

# WHITNEY

## Press Release

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April 2006

## SUCCOR: A FESTIVAL OF LIVE PERFORMANCE, MAY 3-24, 2006

*May 2006 Series at Whitney's Altria Branch takes place on Wednesday evenings at 8 pm, 120 Park Avenue at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street*

*Performance on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, the ongoing performing arts series at the Whitney's Altria branch, presents a month of site-specific premieres on Wednesday evenings in May. The program, which runs from May 3 to May 24, 2006, is entitled *Succor: A Festival of Performing Arts*. The series features artists exploring the notion of solace in its many forms: given, received, self-administered, and denied: sound artist **Bill Fontana** (May 3-5); performance artist **Liza Jessie Peterson** (May 10); dancer/choreographer **Nicholas Leichter** with singer/songwriter **Eisa Davis** (May 17); and composer **Phil Kline** (May 24).

Admission is free on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information, visit [www.whitney.org](http://www.whitney.org), or call 1-800-WHITNEY. Events take place on Wednesday evenings at 8 pm at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria, 120 Park Avenue at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 at 8 pm (opening reception) at Altria:

#### **BILL FONTANA: *SPEEDS OF TIME* (NY Premiere)**

The series kicks off on Wednesday, May 3 at 8 pm with an artist talk with Bill Fontana. Following the conversation, Fontana presents the New York premiere of *Speeds of Time*, which will run continuously through the evening of Friday, May 5. Bill Fontana's *Speeds of Time* is a musical deconstruction of the most famous acoustic icon and symbol of time, Big Ben. An eight-channel, twelve-hour cycle of sound events, *Speeds of Time* is composed from recordings of hammer strikes against London's Big Ben and the mechanical calibrations of its clockwork gears. The work is constructed from the audio recording of the finely calibrated functions in the operation of the clockwork, and a wide range of frequencies and tonalities of the chime. The accelerometer, an instrument typically used for monitoring vibration and analyzing the structural continuity of welded

steel buildings and bridges, is applied in conjunction with omni-directional microphones that render the hourly and quarter-hour peal of the bells and capture the acoustical reverberations in the city beyond. The rhythmic pattern and repetitive cycle of the clockwork faithfully keeps time, while the bell and its echo stress the physicality of lived experience in the substance of time – a substance that mysteriously accumulates as it simultaneously disappears.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 10 at 8 pm at Altria:**

**LIZA JESSIE PETERSON: *THE PECULIAR PATRIOT***

*The Peculiar Patriot* is a dark, hilarious, disturbingly relevant and satirical rollercoaster ride through the underbelly of America's penal system, but most importantly, it's a love story told in the voice of the Prison Industry Pin-Up Supermodel, Betsy Laquanda Ross. Betsy regularly visits various New York State and Federal prisons, boosting the morale of her inmate-friends and continuously working on a memory quilt for the "soldiers and P.O.W's" (prisoners of the war on drugs) who are on lock down. A review in *Backstage* noted, "Like Whoopi Goldberg, Peterson has invented a character whose existence is a commentary. [*The Peculiar Patriot*] is savvy, charming and funny," and the *Tampa Tribune* wrote, "Peterson practically dances in her chair with swishy laughter and an attitude that on a pin switches from comic to somber."

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 at 8 pm at Altria:**

**NICHOLASLEICHTERDANCE AND EISA DAVIS: *SWEETWASH***

Dancer/choreographer Nicholas Leichter and singer/songwriter Eisa Davis will present a new work-in-development. Four musicians and six dancers will appear in pockets of light throughout the space, their interactions evoking the endless possibilities of intimacy in New York's pedestrian culture. The choreography and music are both structured and spontaneous, allowing intentions to be challenged by circumstance, and surprising unions of feeling to occur between the performers and with the audience. The seductive movement vocabulary and dramatic fusion of styles collides with and rides Eisa's alto vocals and piano-driven acoustic band, a sound she calls minimalist soul.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 at 8 pm at Altria:**

**PHIL KLINE**

***LOCUS SOLUS: PRELUDE* (World Premiere)**

"*Magic was happening as you sat there. Here was a true original.*" — Paul Griffiths, *The New York Times*. Inspired by Raymond Roussel's 1914 proto-surrealist novel, Phil Kline's *Locus Solus* is a monstrous invention—part opera, part song cycle, part poetry reading and lecture—with elements

of film, magic, and the circus, not to mention a violin concerto with an orchestra of percussion, toys, teeth, and junk. With each movement devoted to one of the fantastic artifacts described by the genius inventor Canterel on his estate, *Locus Solus* plays on the seeming paradox that the natural must be communicated by the unnatural, for any language is itself a technique, by definition constructed and artificial.

*Performance on 42<sup>nd</sup>* is the performing arts program of the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria, offering free music, dance, and theater events to the public. The Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria is funded by Altria Group, Inc.

Performance on 42nd is curated by Limor Tomer.

***Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria:***

Andrea Zittel: *Small Liberties*  
Trace

Through June 18, 2006  
Opens June 29, 2006

*The Whitney Museum of American Art at Altria is located at 120 Park Avenue at 42nd Street. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sculpture Court Hours: Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Sundays and holidays 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free gallery talks are offered every Wednesday and Friday at 1:00 p.m. For further information, please call (917) 663-2453. Subway: 4, 5, 6, 7, S to 42nd Street*