



BFI GALLERY PRESS RELEASE

# THE YVONNE RAINER PROJECT

**BFI Gallery, BFI Southbank, London, SE1**

**26 November 2010 – 23 January 2011**

**Press view: Thursday 25 November 5.30-6.30pm**

**Private view: Thursday 25 November 6.30-9pm**

**Admission free**

**[www.bfi.org.uk/gallery](http://www.bfi.org.uk/gallery)**

This November the BFI Gallery presents an exhibition dedicated to the work of the legendary American dancer, choreographer and filmmaker, **Yvonne Rainer** (b.1934) whose practice is amongst the most influential on the newest generation of video makers and choreographers alike. In the last few years there have been a number of important publications on her work and museum shows dedicated to her but she has not had a gallery exhibition in Europe to date. The exhibition features three of Rainer's works in the BFI Gallery and is accompanied by screenings of her seven feature films to be shown in the BFI cinemas, and a curated programme of artists works taking place in December. **The Yvonne Rainer Project** runs from 26 November 2010 until 23 January 2011 and admission is free.

Although she is renowned in the world of art because of her innovative contribution to contemporary dance, Rainer is also remarkable because of her involvement with cinema later in her career, and her work is punctuated with references to both the history of dance and cinema. This exhibition concentrates on the reception and transformation of ideas in her work, such as those of choreographers Vaslav Nijinsky and George Balanchine, composer Igor Stravinsky, thinkers such as Ludwig Wittgenstein and Sigmund Freud, and filmmaker Georg Wilhelm Pabst.

## **IN THE BFI GALLERY**

The BFI Gallery show features Rainer's installation, *After Many a Summer Dies the Swan: Hybrid* (2002) to be shown for the first time in Europe; and installation format projections of two of Rainer's most recent choreographies (as she has returned to dance in the past ten years), filmed by Babette Mangolte, *RoS Indexical* (2008) and *AG Indexical with a Little Help from H.M.* (2007).

## **IN THE CINEMAS AT BFI SOUTHBANK**

(in December, exact screening dates to be announced nearer the time)

*Lives of Performers*, 1972 (90 min)

*Film about a Woman Who ...*, 1974 (90 min)

*Kristina Talking Pictures*, 1976 (125 min)

*Journeys from Berlin*/1971, 1980 (125 min)

*The Man Who Envied Women*, 1985 (125 min)  
*Privilege*, 1990  
*MURDER and murder*, 1996 (113 min)

### **IN THE ATRIUM AT BFI SOUTHBANK**

An excerpt of Yvonne Rainer's *Lives of Performers*, 1972, will be shown continuously in the Atrium.

### **IN THE STUDIO AT BFI SOUTHBANK**

An accompanying curated screening programme in the BFI Studio takes place over a weekend in December. It features a presentation of Rainer's *Five Easy Pieces*, alongside video work by contemporary artists who work in the style of choreography for the camera. The artists are: Yael Bartana, Johanna Billing, Katinka Bock, Jonathan Burrows, Kiken Ergun, Michel François, Laurent Goldring, Mircea Cantor, Sonia Khurana, Florence Lazar, Bea McMahon, Natacha Nisic, Anri Sala, Beat Streuli, Ulla Von Brandenburg, Su-Mei Tse, Uri Tzaig. Exact dates to be announced.

### **ABOUT YVONNE RAINER**

Yvonne Rainer was born in San Francisco in 1934. After training in modern dance in New York from 1957, she began to choreograph her own work in 1960. She was one of the founders of the Judson Dance Theater in 1962, the genesis of a movement that proved to be a vital force in modern dance in the following decades. Rainer made a transition to filmmaking following a 15 year career as a choreographer/dancer (1960-1975). After making seven experimental feature films - *Lives of Performers* (1972), *Privilege* (1990), *MURDER and murder* (1996), among others - she returned to dance in 2000 via a commission from the Baryshnikov Dance Foundation for the White Oak Dance Project. Her most recent dances are *AG Indexical, with a little help from H.M.*, a re-vision of Balanchine's *Agon*, *RoS Indexical*, a re-vision of Nijinsky's *Rite of Spring* and a Performa07 commission, and *Spiraling Down*, a meditation on soccer, aging, and war. Her dances have been performed in New York, Los Angeles, Vienna, Helsinki, Kassel, Berlin, and Sao Paulo. A memoir - *Feelings Are Facts: a Life* - was published by MIT Press in 2006. Rainer is currently the Claire Trevor Professor in Studio Art at the University of California, Irvine. She lives and works in California and New York.

*The Yvonne Rainer Project* is curated by Chantal Pontbriand.

Also on the South Bank this autumn: *Move Choreographing You* (13 October 2010 to 9 January 2011) at the Hayward Gallery, presents work by artists and choreographers from the last 50 years and explores the relationship between visual arts, dance and performance, focusing on the active role of the viewer. As part of the exhibition once a week dancers will perform Yvonne Rainer's *Trio A* (1966) in the gallery. Footage of performances of Rainer's work will be shown in the exhibition's digital archive.

### **About the BFI Gallery**

BFI Southbank (located between the National Theatre and the Royal Festival Hall) has the only London contemporary art gallery specifically dedicated to commissioning and showcasing the moving image in its most contemporary forms.

**Listing details:**

BFI Gallery, BFI Southbank, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XT

Gallery admission free

Exhibition open Tuesday to Sundays (and Bank Holiday Mondays):

12 noon - 8pm

Tel: DAILY INFO: 020 7633 0274 BOX OFFICE: 020 7928 3232

Tube/BR: Waterloo

[www.bfi.org.uk/gallery](http://www.bfi.org.uk/gallery)

**For further press information about the BFI Gallery and images,  
please contact Alison Wright: [alison@alisonwrightpr.com](mailto:alison@alisonwrightpr.com) or call  
+44 (0)1608 811 474 or +44 (0)7814 796 930**

