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Be Black Baby a House Party Presents

If There's No Dancing At The Revolution I'm Not Coming

Curated by Simone Leigh & Naomi Beckwith

Featuring work by Michael Paul Britto, Tova Carlin, Maren Hassinger, Jennie Livingston, & Jacolby Satterwhite with MC Elia Alba

Friday April 1, 2011

7-9pm performances; 9pm– 12am dance party with DJ Khary Polk

April 1, 2011 — In response to Emma Goldman's statement, "If there's no dancing at the revolution, I'm not coming" the third iteration of Be Black Baby a House Party Presents will stage an evening of site-specific performance, video and dancing in the street.



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Be Black Baby: A House Party Presents is a series organized by Simone Leigh and Recess Activities, Inc. Recess hosted the inaugural Be Black Baby: A House Party Presents on March 13, 2010. This first evening of performance responded to Brian DePalma's film "Hi Mom" (1970). Taking the film as a point of departure, the series continues to challenge traditional identity politics and question modes of cultural appropriation.

For more information visit www.recessactivities.org or contact info@recessactivities.org

Artist Bios:

Michael Paul Britto was born and bred in Brooklyn. He graduated with a BA from the City College of New York. Britto engages in videos, digital photography, sculpture, and performance. He has had residencies at the New Museum in New York as well as Smack Mellon and The Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation and his work has been featured in at El Museo del Barrio, The Studio Museum of Harlem, The Zacheta National Gallery in Warsaw and the Victoria and Albert Museum in England. Britto has been written about in The New York Times, Art In America and the Brooklyn Rail.

Tova Carlin is an artist and writer living and working in NYC. Her work has been shown at the The Limlip Art Museum, 179 Canal, Space 1026 and The Philadelphia Institute for Advanced Study, among other places.

Maren Hassinger was born in Los Angeles in 1947 and received her B.A. from Bennington College, 1969 and an M.F.A. from UCLA, 1973. She is currently Director of Rinehart School of Graduate Sculpture at MICA. Her sculpture, installation and performance (including film and video) have long been concerned with nature, motion, and loss - themes that have recently evolved to include issues of identity and healing. Recent solo exhibitions are "Maren Hassinger: Lives, Gettysburg College, "The River" at School 33 in Baltimore and "Rainforest" at David Allen Gallery in Brooklyn. Recent group exhibitions are: "Material Girls," at the Reginald Lewis Museum in Baltimore, MD, "Global Africa," at the Museum of Arts and Design in NYC, "30 Seconds Off an Inch" at the Studio Museum in Harlem, "Cinema Remixed and Reloaded," at Spelman College, "At Freedom's Door: Challenging Slavery in Maryland," at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore and "Double Consciousness: Black Conceptual Art since 1970" at the Houston Museum of Contemporary Art. Upcoming Museum shows include: "Flux THIS," the Education Department of the Museum of Modern Art, New York City, "Video Studio: Playback," and "Sculpted, Etched and Cut: Metal Works from the Permanent Collection," Spring 2011 Exhibitions and Projects, the Studio Museum in Harlem, "Now Dig This" at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, and "Dance/Draw" at the ICA in Boston. Significant awards include Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, Gottlieb Foundation Grant, Anonymous Was a Woman Grant, Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant. In 2009 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for the Arts.

Jennie Livingston's film Paris is Burning, about the Harlem drag balls and voguing, won a 1991 Sundance Grand Jury Prize, and is, according to Variety, one of the most successful documentaries of all time. New York Magazine's 40th anniversary issue (2008) called it one of the most influential works to come out of New York City in 40 years. Her other films include Through the Ice and Hotheads. Current projects include Earth Camp One, a feature length work of creative nonfiction about how the filmmaker lost 4 family members in 5 years, that explores a hippie summer camp in the 1970s, and Prenzlauer Berg, an ensemble feature set in the art worlds of New York and East Berlin in

1989. Jennie Livingston describes her short film, *Who's the Top?* as "Woody Allen's younger dyke sister goes to the s/m dungeon...with musical numbers." Kevin Thomas of the *LA Times* called it "witty and accomplished." *Top?* premiered at the 2005 Berlinale and played over 230 festivals on nearly every continent, including theatrical runs at Boston's MFA and London's ICA. Starring Marin Hinkle, Brigitte Bako, Shelly Mars, Steve Buscemi, and 24 dancers.

Jacolby Satterwhite is a multimedia artist born in Columbia, South Carolina. He received his MFA from University of Pennsylvania, and BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art. He attended residencies at Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture, and Harvestworks. He's been included in numerous group exhibitions and performances including, Exit Art, Rush Arts Gallery, The Kitchen, PS.1 MoMA, and The Smithsonian. He is a recent recipient of the Van Lier Gant, and Toby Devan Lewis Award.

Elia Alba was born in New York City. She received her Bachelor of Arts (Specials Honors Curriculum) from Hunter College in 1994 and completed the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program in 2001. She is a multi-media artist whose work has been exhibited and screened at national and international institutions, including El Museo del Barrio; The RISD Museum; Valencia Institute of Modern Art, IVAM, Spain; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Science Museum, London; ITAU Cultural Institute, Sao Paolo; Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid and the 10th Havana Biennial. Solo shows include Galeria Overfoto, Naples, Italy, (2010); Black & White Gallery (2009), Jersey City Museum (2003). Awards include, New York Foundation for the Arts Grant (Crafts 2002 and Photography 2008); Pollack-Krasner Foundation Grant (2002); the Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant (2002) and the Joan Mitchell Career Opportunity Grant (2008). Her work has been reviewed in *Art Nexus*, *The Guardian*, *Time Out*, *FlashArt*, *Tema Celeste* and *The New York Times*. Forthcoming, her series of photographs, *Larry Levan Live!* will be published by *Photology*, Milan, in early 2012. She lives and works in Queens, New York.