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Passport

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

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Office of Arts + Cultural Programming and PEAK Performances at Montclair State University, "Passport" (2011). *2010-2011 PEAK Explores the Answer: Experiments in Arts & Technology*. 17.
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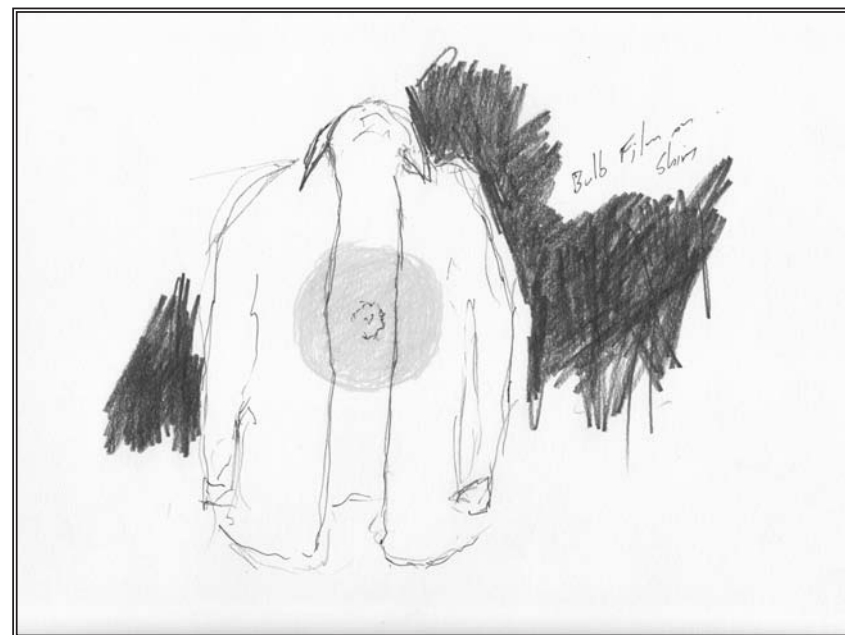
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Peak performances
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10
11



Credit Robert Whitman

World Premiere!

Passport

by Robert Whitman

April 16 & 17, 2011 • 8:00pm

Alexander Kasser Theater

Montclair State University/

Riverfront Park, Beacon, NY

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
 Dr. Geoffrey W. Newman, Dean, College of the Arts
 Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

Peak Performances @ Montclair
 in association with Dia Art Foundation

presents:

World Premiere! *Passport*

Written and Directed by **Robert Whitman**
 Coordinating Producer **Julie Martin**

For Peak Performances @ Montclair
 Lighting Designer **William Growney**
 Video Production and Editing **Katelynn Altgilbers, Gianluca Bianchino, Klimentina Jauleska, Chris Luongo**
 Isadora Programmer **Joseph Cantalupo**
 Scenic and Prop Fabrication **Andrew Boyle, Timothy DiGregorio, Elizabeth Flynn, Joseph Geitner, Jeremy Lydic, Jesse Monahan, Christopher Santilli**
 Video Networking Systems Designer **Shawn Van Every**
 Production Run Crew **Cordero Acevedo, Andrew Boyle, Jason Flamos, Christopher Santilli**
 Performers at the Alexander Kasser Theater **Tony Bordonaro, Klimentina Jauleska, Eric Stalowski, Dana Thomas, Dani Vialpando**

For Dia Art Foundation
 Curator **Yasmil Raymond**
 Curatorial Associate **Jeanne Dreskin**
 Audio-Video Technician **Patrick Heilman**
 Assistant to Coordinating Producer **Hedi Sorger**
 Production Manager **Will Knapp**
 Stage Manager **Jenni Bowman**
 Lighting Designer **Frank DenDanto**
 Master Electrician **Greg Goff**
 Prop Design and Fabrication **Chad Bowen, Kurt Diebboll, Curtis Harvey, Jeremy Lydic, Caleb Taggart**
 Video Networking Systems Designer **Shawn Van Every**
 Audio-Video Assistants **Brian Loatman, Dan Masterson, Emily Shepard, Dan Wolfe**
 Performers at Dia:Beacon **Ashley Brocious, Nick Djandji, Curtis Harvey, Josh Hurt, Rayvawn Johnson, Kit Messick, Jenna Otter, Nick Ruiz, Robert Vincent Smith, Hedi Sorger**
 Horse courtesy **Chateau Stables, Inc.**

Co-commissioned by Peak Performances @ Montclair State (NJ) and Dia Art Foundation. Simultaneous performances are presented at the Alexander Kasser Theater in Montclair, NJ, and Riverfront Park, Beacon, NY.

This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Creative Campus Innovations Grant Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Flying effects provided by Flying by Foy.

Duration: 1 hour, no intermission.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted inside the theater.

PROGRAM NOTES

In most of the pieces that I've done, I like the idea of people having a specific point of view, and if not one person, it could be a group of people who see the piece in one way and another group of people who see it another way. So there are specific communities that may have an experience that's not identical, but it's the same piece—let's say it's the same thing but a different point of view. So there's that aspect of this piece, because it's going to happen simultaneously in two places, and there will be aspects that have to be different; so one is going to be outside, and we do outside stuff there, and one will be inside in a conventional theater, and we'll do inside stuff there, and transmit images from one place to the other so that they kind of mesh—you know, part of the same composition, but different.

—Robert Whitman

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Robert Whitman was born in New York City in 1935. He received a BA in English Literature from Rutgers University in 1957 and studied art history at Columbia University in 1958. As a pioneer of artists' theater of the late 1950s and early 1960s, Whitman, together with Jim Dine, Red Grooms, Allan Kaprow, and Claes Oldenburg, presented performances that combined performers, props, sound, and lights in nontraditional theater spaces throughout lower Manhattan. Notably, with his pioneering piece *The American Moon* (1960), Whitman became the first artist of his generation to incorporate film into his performances. During this time he also exhibited mixed media works at some of New York's more important contemporary venues, including the Hansa, Reuben, Martha Jackson, and Sidney Janis galleries.

During the 1960s, Whitman became increasingly interested in creative collaboration with scientists, engineers, and specialists beyond the realm of the visual arts world, which led to his participating in *9 Evenings: Theatre & Engineering* at the 69th Regiment Armory in New York City in 1966. The same year Whitman co-founded, with engineers Billy Klüver and Fred Waldhauer and artist Robert Rauschenberg, Experiments in Art and Technology (E.A.T.), a foundation that provided artists with access to technology through collaborations with engineers and scientists. He also collaborated on the design, construction, and programming for the Pepsi Pavilion at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan, and made a new work for the Art & Technology Show, shown at the U.S. Pavilion at Expo '70 and at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (1971).

His one-person exhibitions have been presented at such venues as the Jewish Museum, New York (1968); the Museum of Contemporary Art,

Chicago (1968); the Museum of Modern Art, New York (1973); and PaceWildenstein Gallery, New York (1995, 1997, 2004, 2007). He has presented theater works in various European venues, including Moderna Museet, Stockholm (1987 and 1989); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2001 and 2002); the New Media Festival in Leeds, England (2004); and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (2010).

Dia Art Foundation organized a retrospective of his theater works in 1976, and, in 2003, presented *Playback*, an exhibition bringing together a selection of key works from the early 1960s to late 1970s spanning various media, including presentations of *Light Touch* (1976) and *Prune Flat* (1965). The exhibition traveled to Porto, Portugal, and Barcelona.

In 2005 Whitman produced *Local Report*, a large-scale communications project, the latest version of a series of telephone pieces beginning with *NEWS*, in New York in 1972, where reports from participants using pay phones all over the city were played over radio station WBAI. *Local Report* consisted of live performances held on successive weekends at five different places around New York City in which participants used video cell phones to create and send short video films and sound reports from their areas, which were incorporated into a five-screen video and sound installation shown at the Guggenheim Museum, New York.

Whitman is represented by The Pace Gallery, New York.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The artist would like to express his thanks to Andrew Atkinson, Katelynn Altgilbers, Gianluca Bianchino, Klimentina Jauleska, and Chris Luongo, who worked on video elements; Elizabeth Reese for sharing her knowledge of horses; and all the volunteers whose generous help and support made this production possible.

Additional thanks are extended to Ryan Brickle, Hector Cruz, Leanne Long, Debbie Saivetz, and to members of the Montclair State University Broadcasting department, including Lawrence Londino, Beverly Peterson, and Patricia Piroh, as well as Bob Hoffman, Adam Kowalczyk, John Tejada, Matt Marliński, and Manecha Guillaume.

Dia Art Foundation's presentation in Beacon is supported in part by Lisa and Richard Baker, Heidi Olson and Roger Duffy, and The Pace Gallery. Additional support is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

Special thanks to Steve Gold, Mayor of the City of Beacon, and the Beacon City Council, City of Beacon Parks Department, and the citizens of Beacon.