Gina Czarnecki
Spintex, Infected and Nascent

29 January, Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle
11-15 February 2009, National Review of Live Art, Glasgow

Gina Czarneck's films and installations are informed by human relationships to movement, image, disease, evolution and genetic research, and brought vividly to life through micro-editing into constructs of rich and highly aesthetic spaces. Her work engages through its scale, beauty and complex interactive technologies. In January, Tyneside Cinema in Newcastle presents the UK premiere of *Spintex*, together with two established works *Infected* and the multiple award-winning *Nascent*. *Spintex* is also being shown at the National Review of Live Art in Glasgow.

Spintex is Czarnecki's collaboration with Ulf Langheinrich and melds dance, theatre, film, sound and installation around a real-time transition from day to night at an open-air night-club and other locations in the Ashanti region of Ghana. In Accra, on the Equator, the transformation from bright sunlight into red, then blue, and finally black night lasts only fifteen minutes all year round. On Spintex Road, the air is dusty and humid, loaded with scent and stench. At the dance in an old roofless shell by the beach, throbbing masses are engulfed in trance. The pulsing crowd forms one motion; a rhythmic, sexual and elemental force as brutal as the cycles of the natural world around it…

Combining visual art, experimental media and dance, *Nascent* is a visual and visceral journey through and about being. Dancers' gestures and bodies, poised and isolated, gradually become intertwined, massed forms that pause and unfold across the screen. Traces of movement appear as blips in transmission or digital 'vibrations', where the body and its image tune in momentarily then become 'unplugged' leaving behind traces of skin-print.

Infected explores the nature of the physical body in the context of technological possibility presenting a bio-engineered body: an organic, stark, sexual, brutal, pounding bloody system with ripping tendons. It begins in darkness; a small streak of light expands, eventually revealing itself as the body of a dancer. Confined within a circular projection screen, as if seen through a microscope, the dancer moves with the distracted, disorientated impatience of a caged animal or rabid being until flesh becomes almost liquid.

Both *Infected* and *Nascent* have specially commissioned sound scores by Christian Fennesz, whose computer-manipulations derived from guitar and other acoustic sources have won him worldwide acclaim as one of today's most innovative electronic music artists.

Czarnecki's work has been exhibited internationally at major museums and festivals including the Australian premiere of *Contagion* at the Brisbane Festival, Summer 2008; *Silvers Alter*, Natural History Museum, London, 2003; *Infected*, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne, 2003; *Nascent*, Adelaide Film Festival, 2005 and *Stages Elements Humans*, Ars Electronica, Linz, 1992.

Gina won the prestigious Creative Scotland Award in 2002 for work on her interactive installation *Silvers Alter*, a Fleck Fellowship with the Banff Centre, Canada in 2004, and a Wellcome Trust Sci-Art Award in 2005 for production of *Contagion*. Her film, *Nascent*, has been screened extensively across the world, winning several awards and prizes.

Czarnecki was recently awarded the Sciart Projects Award by the Wellcome Trust, a three year grant to continue developing work influenced by biomedical science. Czarnecki has taken up an Artist in Residency with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in collaboration with Imperial College London to research and deliver new work with the grant.

For further information, interviews or images please contact Roisin Stimpson on rs@forma.org.uk, tel +44 (0) 20 7837 7777 or Janette Scott on janettescottartspr@yahoo.co.uk

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Notes to editors

1. **Forma** is one of Europe's leading creative producing agencies, working with British and international artists to develop and deliver new projects across the world. Established in 2002 in Newcastle upon Tyne, and now based in London, the company is widely acclaimed for its high-quality, contemporary, cross art form productions. Encompassing exhibitions, concerts, performances, films, public art works and publications, Forma's programme is presented in collaboration with major venues and festivals across the globe, and reaches a large international audience.
www.forma.org.uk

2. Built in 1937, the **Tyneside Cinema** is a specially designed picture palace, complete with mosaics and decorations, the perfect setting to be transported from the everyday. Presenting films from around the globe and inclusive, educational activities and events as part of its programme, the Tyneside is dedicated to engaging its audience in film and media.
www.tynecine.org

2. **The National Review of Live Art** forms part of New Moves International, an arts production company that presents an annual festival entitled 'New Territories'. Alongside the National Review of Live Art this festival is made up of An International Premiere Programme, Elevator (supported by Arts Council England) and Winter School. Artists are selected and invited and sometimes commissioned by the Artistic Director. **www.newmoves.co.uk/nrlaintroduction.aspx**

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