

London Arts Season fills theaters, takes to the streets, stirs debate

How important was Godard and what is his legacy in filmmaking? Why has the current generation of twentysomethings been so slow to speak up or protest? Was Gertrude Stein a genius or a madwoman? Is there a single immutable truth about humanity?



Public art in Trafalgar Square by Martin Firrell.

These and other provocative questions were put to the public as the International Herald Tribune's "Breathless" season presented three world premieres in its first three weeks and played host to Trib Talks facilitated by the acclaimed IHT columnists Alan Riding and Joan Dupont. "Breathless" will continue to challenge and inform with new works presented in London until February 2006.

Three world premieres in as many weeks

November sees the opening of "Memories in the House," a "hidden" public art installation at the Soho Hotel with artist-led tours at an invitation-only reception. The Curzon Soho will hold exclusive preview screenings, including "Factotum," based on the writings of Charles Bukowski and starring Matt Dillon. The Russian pianist Yekaterina Lebedeva will present Soviet music that broke through the so-called Period of Stagnation, and the Rambert Dance Company members Martin Joyce and Angela Towler are set to premiere new choreography created exclusively for the

International Herald Tribune season.

"The 'Breathless' season underscores the International Herald Tribune's involvement in culture, the arts, trends and media around the world," says IHT Marketing Director Charlotte

Gordon. "Put simply, it's no accident that the Trib is everywhere in London's Soho, one of the most important media centers in the world. The IHT is enjoying a renaissance of 'cool.'" Here, a look ahead at November events.

Guests invited to hunt out 'invisible' art at London's glamorous Soho Hotel



The Soho Hotel: Venue for the "Memories in the House" public art installation by Martin Firrell.

"Memories in the House" is an installation in the public spaces and selected guest rooms of London's Soho Hotel. The hotel, which has been open for just over a year, has been described as the most glamorous hotel in the world, boasting the globe's most luxurious hotel suite.

"Any great hotel will eventually have many memories associated with it," explains the public artist Martin Firrell, "but because the Soho is so new, there hasn't been time for this original process to take place. So I wanted, literally, to appliqué memory to the fabric of the building - echoes, snatches of memory, glimpses of love lost, desire, laughter in the hallways." The work appears as "ghosts" of text - white on white, or as text installed on different textures: glass, mirror, furniture. The

project was created in close collaboration with Director of Operations Carrie Wicks and the celebrated designer and hotelier Kit Kemp.

"I've long admired Kit's vision as a decorator," says Firrell. "Her eye is unerring, and the work looks as well as it does in no small part because of her

good influence." Firrell seems determined that people read whether they

wish to or not. "I have systematically foisted my work on the general public using plasma screens in department stores and train stations, till receipts, ticket backs, film and large-scale text in public spaces like Trafalgar Square," he says. "By doing so, I have remade the means of poetry in the 21st century."

"Memories in the House" opens with an invitation-only reception and artist-led tours of the installation on Nov. 3.

Passion in the times of Soviet stagnation

The Russian pianist Yekaterina Lebedeva was a teenager when perestroika came to the Soviet Union under Gorbachev. As a good Komsomol member, she was adept at denouncing the capitalist system.

But underneath that, something else was astir: as an adolescent, she deliberately wore high heels to military training so as to be unable to march for hours on end. As the saying goes, "Well-

behaved girls never go down in history..."

Lebedeva made her British debut as part of the South Bank Center's inaugural "Fresh" season of gifted young musicians, and is now based permanently in London.

"You have to serve the music and your audience," says Lebedeva. "You try with all your heart to open music to the people who have come to hear you."

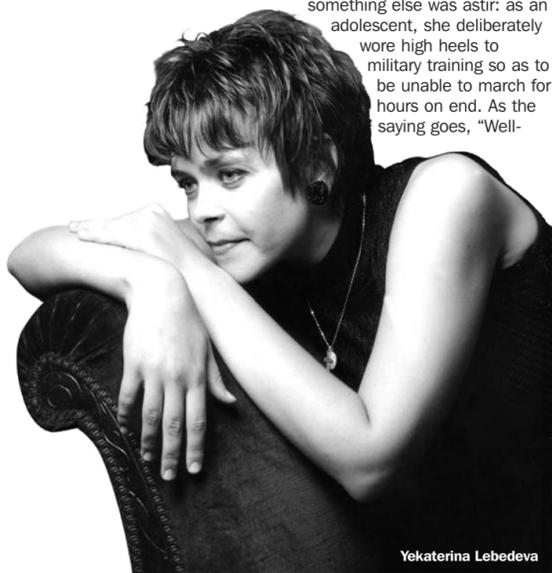
The 1960s and '70s saw what has been described as the Period of Stagnation in Russian history characterized by economic slowdown and a stranglehold over artistic

production by a totalitarian bureaucracy.

For the "Breathless" Arts Season, Lebedeva presents three recitals: with Rambert Dance Company members on Nov. 12 at City Lit, London's center for adult learning, and at the Swiss Church in Covent Garden where she gives two candlelit recitals: contemporary music from around the world on Nov. 17, and the work of Soviet composers that broke through the Period of Stagnation on Nov. 26.

Yekaterina Lebedeva performs on Nov. 12 at City Lit and Nov. 17 and 26 at Swiss Church in London.

"Well-behaved girls never go down in history"



Yekaterina Lebedeva

FREE TICKET OFFER

The first five readers to e-mail breathless@iht.com will receive a pair of tickets for the Nov. 12 recital at City Lit: **Yekaterina Lebedeva** plays Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Debussy with new dance from Rambert Dance Company members Martin Joyce and Angela Towler.

Sexy, physical, charged: New dance for 'Breathless'

Martin Joyce and Angela Towler met in 2004 when Joyce joined Rambert Dance Company. "You could say Angela is my muse," he says. "The new work we're making reflects the way Angela supports others around her as an experienced and mature dancer."

Joyce and Towler will perform

"Divine Influence" to the Presto movement of Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata," a work originally created by them for Rambert which has now become part of the company's repertory.

For the "Breathless" season, they're creating choreography for the remaining movements of the "Moonlight," and a brand-

new work set to Liszt's "Funerailles."

"We're using chairs as a metaphor for support," says Joyce of this collaboration. "This is an idea which is meaningful to both of us just now, and because of this, we believe it'll come across as meaningful to our audience."

Joyce and Towler perform with Yekaterina Lebedeva (piano) on Nov. 12 at City Lit.



"Breathless" is a season of contemporary arts in London including film, dance, music, public art, theater and discussion supported by the International Herald Tribune, the world's daily newspaper.

DONMAR

THE SOHO HOTEL



London

CURZON CINEMAS

For more information and ticket inquiries visit iht.com/breathless

Breathless...International Herald Tribune Arts Season London 2005 was produced and written by the Marketing Department of the International Herald Tribune.

Calendar of events

Go to iht.com/breathless for full details

Public art.
Thursday, Nov. 3
Soho Hotel, 7:30 pm:
Memories in the House
Martin Firrell, IHT drinks reception and guided tours of the installation by invitation only.

Film.Discussion.
Tuesday, Nov. 8
Curzon Soho, 6:40 pm:
Factotum
Bent Hamer preview screening + Trib Talk about the writings of Charles Bukowski, with his official biographer, Barry Miles.

Music.Dance.Discussion.
Saturday, Nov. 12
City Lit, 7:30 pm:
Body & Soul
Yekaterina Lebedeva, piano / Martin Joyce & Angela Towler, Rambert Dance Company + Trib Talk "New relationships in music and dance."

Music.Discussion.
Thursday, Nov. 17
Swiss Church, 7:30 pm:
International Contemporary Music
Candlelit recital, Yekaterina Lebedeva, piano + Trib Talk.

Music.Discussion.
Saturday, Nov. 26
Swiss Church, 7:30 pm:
Hidden & Forbidden
Candlelit recital, Yekaterina Lebedeva, piano; works by Soviet composers of the '60s and '70s that broke through the so-called Period of Stagnation + Trib Talk with host Alison Smale, IHT Managing Editor.

Theater.Public art.Discussion.
Thursday, Dec. 15
Donmar, 7:30 pm:
The Wild Duck
Henrik Ibsen. IHT performance + "It is in the nature of Truth not to be at Fault" / Martin Firrell public art + Trib Talk with the director Michael Grandage and the writer David Eldridge, with the IHT's Matt Wolf as host.

Theater.
Tuesday, Dec. 20
Donmar, 7:30 pm:
The Wild Duck
Henrik Ibsen. IHT performance + after-show party at Soho Hotel. By invitation only.

Theater.Discussion.
Wednesday, Dec. 21
Donmar, 7:30 pm:
The Wild Duck
Henrik Ibsen. IHT performance + Trib Talk with members of the cast, with the IHT's Matt Wolf as host. By invitation only.

Theater.
Jan. 25 & 26, Feb. 1 & 2
Donmar, 7:30 pm:
The Wild Duck
Henrik Ibsen. IHT performances.