

PAUL CHAN

***WAITING FOR GODOT* IN NEW ORLEANS:
AN ILLUSTRATED LECTURE**

FEBRUARY 1, 2010 | 8:30 PM

presented by

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater

California Institute of the Arts



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Los Angeles premiere

Alpert Award-winning video and media artist Paul Chan gives a stirring live multimedia presentation about an extraordinary community art experiment he spearheaded in New Orleans in collaboration with the Classical Theatre of Harlem and the public arts group Creative Time. In November 2007, Chan and his colleagues staged five site-specific performances of *Waiting for Godot* in the Katrina-devastated neighborhoods of Gentilly and Lower Ninth Ward. The production played to large crowds of local residents, for whom the classic Beckett-penned lines rang with fierce immediacy. The artist-activist, who had previously gained prominence by going to prewar Iraq with *Voices in the Wilderness* in defiance of U.S. law, also discusses the social and aesthetic ideas underpinning the *Godot* project.

In person: Paul Chan

Curated by Steve Anker and Bérénice Reynaud.

“Chan is an unusual model for an artist, being one for whom creating objects in the studio and dynamic situations outside it are equally important.”

The New York Times

“I think that art can be any number of things at once, and they can all be contradictory.” Paul Chan

Links

Paul Chan’s official website: www.nationalphilistine.com

A PBS video about the project:

www.thirteen.org/sundayarts/waiting-for-godot-in-new-orleans/97

Source files + docs from *Waiting for Godot* in New Orleans on Paul Chan’s website:

www.nationalphilistine.com/nola/index.html

The New Yorker profile:

www.nationalphilistine.com/press_old/2007_2008/Chan_profile_Newyorker_2008.pdf

Artforum cover story:

www.nationalphilistine.com/press_old/2007_2008/Chan_artforum_coverstory.pdf

New York Times review:

www.nationalphilistine.com/press_old/2007_2008/Godot_New_york_times.pdf

ABOUT PAUL CHAN

Paul Chan is an artist who lives and works in New York. His work has been exhibited widely in many international shows including: *Making Worlds*, 53rd Venice Biennale, Venice, 2009; *Medium Religion*, ZKM, Karlsruhe, 2008; *Traces du sacré*, Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2008; 16th Biennale of Sydney, Sydney, 2008; 10th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, 2007; and the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of Art, New York, 2006. Recent solo exhibitions include: *My Laws are My Whores*, The Renaissance Society and the University of Chicago, Chicago, 2009; *Paul Chan: Three Easy Pieces*, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, 2008; *Paul Chan: The 7 Lights*, Serpentine Gallery, London and New Museum, New York, 2007-2008; *Paul Chan - Lights and Drawings*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, 2007; *Paul Chan: 1st Light*, The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, 2006-2007; and *Paul Chan, Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall*, Stockholm and Portikus, Frankfurt, 2006.

In 2002, Chan was part of the American aid group Voices in the Wilderness that broke U.S. sanctions and federal law by working in Baghdad before the U.S. invasion and occupation. In 2004 he garnered police attention for The People's Guide to the Republican National Convention, a free map distributed throughout New York to help protesters to get in or out of the way of the RNC. Most recently Chan collaborated with the Classical Theatre of Harlem and Creative Time to produce a site-specific outdoor presentation of Samuel Beckett's play *Waiting for Godot* in New Orleans.

Funded in part with generous support from Wendy Keys and Donald Pels. Additional support provided by The Herb Alpert Foundation. The Alpert Award in the Arts, a fellowship program that supports innovative practitioners in the fields of dance, film/video, music, theater and visual art, is administered by CalArts on behalf of The Herb Alpert Foundation.

UPCOMING FILM/VIDEO PROGRAMS

February 27–March 7: REDCAT International Children’s Film Festival

March 1: Don Levy: *Herostratus*

March 30: Ross Lipman: Urban Ruins, Found Moments

April 5: Light Echoes Dark: The Films of Julie Murray

April 19: Sharon Lockhart: *Lunch Break with Exit*

April 26: Jennifer Reeves: *When It Was Blue*

May 3: Gregorio Rocha: *The Lost Reels of Pancho Villa* with Edmundo and Felix Padilla:
The Vengeance of Pancho Villa

May 6–8: CalArts Film/Video Showcase

May 10: Starting to Go Bad: New Narratives by Pat O’Neill

May 16: Ring Festival LA: Considering Wagner featuring Villa Aurora Composers-in-Residence

June 2–3: Partch: Even Wild Horses

June 4–5: Dance Camera West

June 6–7: Studio: Summer 2010

July 8–September 5: Chen Chieh-jen: *Empire’s Borders II*