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The Al Neil Project

Part of the LIVE Biennial of Performance Art
October 14 – 21 at various Vancouver venues

In conjunction with the 4th LIVE Biennial of Performance Art, *The Al Neil Project* presents 4 evenings of interdisciplinary work by, and inspired by, Vancouver innovator Al Neil, a seminal force in the multi-disciplinary practices that have flourished on the West Coast over the past 50 years.

Al Neil's career as a musician, composer, writer, bricoleur, and performance artist has spanned 60 years. His influence on Vancouver's artistic communities has been profound and enduring. This project endeavors to both assess and celebrate Neil's contribution to the development of avant-garde art practices in Vancouver. LIVE 2005 will feature 4 events celebrating Al Neil's legacy in the community, including concerts, screenings, readings and performances.

LIVE opens on the **15th of October** at Western Front with a tribute to Al Neil featuring documentation, performance, readings and music. Also featured that evening will be a trio of Kate Hammett Vaughan vocalizing texts by Neil with Ron Samworth on guitar and Coat Cooke on saxophone. As well, VJ Krista Lomax will collaborate with Carole Itter on visuals featuring Al's work. Also included is a reading from Neil's work by Michael Turner and a screening of archival footage collected *The Al Neil Project*.

On **October 21** at the Vancouver Public Library Michael Turner will curate a series of readings from the Downtown Eastside entitled *Under the Influence* that looks at Vancouver writers, starting with Malcolm Lowry and Al Neil, writing about alcohol and drug use. This reading is in conjunction with the Nova Library Project, a collaboration between grunt gallery, the Vancouver Public Library, the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) and the Portland Hotel Society. The Nova Library consists of a reading room where all the books have been selected by Vancouver's drug addicts communities.

On **November 10** New Orchestra Workshop Society and Coastal Jazz and Blues will co-present a concert featuring Al Neil's ultimate tribute band with legendary Vancouver improvisers Gregg Simpson on drums Clyde Reed on bass and Vancouver improviser Paul Plimley on piano, plus sampling/electronics artist Giorgio Magnanensi and performance poet Kederick James. Neil's partner, artist Carole Itter, will collaborate with VJ Krista Lomax to produce images of Al Neil's collages and assemblages for the event.

On **November 25** LIVE ends with an event at the Vancouver Art Gallery focusing 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 the aforementioned institutions and the Morris and Helen Belkin Gallery UBC, New Orchestra Workshop Society (NOW), Coastal Jazz and Blues Society, and grunt gallery. It is funded through support from the Inter Arts Office of the Canada Council for the Arts, The Spirit of BC and our sponsors Western Front, Vancouver Public Library, Roundhouse Community Centre, The Vancouver Art Gallery, The Morris and Helen Belkin Gallery, Coastal Jazz and Blues, NOW, and grunt gallery.

Project Team for the Al Neil Project is Glenn Alteen, Kate Hammett Vaughan, Eric Metcalfe, Scott Watson, Keith Wallace, Gregg Simpson, Al Neil, Carole Itter, Coat Cooke, Ron Samworth, David Rimmer, Jordan Strom, Kristin Fung, Julie Smith, and Michael Turner.

For full information, stay tuned for the LIVE 2005 website: www.livevancouver.bc.ca