

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHARLES ATLAS
INSTANT FAME!

June 11 - June 29, 2003
Hours for portraits, Wednesday-Sunday, 3-7pm

Opening Reception, Friday, June 13, 2003, 7-9pm

From June 11-29, 2003, PARTICIPANT INC will present *INSTANT FAME!* a solo exhibition including live video portraits by Charles Atlas. Created and projected simultaneously in the gallery space, this evolving video work will be on view, together with other recent video works by Atlas.

For willing attendees, Charles Atlas will be present for videotaping from 3-7pm daily, utilizing a studio set up in the gallery's lower level. Images will be projected live in the upper level gallery space during each shoot, and compiled over the three weeks of the exhibition. Show-offs encouraged; performers of any kind invited; and just plain sitters tolerated. Come one, come all. Voyeurs welcome. To schedule ahead, call *INSTANT FAME!* Hot Line, or just drop by.

Yet to be Famous: 917 488 0185
Already Famous: 310 927 9290

Performative identities and the dynamics of collaboration have distinguished Atlas' work, evolving from close working relationships, friendships, and often immodest creative contexts such as the East Village and London club scenes of the late 80s. Over the years, Atlas has addressed the portrait in various formats ranging from full-length biographies for television, to video installations in galleries and museums. Recently, his work has explored live video processing—the focus of his solo project for PARTICIPANT INC. Expanding this exhibition platform over time, Atlas will produce a composite video of material shot during the exhibition for projection on PARTICIPANT INC's facade in the fall.

Charles Atlas, film director and video artist, has been producing film and video works since the mid-1970s. Much of his recent output in these media has been the result of commissioned works for television in the US and Europe. His films and videos have ranged from the feature-length piece, *Hail the New Puritan*, a fictional day in the life of a young British punk ballerino; to *As Seen on TV*, a short comic film starring vaudevillian Bill Irwin; to *Put Blood in the Music*, a documentary about the downtown music scene circa 1989; to *Son of Sam and Delilah*, an impressionistic combination of opera singing, disco dancing, and serial killing; to *Superhoney*, a Gothic eroto-horror videodance. His film, *Merce Cunningham: A Lifetime of Dance*, a 90-minute international co-production for television won a "best documentary" award at Dance Screen 2000 in Monaco. His latest film, *The Legend of Leigh Bowery*, a documentary feature about the London-based performance artist and art/fashion icon was broadcast on the BBC in March 2003. It will be released in the US later this year.

Many of Atlas' films and videos have been made in collaboration with choreographers/dancers (including Merce Cunningham, Douglas Dunn, Philippe Decoufle, and Michael Clark) and performers (including John Kelly, DANCENOISE, Marina Abramovic, Diamanda Galas, and Leigh Bowery). His most recent dance-related piece *Rainer Variations* (2002) is a video portrait of filmmaker/choreographer Yvonne Rainer.

Throughout his career, Atlas has also been involved as collaborator in live performance work, as director, and also as designer of sets, costumes, lighting, and mixed media presentations. His work in this area has spanned the range from loft performances to opera house productions. His multi-media performance/theater piece, *Delusional*, (created in collaboration with Marina Abramovic) for solo performer was presented in Europe in April 1994. Atlas created video sequences about the work of the Judson Dance Theatre in the 1960s as part of The White Oak Dance Project's *PastForward*, which toured the US and Europe in 2001. Most recently, he designed costumes and created live video projections for the stage production, *Muscle Shoals*, a collaboration with choreographer Douglas Dunn and composer Steve Lacy, which premiered in Paris in February 2003.

Atlas has created several large-scale, mixed media video installations. *The Hanged One* had as its components 15 channels of video, programmed lighting, and kinetic sculptural elements, shown at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1997. Recent video installations have been exhibited at XL Xavier LaBoulbenne, NY; the Aldrich Museum for Contemporary Art, CT; The Kitchen, NY; Magazin 4, Austria; Ost-Gut, Berlin; La Crie, France; and Performance Space, Australia. Atlas is the recipient of three "Bessie" (New York Dance and Performance) Awards. The most recent (1998) was in recognition of the video collages made for the monthly event, "Martha @ Mother."

He is currently working as consulting director and creating the opening host segments for the PBS Series, *art 21: art in the twenty-first century*. His installation work is now on view in the exhibition, "Phantom of Desire" at Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, Austria. He will be collaborating this fall with British choreographer Michael Clark on the visual elements for a new stage production to be premiered in London at Sadlers' Wells Theater. He has been commissioned by ARTE to make a new film about Las Vegas magic duo, Siegfried and Roy.

This exhibition is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.

PARTICIPANT INC has received generous support from the Harriett Ames Charitable Trust, The MAT Charitable Foundation, the Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program, and numerous individuals.

PARTICIPANT INC is located at 95 Rivington Street, between Ludlow and Orchard Streets in the Lower East Side.

Gallery hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 12-7pm.