

MEDIA RELEASE

BOCK & VINCENZI PREMIERE

THE INFINITE PLEASURES OF THE GREAT UNKNOWN

www.operationinfinity.org

19-21 June 2008 at 8pm, Toynbee Studios, London

“When mankind becomes ruled by terror, then this is the hour for the mastery of crime”, writes Dr Mabuse, Fritz Lang’s celluloid master criminal and terrifying protagonist of Bock and Vincenzi’s major new performance work, THE INFINITE PLEASURES OF THE GREAT UNKNOWN. Inspired by two fictional characters - Lang’s diabolical Dr Mabuse, whose only desire is to destroy civilisation and Shakespeare’s character of tragedy and loss, King Lear – Infinite Pleasures is an elaborate and never-ending choreograph of chaos, possibility and prophecy.

Featuring an eclectic cast of shadowy characters and a soundscape created by composer Luke Stoneham, THE INFINITE PLEASURES OF THE GREAT UNKNOWN weaves a rich tapestry of performance, dance, film and sound: A macabre and darkly humorous cabaret that infiltrates the theatre space...

Dr Mabuse has set his heart on total world domination and has escaped the confines of both his own death and the silver screen. In an act of desperate, deranged cunning, he takes possession of out-of-work fictional theatre troupe, Troupe Mabuse. Creating an entertainment of terror, this is a play of possession in a continuous state of emergency; an all-singing, all-dancing investigation into the crime of representation. King Lear appears. Having missed his cue to die on stage he seems to be wandering for eternity in a landscape of his own making, speaking a complex text derived from the storm speech. Using terror of the unknown and the controlling force of language, the two characters of Mabuse and Lear are pitched against each other.

Behind a black screen part-concealing the stage, seven performers respond to Lang’s film, The Testament of Dr Mabuse, as it is played to them in real time. Surveillance cameras record the behind-the-scenes action, projecting this back onto the screen. A live new film is created. And while the audience glimpse these hidden worlds and dislocated soundscapes, outside, Operation Infinity begins...

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DIRECTORS STEPHEN AINGER, CHARLES GARRAD, SHREENA GHOSH, LEW HODGES, CHRIS HORSNELL, LOIS KEIDAN, ALISON RITCHIE, MHORA SAMUEL, EUGENE SKEEF, SEONAIID STEWART, SALLY STOTE, DAVID THORP. **REGISTERED OFFICE** HARBOTTLE AND LEWIS SOLICITORS, HANOVER HOUSE, 14 HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W1S 1HP. VAT REGISTRATION NO. 657086117. REGISTERED NO. 2979487. REG. CHARITY NO. 1044645

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TICKETS for THE INFINITE PLEASURES OF THE GREAT UNKNOWN £12.00 (concs £8.00) in London are available from www.artsadmin.co.uk or 020 7650 2350. Start time: 8pm. Running time: 120minutes. The audience are welcome to move about the theatre auditorium during the performance.

IN LANG'S THREE FILMS Dr Mabuse, the Gambler (1922), The Testament of Dr Mabuse (1933) and The Thousand Eyes of Dr Mabuse (1961) Dr Mabuse is a highly respected psychiatrist who leads a secret double life as a psychic shape-shifter and brilliant master of disguise. His view of power is explored through themes of economic ruin, self-determination for total control and the fear and paranoia brought about by political surveillance.

BOCK & VINCENZI was formed in 1995 by Frank Bock (performer / choreographer) and Simon Vincenzi (director / designer). Through a series of unique and uncompromising theatre/dance works they have explored the relationship between the language of movement and the mystery of the image. Their most recent project, invisible dances.... spanned seven years and manifested itself as a sound work for telephone, a billboard campaign, a publication, installations & films, and three dance theatre productions which were presented across Europe. One of these productions was commissioned by internationally renowned theatre director Romeo Castellucci and presented at the 37th International Theatre Festival as part of Venice Biennale 2005. Bock and Vincenzi have been nominated for the X1 Europe Prize New Theatrical Realities.

SIMON VINCENZI has designed for new and experimental theatre, opera and film throughout Britain and mainland Europe. He has worked with Impact Theatre, English National Opera, Nottingham Playhouse, the ICA and the National Theatre. He conceived and directs THE INFINITE PLEASURES OF THE GREAT UNKNOWN.

LUKE STONEHAM has produced over two dozen compositions which have been heard across Europe, Japan and the US since the premiere of his piano piece Body to Centre in 1990. Recent orchestral work includes Julius Tomb and Arms For The Maid. His most recent work includes Salamander (string ensemble), Sugar (film) as well as a major new work for the London Sinfonietta. He has also composed for Bock & Vincenzi's invisible dances... project.