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Creative Time presents:

JAKOB BOESKOV'S *DR. CRUEL*

Directed by Teco Benson



**SCANDINAVIAN ARTIST MAKES TERRORIST-CHIC NOLLYWOOD FILM:
SHOT ON LOCATION IN NIGERIA AND SCREENING IN NYC, MAY 2010**

(March 10, 2010 New York, NY) Creative Time is pleased to announce the world premiere of Jakob Boeskov's *Dr. Cruel*. Inspired by the fast-paced action films of Nollywood, Boeskov traveled to Lagos, Nigeria with Creative Time's support to shoot this short, art-action video in collaboration with legendary Nollywood personality Teco Benson.

Written by and starring Boeskov, the film begins with a press conference featuring the sinister character Dr. Cruel, head of the Afro-Icelandic Liberation Front based in Lagos, who holds a kidnapped oil executive for ransom while preaching a message of non-violence. All goes awry, however, when the Nigerian police surround his hideout and he makes a mad dash with his crew to escape. "It's a mix between the Beastie Boys and an Al-Qaeda kidnapping video gone haywire," says Boeskov.

“The future of cinema belongs to the people,” Boeskov said. “The urge to democratize cinema—to make it cheap and fast—has been with us for some time (as with the traditions of New Wave and Dogma 95), but the only place where a true democratic cinema has been completely implemented is Nigeria. With *Dr. Cruel*, we created a symbolic piece of Afro-Scandinavian cinema, told in the international language of violence and action.”

Nollywood, as the Nigerian film industry is called, is an operation almost the scale of Bollywood—churning out what is estimated at over 1,000 movies per year. A typical Nollywood film is shot with handheld cameras on extremely low budgets and is distributed on DVD throughout Africa. In contrast to big-budget studio pictures, Nollywood films are made by individual directors and producers, shot on location in rented domestic and professional spaces, and shot and edited using the latest common, consumer technologies. This democratized process has produced meaningful cinema for large portions of the African continent, and has become a major source for new representations of Nigeria.

“Boeskov collaborated with Teco Benson to create a sort of John Waters–esque extended music video that borrows from the Nollywood slapstick and melodramatic traditions,” said Nato Thompson, Chief Curator at Creative Time. “Or, more specifically, a film that is as exciting as the Nollywood film market demands. There are no heroes: The Nigerian police are corrupt. The revolutionaries are diabolical. What remains is a fast-paced, short film that owes its underlying ethos to a new, global kind of cinema arising out of digital technology, that has found its strongest commercial foothold in a post-colonial Nigeria.”

Boeskov wrote *Dr. Cruel* in New York City, and hired Teco Benson to direct the project. Benson is a key player in African action movies and has produced and directed more than 20 feature films, among them *Mission to Nowhere 1 and 2*, *Explosion: Now or Never 2 and 3*, *Born 2 Suffer*, and many more.

Dr. Cruel will premiere in New York City on May 6th at the 310 Lounge located at 310 Bowery and will be included in the prestigious African Film Festival.

Jakob Boeskov’s *Dr. Cruel* is one of Creative Time’s new international initiatives. Beginning this year, the organization will work around the world, sending artists abroad to experiment with new models of making art in a global community. Other international initiatives include the Creative Time Global Residency—in which 6 artists will immerse themselves in a specific local or international social issue, collaborate with the communities they encounter, and then bring their experiences back home to the people of New York City—and more to be announced.

Please contact Nicholas Weist at nickw@creativetime.org for further details on Creative Time’s international initiatives and screening copies of *Dr. Cruel*.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jakob Boeskov is a Scandinavian artist based in New York. He is most well known for a project called The ID Sniper, in which he created a fictional hi-tech weapon that he brought to a Chinese weapons fair, receiving positive reactions from real weapons dealers, politicians, and policemen. His work deals with the personal and the political, and is often executed in a humorous or satirical manner. He recently branched out into filmmaking, with a feature length film due out in September 2010 (Magic Hour Film). His last major exhibition was a retrospective of his drawings and videos at the Danish National gallery.

ABOUT CREATIVE TIME

Since 1974, Creative Time has presented the most adventurous art in the public realm and changed the notion of what public art can be. From its base in New York, it works with artists who ignite the imagination and explore ideas that shape society. It initiates dynamic conversations among artists, sites, and audiences in projects that enliven public space. Creative Time's recent, signature projects include Mike Nelson: *A Psychic Vacuum*; Doug Aitken: *Sleepwalkers* (in collaboration with MoMA); *Playing the Building* by David Byrne; and *Tribute in Light*. The organization recently began a national public art program, with Paul Chan's *Waiting for Godot in New Orleans* in 2007; *Democracy in America* in 2008; and Jeremy Deller's *It Is What It Is* in 2009.

SUPPORT

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