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Turning - Antony and the Johnsons with Charles Atlas

Major European tour 31 Oct – 10 Nov 06, dates in Rome, London, Paris, Madrid & Braga



From **31 Oct – 7 Nov 06** Forma presents the first European performances of **Turning**, an event that combines the haunting and dramatic music of **Antony and the Johnsons** with a vivid visual backdrop provided by award-winning film director and video artist **Charles Atlas**. The live performance features a simple yet moving orchestration by an ensemble of eight musicians, alongside Antony, as well as video footage of **fourteen NYC Beauties**, whose intimate and hypnotic portraits whilst slowly turning onstage are captured, processed and projected by Atlas.

By combining Atlas' innovative live video processing with Antony's vocal stylings, which have been compared to the likes of Nina Simone and Lotte Lenya, **Turning** explores issues of innocence, metamorphosis, and transcendence in a visually dramatic and highly compelling format. **Turning** was first performed at the Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, 2004.

Antony graduated from NYU's experimental theatre programme before going on to receive an N.Y.F.A. fellowship for performance art and emergent forms. After a series of solo cabaret performances at the East Village's Pyramid Club, he assembled the Johnsons and the band recorded its debut album in 1997. His harrowing voice, which Laurie Anderson called "the most exquisite thing that you will hear in your life," has continued to gain the group acclaim, with the album *I am a Bird Now* (2004) winning the Mercury Music Prize, 2005. Over the past year the group has toured extensively across Europe, The States and Australia. Antony has toured with Lou Reed and appeared on his albums *The Raven* and *Animal Serenade*. He has also made various film appearances with directors such as Steve Buscemi and Sebastian Lifshitz.

Charles Atlas, an award-winning filmmaker, video artist, and pioneer of the medium of media-dance, has created work for film, theatre, television and such prestigious museums as the Whitney, NY and the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris. Best known for his acclaimed collaborations with choreographers, dancers and performers such as Michael Clark, Leigh Bowery, Diamanda Galas and John Kelly, Atlas spent ten years as film-maker in residence for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company; his feature-length film *Merce Cunningham: A Lifetime of Dance* won the Best Documentary Award at Dance Screen 2000 in Monaco. Recent dance-related pieces are *Rainer Variations* (2002), a video portrait of Yvonne Rainer, and two collaborations with Merce Cunningham: *Views on Camera* (2005) and *Views on Video* (2005).

For further press information and images please contact Hannah Barnes, Communications Manager, Forma Arts and Media Ltd. T +44 (0)191 230 6357 E hb@forma.org.uk

Notes to editors

- Turning is produced by Forma and International Music srl
- Turning is co-commissioned by The Barbican & Fondazione Musica per Roma & Romaeuropa Festival 2006
- Atlas is the recipient of three "Bessie" (New York Dance and Performance) Awards and was recently presented with the prestigious John Cage award, by the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, 2006
- 'Hail The New Puritan', a survey of Charles Atlas's work in film and video, will be presented at Tate Modern in the Starr Auditorium from 16 -20 November 2006. Details at www.tate.org.uk.
- Charles Atlas will present his video installation 'Instant fame' at the Vilma Gold Gallery, London, from 23 November – 3 December 2006. Details at www.vilmagold.com.
- The first presentation of Turning was co-produced by Arts at Saint Ann's, True Love Productions, UCLA Live! and Pomegranate Arts
- Listings information:
ROME: 31 Oct & 1 Nov 06, 21.00 | Romaeuropa Festival 2006, Auditorium Parco della Musica, Sala Sinopoli, Rome, IT | Tickets: € 25 | € 30 +39 06 42296300, www.romaeuropa.net
LONDON: 4 & 5 Nov 06, 19.30 | Barbican Hall, London, UK
Tickets: £20/25/30, 0845 120 7518, www.barbican.org.uk
PARIS: 7 Nov 06, 20.30 | Olympia, Paris, FR

Tickets: € 50, 40, 30 +33 0892 68 33 68, www.fnac.com

MADRID: 8 Nov 06, 22:00 | Palacio Municipal de Congresos, Madrid, ES

Tickets: +34 902 15 00 25, www.ticktackticket.com

BRAGA: 10 Nov 06 | Theatro Circo de Braga, Braga, PT

Tickets: +351 253 262 403 / +351 253 217 167

Forma Arts and Media Producers

Forma is one of Europe's leading production agencies for contemporary, cross-artform projects.

Working with artists, venues and festivals worldwide, forma produces, publishes and tours a programme of groundbreaking new hybrid forms of music, visual art, film, new media, dance, theatre and live art.

Whilst representing Gina Czarnecki, Ryoji Ikeda and Lynette Wallworth on an ongoing basis to produce new and existing works, forma also works with numerous artists on specific projects. Collaborations include productions with alva noto [Carsten Nicolai], Laurie Anderson, John Armleder, Cerith Wyn Evans, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Kim Gordon, Kristian Levring, Philippe Parreno, Steven Parrino, DJ Rupture, Saburo Teshigawara, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Susan Stenger and Richard Wilson.

Highlights of Forma's Autumn/Winter 2006 programme include:

- A third major tour of the critically acclaimed live production **insen**, with **alva noto** and **Ryuichi Sakamoto**, takes place from 12 Oct – 4 Nov 2006, and features dates in Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and Macau
- Australian artist **Lynette Wallworth** presents *First Light*, her first major exhibition of work in Europe, which includes several new commissions, at the *New Crowned Hope Festival* in Vienna, November 2006
- Extensive international touring of leading Japanese electronic composer and visual artist **Ryoji Ikeda** includes performances of the critically acclaimed audiovisual concert *datamatics* and the new multi-channel sound piece *dataphonics*
- **Ikeda's** audiovisual installation work *Spectra II* is presented as part of the *Sensorium* exhibition at MIT List Centre for Visual Arts, Massachusetts, US, from 12 Oct – 31 Dec 2006
- **Soundtrack for an Exhibition** catalogue will be published Winter 06, to mark the first presentation of the exhibition presented at MOCA Lyon, which featured a 96 day long soundtrack composed by Susan Stenger, alongside work by painters John Armleder, Steven Parrino and filmmaker Kristian Levring

For full details of Forma's programme visit www.forma.org.uk