

Michelle Handelman, *DORIAN*

April 26 - May 31, 2009

Opening reception and performance by Armen Ra and Sequinette, Sunday, April 26, 7-9pm

*DORIAN*

Directed, produced, edited by Michelle Handelman

*CAST*

Quin Charity as Basil

K8 Hardy as Sybl

Armen Ra as Lord H

Sequinette as Dorian

Jack Doroshow aka Flawless Sabrina as Dead Dorian

Natalie Capuozzo as sycophantic club kid

Morrighan Clinco as sycophantic club kid

Inbred Hybrid Collective as street hustler

Catalina Martinez-Parra as shadow and sycophantic club kid

Kenny Scharf as sycophantic club kid

Stefan Tcherepnin as himself (Sybl's band mate)

Gretchen Winterkorn aka Fetchin' Gretchen as burlesque performer

Laure Leber, Tori Sparks, Devon Gallegos, Grace Moon, Stephanie Dawson, Freedy Molsen as extras

Original music: Vincent Baker, Lustmord, Armen Ra, Nadia Sirota, Stefan Tcherepnin

Drawings for animation: Amelie Chabannes

Wall sculptures: Daniella Dooling

Cinematography: Edward C.R. David

Lighting Design: Edward C.R. David

Assistant Camera: Peter Mychalcewycz, Makk Napu, Albert Oh, Stan Uy

Still Photography: Laure Leber

Costume Design: Garo Sparo

Sound Design: Michelle Handelman

Additional music: Jack Dangers, trk 05, Electronic Music, Tapelab (with permission)

Set Design: Michelle Handelman

Gaffers/Grips: Dominic Cloutier and Devon Gallegos

Makeup: Sequinette, K8 Hardy, Armen Ra

Wigs: Michelle Handelman, Perfidia, Sequinette, Garo Sparo

Animation: Enrique Maitland, Birgit Rathsmann

Choreography: Tigger!

Post production sound engineer: Dan Bora (recorded at Media Noise, Brooklyn)

Post production sound recording of Armen Ra: Brian Williams at scientific electric, LA

Additional HD and still photography: Livvy Stout and Ves Pitts

Assistant Production Manager: Dominic Cloutier

Production Assistants: Jess Arndt, Holly Bynoe, Devon Gallegos, Josh Lovelace, Piama

Habibullah, Catalina Martinez-Parra, Mary McClave, Adrienne Silverman

Production Services: Complex Corporation, San Francisco

Wall painting: Garry Hayes

Sculptures for costume display: Diana Puntar



From April 26 through May 31, 2009, PARTICIPANT INC premieres *DORIAN*, a multi-channel video installation by Michelle Handelman. *DORIAN* is an adaptation of Oscar Wilde's 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*: "It is the spectator, and not life, that art really mirrors." Presented as a non-linear narrative on four screens, Handelman's *DORIAN* employs the queer undertones of the original novel as a starting point for a feminist reworking of the tale through a new queer identity. Told by means of fragmented dialogue and music, each character utilizes their own instrument: Theremin, synthesizer, viola, voice.

Inspired by Wilde's themes of decadence, beauty, and the meaning of art, Handelman's *Dorian* is a young woman discovered by a fashion photographer, then catapulted into a world of high celebrity. Falling under the tutelage of a renowned drag queen, she becomes a downtown nightclub luminary, constantly followed by the paparazzi. Media images become the infamous portrait, grotesquely mutating as she grows more beautiful and famous, culminating in her own narcissistic destruction. *Dorian* exists as a contemporary superstar, a mirror to our own narcissism--desirable, unknowable, destroyed by vacant ambition.

Like films of Warhol and Godard that blur the line between performance and reality, all of the performers in *DORIAN* are playing some version of themselves: Wren Kistler aka Sequinette (*Dorian*) is a gender-bending drag impresario; Armen Ra (Lord H) is a drag queen and renowned Theremin player; Quin Charity (Basil) is a media artist; and K8 Hardy (Sybl Vain) is a performance artist and co-creator of the queer art collective LTTR. *DORIAN* is created as a living project that transforms every time it is exhibited. Its premiere at PARTICIPANT INC will be presented as a four-channel experimental narrative. Future incarnations may include a single-channel film with live music and performance; an installation of ambient moments representing each character; and viral videos of *Dorian*'s portrait released online.

Michelle Handelman lives and works in New York. Her video work has shown worldwide, including the Palm Beach ICA; Georges Pompidou Centre, Paris; ICA London; and SF MOMA. Her performance spectacles have been presented by *Performa05*, *Biennial of Visual Art Performance*, NY; Cristinerose Gallery, NY; Exit Art, NY; and The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, CT. She is the director of the 1998 documentary, *BloodSisters* (Bravo Award), and has collaborated with Monte Cazazza, pioneer of the Industrial Music scene; Eric Werner, co-founder of Survival Research Laboratories; Paul Miller aka DJ Spooky; and media artist Lynn Hershman-Leeson. Handelman has contributed to the cultural anthologies *Apocalypse Culture* (Feral House Press) and *Inappropriate Behaviour* (Serpents Tail), and is an assistant professor in the department of media and performing arts at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston. She received her M.F.A. at Bard College, and B.F.A. at the SF Art Institute.

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Special thanks: Don Carroll at Jack the Pelican, Brooklyn; Garo Sparo; Nathalie Angles at Location One, NYC; Drazen Pantic at Open-player.com; Quentin Chiapetta at Media Noise, Brooklyn; Stefan Stoyanov at Luxe Gallery, NYC; Suzanne Fiol and Zach Layton at Issue Project Room, Brooklyn; Erik Foss at Lit Lounge, NYC; Oliver Pihlar at Happy Ending Lounge, NYC; Bloomingdale's, NYC; scientific electric, Los Angeles.



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PARTICIPANT INC is located at 253 East Houston Street, between Norfolk and Suffolk Streets on the LES. Subway: F/V to Second Avenue, Allen Street exit. Gallery Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, noon-7pm. [participantinc.org](http://participantinc.org)

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