

# CHARLEMAGNE PALESTINE RUNNING OUTBURST



**April 19, 2011**

**ELECTRONIC ARTS INTERMIX**

**Celebrating 40 Years**



# CHARLEMAGNE PALESTINE: RUNNING OUTBURST

## Screening + Conversation with Jay Sanders

EAI is pleased to present a screening and conversation with internationally celebrated sound and performance artist Charlemagne Palestine. In a rare New York appearance, Palestine, who lives and works in Brussels, will screen a selection of his video works, including *Body Music I/Body Music II* (1973-74), *Running Outburst* (1975), *You Should Never Forget the Jungle* (1975), and *Ritual in the Emptiness* (2001). New York-based curator and writer Jay Sanders will join Palestine in conversation to discuss Palestine's inimitable approach to performance, video, and sound.

## SCREENING PROGRAM

### **Body Music I**

*1973-74, 12:54 min, b&w, sound*

### **Body Music II**

*1973-74, 8:09 min, b&w, sound*

### **You Should Never Forget the Jungle**

*1975, 11:09 min, color, sound*

### **Running Outburst**

*1975, 5:56 min, b&w, sound*

### **Ritual in the Emptiness**

*2001, 12:04 min, color, sound*

**Total Running Time:** *50:12 min*

Note: The program will be preceded by **EAI's 40th Anniversary Intro** by artist Takeshi Murata (*2011, 1:04 min, color, sound*), which was commissioned by EAI.

**Body Music I** 1973-74, 12:54 min, b&w, sound

Produced by Palestine at Art/Tapes/22 in Florence, Italy, this is a seminal performance-based exercise. Palestine calls *Body Music I* "a study in the vocal-physical responses of a species caught in an enclosed square room." He begins this ritualistic piece sitting on the floor, establishing an aural rhythm by banging his knees against its hard surface. As his momentum builds and accelerates, he rises and hurtles himself with intensity against the walls, as if trying to escape from confinement.

**Body Music II** 1973-74, 8:09 min, b&w, sound

In *Body Music II*, also produced by Palestine at Art/Tapes/22 in Florence, Italy, Palestine wanders through the labyrinthine hallways of a villa, recording with a hand-held camera. Moving faster and chanting into the reverberating space as though trying to escape, he creates a frenetic visual translation of his physical movements and energy.

**You Should Never Forget the Jungle** 1975, 11:09 min, color, sound

This work was produced at the Oppenheim Studio in Cologne, Germany, and incorporates emblematic objects that are Palestine's performance signatures: scarves, cognac, knives and teddy bears. In *You Should Never Forget the Jungle*, Palestine is seen in an enclosed room, wearing a scarf and holding a glass of cognac. He begins to chant and keen, hurtling violently against the walls as if trying desperately to break out. Shielding his eyes from the gaze of the camera, he eventually slides out of the camera frame.

**Running Outburst** 1975, 5:56 min, b&w, sound

In his performances, Palestine often uses teddy bears and toy pandas as what he terms "symbols of identification, like another reality of myself." In *Running Outburst*, these symbolic objects, placed at specific points in his loft, serve as surrogates for Palestine, who remains invisible behind the camera. Chanting, he runs from one object to the next while holding the camera. His movements reach an hysterical intensity, and then slowly subside to a gentle rhythm. Using the camera as an extension of his body, Palestine constructs a visual seismograph that charts a cathartic release, placing the viewer in the position of a voyeur, as well as a surrogate who sees through his subjective point of view.

**Ritual in the Emptiness** 2001, 12:04 min, color, sound

*Ritual in the Emptiness* continues Palestine's long-term exploration of subjective video. In an abandoned French factory filled with wintry light, Palestine performs while recording his vision on video. The viewer sees what the artist sees. As he spirals from room to room, Palestine's voice resonates throughout the cavernous space, filling the emptiness with sound and motion. The video ends as it begins, with a fleeting glimpse of another human being.

**Charlemagne Palestine** was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1945. He studied at New York University, Columbia University, Mannes College of Music and California Institute of the Arts. He has received grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, among other organizations. His work has been exhibited internationally, at festivals and institutions including the Venice Biennale, Italy; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Kunsthalle, Basel, Switzerland; Long Beach Museum of Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Documenta 8, Kassel; Walker Art center, Minneapolis; Art Institute of Chicago; Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva; and Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal. In 2010 Palestine's video works were featured in the solo exhibition VooDoo at Wiels in Brussels. In recent years, he has collaborated with a diverse group of experimental musicians including Pan Sonic, David Coulter, Tony Conrad and Michael Gira. He has released more than twenty solo albums and has performed in festivals around the world such as The Meltdown Festival, London in 1999; Transmediale, Berlin in 2010; All Tomorrow's Parties, UK in 2010 and Numina Lente, NY in 2011.

Palestine lives and works in Brussels.

**EAI: Celebrating 40 Years:** Founded in 1971, Electronic Arts Intermix (EAI) is one of the world's leading nonprofit resources for video art. A pioneering advocate for media art and artists, EAI fosters the creation, exhibition, distribution and preservation of video art and digital art. EAI's core program is the distribution and preservation of a major collection of over 3,500 new and historical media works by artists. EAI's activities include viewing access, educational services, extensive online resources, and public programs such as artists' talks, exhibitions and panels. The Online Catalogue is a comprehensive resource on the artists and works in the EAI collection, and also features extensive materials on exhibiting, collecting and preserving media art: [www.eai.org](http://www.eai.org)

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