

Media information: Monday 27 April 2009

BALTIC

DAVID BLANDY

The Barefoot Lone Pilgrim

Monday 27 April – Sunday 19 July 2009

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art presents **The Barefoot Lone Pilgrim**, a video by David Blandy from Monday 27 April.

David Blandy's work deals with his problematic relationship with popular culture, integrating fantasy adventures with real life in a search for his cultural position in the world. His video performance work **The Barefoot Lone Pilgrim** documents a journey of discovery. **The Pilgrim**, is a lone character wearing the orange robes of a Buddhist Shaolin Monk and carrying a portable record player. In his episodic adventure he is searching for 'soul', as a hermit in an 18th Century Park in Surrey, on an American road trip, journeying through the Lake District and the city of London.

Footage of the artist as **The Barefoot Lone Pilgrim** is edited with appropriated excerpts from films such as **Shogun Assassin** and **Princess Mononoke** and television programmes **Kung Fu** and **Monkey**. Revealing cultural confusion and questioning myth, custom and symbolism, **Blandy's** work asks about the construction of identity in a mass-media context.

Alessandro Vincentelli, BALTIC's Acting Head of Programme adds: *"It is very pertinent that we are presenting David Blandy's work at the same time as the major group show A Duck for Mr Darwin. Both exhibitions capture the human need for discovery, journeying around the world searching for knowledge and a better understanding of ourselves and nature. However Blandy brings the subject directly into present day as he looks for his cultural position within the world; investigating how an individual is formed by the mass-media of records, films and television, and whether they have an identity beyond these external influences."*

David Blandy has exhibited widely both in the UK and abroad at venues such as at Gasworks, London; FACT, Liverpool; Cornerhouse, Manchester; PS1 Gallery, New York; and the Centre d'art Contemporain, Geneva. Blandy has had solo shows in London, Beijing, and this year at Spike Island, Bristol; 176, London and Turner Contemporary, Margate. His work featured in last year's Liverpool Biennial at Bluecoat.

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For further information on the exhibition and transcripts of the texts please contact:
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NOTES TO EDITORS

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. BALTIC presents a constantly changing, distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation, commissioning and communication of contemporary visual art. BALTIC has welcomed over 3 million visitors, since opening to the public in July 2002.

GALLERY INFORMATION:

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ADMISSION FREE

Opening hours:

Monday - Sunday 10.00 - 18.00 (excluding Tuesday)
Tuesday 10.30 – 18.00



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