



For Immediate Release Please

The Bruce Cohen Group, Ltd.
Contact: Bruce Cohen 212 580 9548
brucohen@pipeline.com

**World Financial Center Inaugurates
New Performance Space
with
Cutting Edge Installation-Performance Series
Fusing Sound, Video, Art & Music**

PLAYVISION

**Ben Neill and Bill Jones May 3;
Christian Marclay featuring Elliott Sharp & Okkyung Lee May 17;
The Books May 24;
Tmema (Golan Levin and Zachary Lieberman) May 31;
A Reverie Interrupted by the Police by Rodney Graham May 4 - May 27**

NEW YORK - The World Financial Center Arts & Events is inaugurating a new 200-seat performance space in its Courtyard Gallery, 220 Vesey Street, that will be dedicated to innovative and experimental visual art, performance art and music.

"The new performance space opens with an installation-performance series with artists who fuse sound, visual art and musical performance entitled **PlayVision**," said Debra Simon, Artistic Director of World Financial Center Arts & Events, the largest arts program in Lower Manhattan. "The inaugural series is curated by composer/performer **Ben Neill** and features a roster of leading international artists who are working in this exciting field."

Composer **Ben Neill** and video artist **Bill Jones** launch the new space Wednesday, May 3, at 8:00pm; video artist **Christian Marclay** and the trios of **Elliott Sharp** and **Okkyung Lee** Wednesday, May 17, at 8:00pm; **The Books** Wednesday, May 24, at 8:00pm; and **Tmema (Golan Levin and Zachary Lieberman)** Wednesday, May 31, at 8:00pm. (THIS EVENT IS FREE, BUT TICKETS ARE REQUIRED. DETAILS BELOW.)

Playing in the new space Thursday through Saturday, May 4 through 27, between 2:00pm and 8:00pm is the video installation *A Reverie Interrupted by the Police* by **Rodney Graham**. (NO TICKETS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS INSTALLATION.)

"These artists do not merely juxtapose elements of different media, they invent new forms by erasing disciplinary barriers," said **PlayVision** curator Ben Neill.

PlayVision Performances:

Free, but tickets are needed. Admission is free for all events. Tickets for the 8:00pm performances will be distributed two per person on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 5:00pm in the World Financial Center Winter Garden. Seating is very limited. No tickets are needed for *Reverie Interrupted by the Police*. For information, call (212) 945-0505 or click www.worldfinancialcenter.com.

Wednesday evenings at 8:00pm

BEN NEILL and BILL JONES

Wednesday, May 3, 8:00pm, World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery, 220 Vesey Street

Tickets required & distributed in advance - see rules below.

Ben Neill is a composer/performer and designer of the mutantrumpet, an electro-acoustic instrument. Along with his visual collaborator **Bill Jones**, Mr. Neill has developed a "playable" form of cinema in which he plays video images live from his electronically enhanced horn. For this show Mr. Neill presents *XIX*, a new project which explores the dynamic, expressive qualities of 19th century romanticism with new digital technologies and acoustic instruments. Ambient electronics sampled from 19th century music are combined with the futuristic sounds of Neill's mutantrumpet and interactive video drawn from 19th and early 20th century sources. Bassist John Conte and drummer Jim Mussen add deep live grooves to the mix. *XIX* creates a digital romantic dreamscape where images are played like music and music emerges as pictures.

"Ben Neill is using a schizophrenic trumpet to create art music for the people." *Wired Magazine*.

CHRISTIAN MARCLAY featuring ELLIOTT SHARP TRIO and OKKYUNG LEE TRIO

Wednesday, May 17, 8:00pm, World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery, 220 Vesey Street

Tickets required & distributed in advance - see rules below.

Christian Marclay has created a remarkable body of artistic work that explores the intersection of sight and sound. In his recent piece, *Screen Play*, a collaged film serves as a projected score to be interpreted by two trios led by Elliott Sharp and Okkyung Lee. The projected element of *Screen Play* is a combination of found film footage overlaid with computer animation. Mr. Marclay's chosen footage suggests certain visual rhythms and emotions, which he then works to accentuate or underscore elements with overlapping computer graphics. The resulting video - reminiscent at moments of a silent film and at others of a flight simulator - becomes the visual score for musicians to interpret live.

New York Times art critic Roberta Smith described the work as "an extraordinary evening of looking and listening."

THE BOOKS

Wednesday, May 24, 8:00pm, World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery, 220 Vesey Street

Tickets required & distributed in advance - see rules below.

The Books's eclectic mix of folk, electronic, low tech and digital sounds is immediately compelling and highly original. In performance, **The Books** seamlessly integrate sampled film and video with their musical show, creating an intimate, lyrical experience from wide-ranging source material. Over two Albums, **The Books** have plucked sampled voices from their original context and arranged them inside simple compositions for sliced-and-diced guitar, banjo, and cello. They've taken moments of contemplation - when one

understands something on an emotional level but can't quite articulate his thoughts-- and dressed it up in a melodic frame.

The Books bring a unique video element to their live show at the World Financial Center by showing found video that makes sense in tandem with their found sounds.

The Books "remain at the bleeding edge of pop innovation, even if it is more hummable than you'd expect," writes *Billboard Magazine*. Robert Christgau of the *Village Voice* called them "strange and humorous verbally and aurally... memorable and enchanting in the manner of Another Green World—which stays well within the lines by comparison."

TMEMA (Golan Levin and Zachary Lieberman)

Wednesday, May 31, 8:00pm, World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery, 220 Vesey Street

Tickets required & distributed in advance - see rules below.

Tmema is the collaborative team of **Golan Levin** and **Zachary Lieberman**. Working together since 2002, **Tmema** develops interactive performances and installations, web-based information visualizations and experimental software systems. Among the pieces performed are *The Manual Input Sessions*, a series of audiovisual vignettes probing the expressive possibilities of hand and finger gestures using a combination of custom interactive software, analog overhead projectors and digital computer video projectors. **Tmema**'s feast of laptop sound and vision has a playful quality that makes its technological wizardry immediately appealing and engaging on many different levels. Their work merges sound and visual media in a way that is effortlessly communicative and entertaining. They apply creative twists to digital technologies that highlight our relationship with machines, make visible our ways of interacting with each other, and explore the intersection of abstract communication and interactivity.

Golan Levin is known for the conception and creation of *Dialtones* (2001), a concert whose sounds are wholly performed through the carefully choreographed dialing and ringing of the audience's own mobile phones, and for *The Secret Lives of Numbers* (2002), an interactive online data visualization featured in the **2004 Whitney Biennial**. Previously, Mr. Levin was granted an Award of Distinction in the *Prix Ars Electronica* for his *Audiovisual Environment Suite* (2000) interactive software and its accompanying audiovisual performance, *Scribble* (2000).

PlayVision Exhibition:

Free, NO tickets are needed for this exhibition

A REVERIE INTERRUPTED BY THE POLICE

A VIDEO INSTALLATION BY RODNEY GRAHAM

Thursday thru Saturday, May 4 - May 27, 2:00pm to 8:00pm, World Financial Center Courtyard Gallery, 220 Vesey

Rodney Graham, best known for his short films which often incorporate sound and original

music, is an internationally renowned visual artist who is also active as a songwriter and musical performer. In the New York City premiere of *A Reverie Interrupted by the Police*, Mr. Graham portrays a handcuffed prisoner performing John Cage-style piano music while guarded by a policeman. Graham's production skills rival those of Hollywood films, but it is his use of looping, repetition and enigmatic narratives that make his work as provocative as it is seductive. NO TICKETS NECESSARY FOR THIS EVENT.

Ticketing for Performances

Admission is free for all events. Tickets for the 8:00pm performances will be distributed two per person on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 5:00pm in the World Financial Center Winter Garden. Seating is very limited. No tickets are needed for *Reverie Interrupted by the Police*. For information, call (212) 945-0505 or click www.worldfinancialcenter.com.

For nearly 18 years now, World Financial Center Arts & Events has presented hundreds of free cultural events in one of the world's grandest public spaces, the World Financial Center Winter Garden, and its nearby Courtyard Gallery.