

CREATIVETIME



Photo Credit: Bobby Neel Adams

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EVE SUSSMAN & THE RUFUS CORPORATION

THE RAPE OF THE SABINE WOMEN

WITH AN ORIGINAL SCORE BY JONATHAN BEPLER

FEBRUARY 22-27, 2007

IFC Center, 323 6th Avenue @ West 3rd Street, New York City

Screenings Daily: 2:00, 6:00, and 9:45 pm

Tickets Free @ IFC Box Office

Press Screening: February 9, 10 am RSVP to maureens@creativetime.org

Premiere: February 21, 7:00 and 9:00 pm featuring live musical performances by Jonathan Bepler, Algis Antanas Kizys, Eric Hubel, Scott Moore, Bradford Reed, Geoff Gersh and Cråg Rodriguez. (Tickets \$25. Order through www.creativetime.org/store)

(January 5, 2007 New York, NY) Creative Time presents the U.S. premiere of Eve Sussman & The Rufus Corporation's acclaimed video-musical, *The Rape of the Sabine Women*, as a free public screening for one week during the Armory Show, February 22-27, 2007. Developed through improvisation, *The Rape of the Sabine Women* is a re-interpretation of the Roman myth, updated and set in the idealistic 1960's. Filmed with a cast of hundreds, and shot on location in Athens and Hydra, Greece, and in Berlin, Germany, this eighty-minute video was directed by Eve Sussman with an original Score by Jonathan Bepler, choreography by Claudie De Serpa Soares, and costumes by Karen Young.

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The Rape Of The Sabine Women was conceived as allegory based loosely on the ancient myth that follows Romulus' founding of Rome and inspired by Jacques-Louis David's 1799 painting, *Intervention of the Sabine Women*. Re-envisioning the myth as a 1960's period piece with the Romans cast as G-men, the Sabines as butchers' daughters, and the heyday of Rome allegorically implied in an affluent international style summer house, this version is a riff on the original story of abduction and intervention, in which Romulus devises a plan to ensure the future of the empire. While the Roman myth traces the birth of a society, this telling suggests the destruction of a utopia. The intervention of the women is fraught, and the chaos that ensues transforms the designed perfection into nothingness.

With this improvised dramatization, Sussman follows her lauded video *89 seconds at Alcazar*—unveiled at the 2004 Whitney Biennial and based on Diego Velasquez's *Las Meninas*—in bringing yet another iconic painting to life. Forgoing the compromise of the original, this unique re-imagining pits mid-twentieth century ideals against the eternal themes of power, longing, and desire. The modern process piece—a product of 140 hours of video footage and 6000 photographs—features distinct pieces of music composed by Jonathan Bepler, recorded live on site and incorporating a bouzouki ensemble, a Pergamon coughing choir, and a chorus of 800 voices.

The video-musical, choreographed by Claudia de Serpa Soares, is conceived in an operatic five act structure. *The Rape of the Sabine Women* opens in Hydra's Pergamon Museum, moving to Berlin's S-Bahn and Tempelhof Airport, Athens' Agora meat market, a classic modern 60's dream house overlooking the Aegean, and finally, Athens' Herodion Theatre.

WORLD PREMIERE TOUR DATES

Greece: Thessaloniki International Film Festival, Nov 19, 2006

Germany: Berlin, Hamburger Bahnhof Museum für Gegenwart, Jan 25 - Mar 4, 2007

U.S.: IFC Center, New York City, Feb 21 – 27, 2007

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SPECIAL SCREENING ON THE 59TH MINUTE IN TIMES SQUARE

A one-minute segment of *The Rape of the Sabine Women* will air on the last minute of every hour on Creative Time's 59th Minute: Video Art on the Astrovision Screen by Panasonic from February 13 – April 30, 2007.

ABOUT EVE SUSSMAN

Eve Sussman (London, 1961) lives in Brooklyn, New York. A self-described “sculptor who shoots video,” Sussman’s work has evolved from installations using film-like materials (mirrors/water/projections) to single and multiple channel video installations. Her ideas originate from a fascination with simple gestures and casual expressions, which she observes, captures, and stages in videos, films, installations, and photographs. In 2003, Sussman founded The Rufus Corporation with whom she works in a collaborative and often improvisational practice.

Sussman has exhibited internationally, with shows and installations at the American Academy, Rome, Italy; the 5th International Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey; the Mysliborz Regional Museum, Mysliborz, Poland; and the Espace Paul Ricard, Paris, France, among other venues. With film and video projects dating back to 1989, Sussman’s *89 seconds at Alcazar* has screened in numerous international spaces including the Whitney Museum, NYC; the Museu Picasso, Barcelona, the Union Gallery, London, UK; St. Johannes Evangelist-Kirche, Berlin, Germany; and The Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain. Sussman is the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, including the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Grant, the Jerome Foundation Grant, and, recently, the J F Costopoulos Foundation Grant.

ABOUT THE RUFUS CORPORATION

Founded in 2003 during production of *89 seconds at Alcázar*, the Rufus Corporation is an ad hoc group of artists, dancers, actors and musicians who, under the direction of Eve Sussman, create videos, photographs and live events. For *The Rape of the Sabine Women*, founding collaborators Eve Sussman, Nesbitt Blaisdell, Helen Pickett, Annette Previtti, Walter Sipser, Claudia de Serpa Soares, Jeff Wood, Karen Young and Sofie Zamchick traveled to Greece to begin rehearsals and were joined by Popi Alkouli-Troianou, Kostas Beveratos, Marilisa Chrona, Stergios Ioanou, Grayson Millwood, Katerina Oikonomopoulou, Rosa Prodromou, Antonis Spinoulos, Christos Syrmakizis, and Sotiris Tsakomidis to create the work in improvisation along with the film and television star, Themis Bazaka, and acclaimed

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vocalist Savina Yannatou. Jonathan Bepler, who also scored *89 seconds at Alcázar*, asked musicians Algis Kizys, Eric Hubel, Geoff Gersh, Craig Rodriguez, Scott Moore and Bradford Reed to accompany the group to Greece for production, where they recorded the music live during the shoot. Photographers for the production were Benedikt Partenhiemer, Ricoh Gerbl and Bobby Neel Adams.

LIMITED EDITION

A limited edition has been produced in conjunction with the film: *Untitled* (Hydra as Gomorrah), video still from *The Rape of the Sabine Women*, 2006, pigment on paper, 24 x 26 inches. Signed edition of 100. For more information, pricing, and to view an image of the edition visit www.creativetime.org/store.

ABOUT CREATIVE TIME

Creative Time presents the most innovative art in the public realm. Launched in New York in 1974, it works with artists who ignite the imagination and explore ideas that shape society. It initiates a dynamic conversation among artists, sites, and audiences, in projects that enliven public spaces with free and powerful expression. Creative Time Books, interactive website, talks, and programs provide deeper insight into the public projects.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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