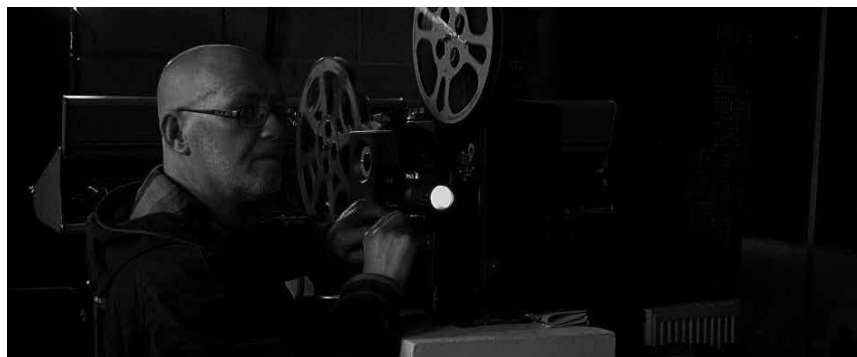


Photo Credit

ALASTAIR PENMAN/ SAXOPHONE

At the age of 25, British saxophonist Alastair Penman is rapidly emerging as a dynamic and versatile performer, presenting contemporary music in new and exciting ways. Having obtained masters' degrees in both Information and Computer Engineering (University of Cambridge) and Saxophone Performance (RNCM), Alastair has a strong interest in the fusion of live saxophone performance with electronic effects, backings and enhancements to create often previously undiscovered sound-worlds. Alastair has recently won an inaugural City Music Foundation Award, which will fund a debut album and UK concert tour as well as providing an umbrella of support for Alastair's career.

www.alastairpenman.co.uk

EMMA SMITH/ GUITAR

After graduating from Edinburgh Napier University in 2011, Emma is currently undertaking a Postgraduate Diploma in Solo Performance at the RNCM studying with Craig Ogden. Prior to focusing her attention on the guitar she had reached advanced levels on both the flute and the piano. As much as being a solo performer, Emma is a dedicated and experienced chamber musician playing in various instrumental settings. She twice won the Rita Quinney Medal for ensembles in the Edinburgh Festival of Music and Speech both in duo with violin and with the Edinburgh Napier Guitar Quartet. Emma's studies are kindly supported by the Ian Spencer Fox Guitar Bursary, The Cross Trust and The Caird Trust.

DIEGO VASSALLO/ VIOLIN

Born in Birmingham, Diego was brought up in a musical family and began his violin studies aged 7 with David Gregory. Later he progressed to study with Peter Thomas, and now with Pavel Fischer at the RNCM where he is a student. He frequently plays in many chamber music and orchestral ensembles, including leading the CBSO Youth Orchestra and playing in the RNCM's chamber music festival. As a soloist he has performed recitals and concerti in Argentina and the UK. As well as Classical music Diego also frequently plays Tango, including recording this year his first Tango CD with Bremen based pianist and composer Juan Maria Solare in London.

DAVE BAINBRIDGE/ BANJO

Dave Bainbridge is a guitarist based in Manchester and currently studying with Craig Ogden for his Masters degree at the RNCM. He is fast establishing a reputation in the world of contemporary music and has given premiere performances and made premiere recordings of the works of more than twenty composers. Dave has recorded for the Slip Discs experimental music label and is in demand as a chamber musician, including as a member of ACM Ensemble and the Nova Guitar Duo with Martin Bickerton. Dave's diverse performing experience also includes playing within rock and jazz idioms, playing the banjo and appearing onstage as a guitar-playing gypsy in Bizet's Carmen.

ANNABEL GASCOYNE/ CHOREOGRAPHY

Annabel started doing ballet when she was 4 years old and have loved it since then. She came to the Northern Ballet School in Manchester in 2011 when she was 16. For her, it was a challenging experience to become independent at that age, but dancing all day every day made it up. She has been involved in Coppelia since she have been at the school and this Christmas Annabel will be performing in Swan Lake dancing the roles of lead swan and Russian Princess. From after Christmas she will be auditioning in the UK and Europe for classical, neo-classical, contemporary and jazz jobs and preparing for graduation this July.

MUSICIANS AND PERFORMERS BIOS

AIRI KOIKE/ DANCER

Airi is a classical ballet dancer. She started dancing when she was 5 years old taking classes at the Yuri Kumagai Ballet School in Japan where she continued to train for 14 years. Whilst there Airi performed in many ballets, including The Sleeping Beauty, The Nutcracker and Don Quixote. In 2011 she moved to Manchester to train at Northern Ballet School where she expanded her training into other genres of dance, studying jazz and contemporary alongside classical ballet. Whilst training at Northern Ballet School she performed in Giselle and was the principal in Coppelia and is soon to be performing in their production of Swan Lake. Airi is currently auditioning for dance companies in the UK and Europe and hopes to find a job in the near future.

OTTO WILLBERG/ DOUBLE BASS

Otto plays double bass.

CO-DIRECTOR OF ART VANGUARD RUTA SKUDRAITE/ PIANO

After completing music education in her home of Lithuania, Ruta now continues her studies in piano performance at the RNCM. Appreciating collaborative work, she actively participates in chamber music and multi-disciplinary art projects. She has recently started a global collective Art Vanguard to organise events and enable a creative expression between different art mediums. Ruta has been kindly supported by The Stephen Bell Charitable Trust and The Hilda Collins Memorial Award towards her musical development.

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Design by Textbook Studio – *textbookstudio.co.uk*

Printed by Mono – *printedbymono.co.uk*

VIDEO JAM NEWS

Video Jam relies on your film and music submissions to run our events. To submit your work follow the submission tab on our website videojam.co.uk.

THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY 6^{PM} FREE

Manchester Art Gallery

Video Jam has been invited by Manchester Art Gallery to curate a programme that responds directly to Turner Prize winning artist Jeremy Deller's Hayward Touring Exhibition 'All That Is Solid Melts Into Air.' The exhibition examines the impact of the Industrial Revolution and its enduring influence upon British society and popular culture. Combining C19th images, sound, folk music and objects with contemporary music, film and photography, intriguing parallels are drawn between the mining and service industries, Northern urbanisation and glam rock, and the rhythms of the Victoria factory floor and contemporary acid house. Deller who represented Britain in this year's Venice Biennale, describes himself as a 'self-taught conceptual artist'. Here, he adopts the roles of curator and social anthropologist within this focused and personal study of British labour, leisure and community life.

For the final event of the exhibition Video Jam will be compiling a programme to reflect and explore its themes within a wide variety of genres. This is a perfect opportunity for artists working with sound and moving image in contrasting ways to offer their personal response, and for communities within Manchester to continue a dialogue with the ideas the exhibition raises. We strongly encourage all applicants to visit the exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery before submitting their work . Deadline for submissions Thursday 12th December.