

THE AL NEIL Project

October 15 @ Western Front

October 21 @ Vancouver Public Library

November 10 @ Roundhouse Community Centre

November 25 @ Vancouver Art Gallery

The grunt gallery's fourth LIVE Biennial of Performance Art is presenting four evenings of interdisciplinary work by—and inspired by—Vancouver innovator **Al Neil**, whose career as a *pianist, composer, writer, bricoleur, and performance artist* has spanned 60 years. Neil's influence on Vancouver's artistic communities has been profound and is enduring: this project honours him as both an innovator and seminal force in the multidisciplinary practices that continue to flourish on the West Coast.

LIVE 2005 will celebrate Al Neil's legacy in the community with concerts, screenings, readings, and performances. The event opens on October 15 at the Western Front with an eclectic tribute to Neil's work. **Kate Hammett-Vaughan** will *vocalize* written texts by Neil, accompanied by **Ron Samworth** *guitar* and **Coat Cooke** *saxophone*. *Visual artist* **Carol Itter** will work with VJ **Krista Lomax** on visuals that feature Neil's assemblages, sculptures, and collages. Also included will be a *reading* from Neil's work by **Michael Turner** and a screening of archival footage collected by **The Al Neil Project**.

The second event is a series of readings from the Downtown Eastside entitled *Under the Influence*. Curated by Michael Turner, the evening offers a glimpse into the perspectives of Vancouver writers on alcohol and drug use, beginning with Malcom Lowry and Al Neil. It takes place on October 21 at the Vancouver Public Library.

On November 10, Coastal Jazz and Blues Society and the New Orchestra Workshop Society will present a concert featuring the ultimate Al Neil tribute band with legendary Vancouver improvisers **Gregg Simpson** *drums*, **Clyde Reed** *bass*, and **Paul Plimley** *piano*. The trio will be joined by *sampling/electronics* artist **Giorgio Magnanensi**, *performance poet* **Kederick James**, and visuals by Carol Itter and Krista Lomax.

The final installment of The Al Neil Project takes place on November 25 at the Vancouver Art Gallery and focuses on Neil's history in performance art. Lomax and Itter will use visuals and imagery from Neil's oeuvre of performance art, accompanied by *electronic music* by **Ben Wilson**.

The Al Neil Project is a collaboration of community organizations: the grunt gallery, Coastal Jazz and Blues Society, the New Orchestra Workshop Society, and the Belkin Gallery, UBC. The Al Neil Project team is Glenn Alteen, Al Neil, Carol Itter, Kate Hammett-Vaughan, Eric Metcalfe, Scott Watson, Keith Wallace, Gregg Simpson, Coat Cooke, Ron Samworth, David Rimmer, Jordan Strom, Julie Smith, Kristin Fung, and Michael Turner.

Thanks to our sponsors: The Canada Council for the Arts, Spirit of BC Arts Fund, ArtsNow, Vancouver Foundation, Western Front, Vancouver Public Library, Roundhouse Community Centre, Vancouver Art Gallery, The Belkin Gallery, Coastal Jazz and Blues Society, New Orchestra Workshop Society, and grunt gallery.

