

November 21, 2011
For immediate release
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WE! **Video Documentary**

**Featuring video by Reid Bangert, Jane Gotch, and Jori Sackin
Directed, produced, and created by Jane Gotch and Mark Southerland**

Featuring the work of co-collaborators, Brie Blakeman, Brad Cox, Kalen Compennolle, Jason Dixon, Shay Estes, Tuesday Faust, Abbe Findley, Laura Frank, Joshua Gately, Helen Gillet, Shawn Hansen, Hadley Johnson, Ke-Sook Lee, Miles Neidinger, Paul Rudy, Matt Tady, and Mica Thomas.

ONE NIGHT ONLY

**Wednesday, December 14th, 2011, 7pm
La Esquina, 1000 W. 25th St. KCMO 64108
Arrive early for seats, Suggested donation \$5-\$10**



Photos: Brooke Vandever

The evening will feature live music performances by Brad Cox, Paul Rudy, and Mark Southerland, followed by the premier of the video documentary of *WE!*. See what you missed, or relive what you loved. The evening will conclude with a forum to meet the artists and discuss your experience of the project.

Timothy Finn of the *Kansas City Star* wrote, "This show's rewards come from its ways of changing and challenging the viewing experience and arousing among its viewers different reactions and feelings: from intimacy and warmth to isolation and discomfort."

WE! was a collaborative, installation dance performance staged in an abandoned downtown office space formerly occupied by AT&T. **WE!** took the “idea of audience” out of their seats and into the lights — stripping away the safety net of the proscenium theater and sandwiching dancer, art, and viewer into close proximity. The performance moved the audience, in small groups, through a multi-room visual environment created by an award-winning team of Kansas City’s leading dance, visual, lighting and sound designers. From breaching walls and new office trails, to tiny tableaux and remote viewings, this collaborative team reorganized the materials and inhabitants of the office space.

Creation of this project has been made possible through a **Rocket Grant** from The Andy Warhol Foundation in cooperation with The Charlotte Street Foundation and The Spencer Museum of Art; by an **Inspiration Grant** from The Metropolitan Arts Council of Greater Kansas City; and through space grants from Copaken & Brooks Real Estate and The KCP&L Power and Light District.

Contact Jane Gotch at jane.gotch@gmail.com , www.janegotch.com, or 816.560.0530, for more information.



COLLABORATOR’S BIOS:

JANE GOTCH’S choreography has been presented in Kansas City area at “A Modern Night at the Folly,” Urban Culture Project’s La Esquina and Paragraph Gallery, and The Lawrence Arts Center’s Adjudicated Choreographers’ Showcase, in New York at The 5th Stop Open Studios, and at The Philadelphia Fringe Festival. In addition to a Rocket Grant, she has been awarded, two Inspiration Grants from The Metropolitan Arts Council of Kansas City (2009 & 2011), a space grant at Urban Culture Project’s City Center Rehearsal Space (2009-2011), and The 2011 *Innovation in the Arts Award* from UMKC’s Small Business and Technology Development Center. Further information about Jane can be found at www.janegotch.com.

MARK SOUTHERLAND is a jazz musician who makes horn sculptures. He has used the saxophone as a medium for exploring sound for over 26 years. His music runs the gamut from pop culture to Rahsaan Roland Kirk tributaries. Southerland’s horn sculptures have been displayed at the Dolphin Gallery, SiteLA, and Art Basel Miami. He has also played jazz and presented performance installations locally, nationally, and throughout France and Germany. Further information about Mark can be found at www.hornsculpture.com.

JASON DIXON is a video/performance artist working in Kansas City. His work explores ideas of gender making use of differing personae to take masculinity to an absurd degree. On May 8th 2009 Jason Dixon completed a world record, "The Most Performative Piece Ever!" This 24-hour web cast marathon took place at La Esquina Gallery and set the world's record for the most performances with provenance ever presented by a single person in a single day.

LAURA FRANK is a native of Kansas City with a background in experimental theatre. She has trained with Odin Theatre in Denmark, Dah Theatre in Serbia, and with the North American Cultural Laboratory in Catskills New York to name some. Laura has a band with her husband, Jori and they reside in Kansas City.

HELEN GILLET is a Walloon born in a Flemish hospital. Raised in Singapore, Belgium, Illinois and Wisconsin, Helen landed in New Orleans in 2003. She threads her tri-continental childhood web into her performance, notably with the instrument she picked up at age 9: The Cello. Recent collaborations have included working with Leroy Jones, Cassandra Wilson, Mark Southerland, Clint Maedgen, Marianne Faithful, Ed Sanders, Georg Graewe to name a few. She is currently performing concerts in cities across the United States and Western Europe.

HADLEY JOHNSON, fashion designer, is a recent graduate of Parsons Paris, where she was named designer of the year based on her ethereal collection entitled "Til Death Do Us Part." While enrolled in Parsons, Johnson also worked in Parisian ateliers, assisted with producing runway shows for Paris' Fashion Week, and worked on a collection for fashion doyenne DVF. A designer with a fine arts background, Johnson approaches fashion as a discipline not unlike dance or architecture. While continuing to design for other dance companies, Hadley debuted a new collection this past May in Paris.

KE-SOOK LEE has had solo exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Kansas City. She has shown nationally at the Museum of Arts and Design and the Dorsky curatorial program in New York; Riverside Art Museum, CA; and the Nerman Museum, KS; and internationally in Paris, London, Florence, Berlin, and Kilkenny, Irish Republic. She's received a Kansas Artists Commission Fellowship, the Lorenzo II Magnifico First Place Award from Florence Biennale, and a Charlotte Street Award. She was featured in *American Craft* and *Art in America*. Further information about Ke-Sook can be found at <http://www.ke-sooklee.com>.

MILES NEIDINGER has worked as a Journeyman Electrician since 2006. His exhibitions include the Hook Gallery grand opening, Finch Gallery, Rare Gallery, Kemper Museum, and the Charlotte Street Fund Exhibition at the JCCC. Neidinger has participated in Arts Through Architecture and is a Charlotte Street Foundation Award recipient. He was featured in *Art in America*, *The Kansas City Star*, *Review* magazine, and *The Pitch* weekly. Further information about Miles can be found at www.milesneidinger.com.

PAUL RUDY, composer, teaches at the Conservatory at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. He received the 2010 Elliott Carter Rome Prize as well as fellowship awards from the Guggenheim, Fulbright and Wurlitzer foundations. His music has been performed and received awards internationally. Rudy's CD *Series 2012 Stories* is available online at iTunes. Further information about Paul can be found at <http://www.paulrudy.com>.

JORI SACKIN beat Hacksaw "Butch" Reed, the former WWF tag team champion of the world, in a game of dominoes on December 13th, 2011. Jori also paints, plays music and films stuff from time to time.

MATTHEW TADY is a sound and movement performer. His catalog expands from ironic musical frontman to improvisational dance and contemporary movement. His recent work involves both soft performance and challenging conceptual movement placed within large-scale art installation. When collaborating with dancers, musicians, and artists, Matthew Tady is a flexible asset as both a performer and an integral hand in concept development, set design, and construction.

MICA THOMAS received his BFA in Theater from Southern Oregon University and attended the Masters program in Lighting Design at Penn State. He has produced some of his largest projects with Kansas City's Quixotic performance ensemble. He has designed the lighting for "Surface" a site-specific show at the Nelson Atkins Museum (2009), The Kemper Art Museums Annual Gala (2009), and Quixotic's "Lux Esalare" (2009) and "Esoterra (2008).