

# REDCAT

ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER **NEWS RELEASE**

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Media Contact: Diana Wyenn

213 237-2873 | [dwyenn@calarts.edu](mailto:dwyenn@calarts.edu)

## REDCAT presents newly commissioned film by Dublin-based visual artist Jesse Jones *The Struggle Against Ourselves*



Jesse Jones, still from "The Struggle Against Ourselves," 2011, 16mm film transferred to video, courtesy the artist; and production still from "The Struggle Against Ourselves," 2011 (photo: Chiara Giovando).

## JESSE JONES: THE STRUGGLE AGAINST OURSELVES

**Exhibition dates: July 1 – August 28, 2011**

Opening reception: Thursday, June 30 | 6-9pm

Artist talk in conversation with Andrea Bowers | 6:30pm

REDCAT is pleased to present the first solo exhibition in the U.S. by Dublin-based artist Jesse Jones.

Jones' recent body of work focuses on the political and social history of cinema while exploring the role of film as a cultural artifact within collective history. Commissioned by REDCAT and produced at CalArts during a residency this spring in Los Angeles, Jones' new 16mm film takes Vsevolod Meyerhold's biomechanics etudes as its point of departure to position itself between the principles of Russian constructivism and its eventual appropriation by mass culture.

Working in collaboration with students from CalArts' Schools of Theater and Film/Video as well as Los Angeles theater director Chi-wang Yang, Jones' new film titled *The Struggle Against Ourselves* restages Meyerhold's biomechanical workshops as they appear in a series of photographs from the 1920s by the Russian photographer Alexander Grinberg. The reconstructed etudes depict the spectacle of movement embedded within radical political ideology while remaining eerily filled with the pathos of the historical past. *The Struggle Against Ourselves* displays a convergence of Russian revolutionary art and American popular culture by emphasizing the collective human form and synchronicity of movement—brilliantly usurped and reinterpreted in the films of Busby Berkeley. Despite the vast differences in their approach to politics, the pairing of these disparate cultural forms reveals an uncanny resemblance in the representation of the body on film.

Jones' new work is presented alongside *Zarathustra* (2008) and *The Spectre and the Sphere* (2008), a film depicting a ghostly performance of "The Internationale" on a theremin by the grandniece of its

inventor Lydia Kavina; as well as two recent works *Mahogany* (2009), a re-scripted performance of the final chapter of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's 1927 opera "The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahoganny" which tests the "marginality of political gesture in contemporary society in the absence of any utopian horizon" (*What Keeps Mankind Alive?: 11th International Istanbul Biennial*. Exhibition catalogue. [Istanbul: Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts, 2009], 151); and *Against the Realm of the Absolute* (2011), a feminist sci-fi film set 100 years in the future after capitalism has been overthrown and the world's female inhabitants re-enact the past as ritual events to produce a sense of historical time. Brought together at REDCAT for the first time, the works reflect Jones' desire to retrieve the artifacts of cultural history and revolutionary politics through performance, filmic re-enactment and theatrical staging.

Jesse Jones (b. 1978, Dublin) currently lives and works in Dublin, where she received her MA in Visual Arts Practices at Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design, and Technology in 2005. Her films and videos have been screened and exhibited internationally in such notable exhibitions as the 11th International Istanbul Biennial. Recent solo exhibitions have taken place at Collective, Edinburgh; Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne; Project Arts Centre, Dublin; and Blackwood Gallery at the University of Toronto Mississauga.

*Jesse Jones: The Struggle Against Ourselves is produced in collaboration with the CalArts Schools of Film/Video and Theater.*

*The exhibition is funded in part with generous support from Culture Ireland, Stacy and John Rubeli, and Pasadena Art Alliance.*

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### **GALLERY AT REDCAT**

Gallery at REDCAT aims to support, present, commission and nurture new creative insights through dynamic projects and challenging ideas. The Gallery presents five exhibitions every year, often of newly commissioned work that represents the artist's first major presentation in the U.S. or Los Angeles. The Gallery also maintains an active publishing program producing as many as two major monographs per year. Proceeding from the geographic and cultural specificities of Los Angeles, its program emphasizes artistic production of the Pacific Rim—namely Mexico, Central and South America and Asia—as regions that are of vital significance to California. The Gallery aims to facilitate dialogue between local and international artists contributing to a greater understanding of the social, political and cultural contexts that inform contemporary artistic practice.

Gallery at REDCAT is open Tuesdays through Sundays from noon to 6:00pm or until intermission. It is closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to the Gallery at REDCAT is always free.

REDCAT is located at the corner of W. 2nd and Hope Streets, inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex in downtown Los Angeles (631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012).

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### **REDCAT | ROY AND EDNA DISNEY/CALARTS THEATER**

REDCAT is an interdisciplinary contemporary arts center for innovative visual, performing and media arts located in downtown Los Angeles inside the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex. Through performances, exhibitions, screenings, and literary events, REDCAT introduces diverse audiences, students and artists to the most influential developments in the arts from around the world, and gives artists in this region the creative support they need to achieve national and international stature. REDCAT continues the tradition of the California Institute of the Arts, its parent organization, by encouraging experimentation, discovery and lively civic discourse. For more information, visit [www.redcat.org](http://www.redcat.org).

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Media Contact:

**DIANA WYENN**

REDCAT Media Relations & Promotions Manger

213 237-2873 | [dwynn@calarts.edu](mailto:dwynn@calarts.edu)