



A film by Bill Morrison and concert by Jóhann Jóhannsson

BRASS: Durham International Festival 2009

7 & 8.30pm, 14 July 2009, Gala Theatre Durham

In anticipation of a major new collaboration for 2010 inspired by the mining culture of North East England, American experimental filmmaker Bill Morrison and Icelandic composer Jóhann Jóhannsson present a special performance of their established works at Durham's Gala Theatre on 14 July 2009. Part of BRASS: Durham International Festival 2009, a screening of Morrison's *Decasia: The State of Decay* and his short film *Light is Calling* is followed by contemporary classical composer and musician Jóhann Jóhannsson's arrangements, performed by his ensemble of strings, piano, percussion and electronics, and some of the region's finest brass musicians, led by Icelandic conductor Gudni Franzson. Jóhannsson has arranged three brass pieces especially for this event.

Decasia (2002) is composed from deteriorated found footage culled from numerous film archives, and is a meditation on decay featuring an original soundtrack by Michael Gordon. *Light is Calling* (2004) is a reflection on memory and time, the beauty of decay, and the role of an outdated romanticism in the present day through the story of a soldier who meets a mysterious woman in the woods.

The 2009 event is prelude to a bold new commission for the 2010 Festival, which has commissioned Forma, one of Europe's leading arts and media producers, to produce an audiovisual work with Morrison and Jóhannsson. The commission reflects on the enduring appeal of Brass music, its important historical role within the communities of North East England, and Durham County's dedication to this genre through the ongoing development of the Festival. The 2010 work will weave together archive footage of local mining communities in a film by Bill Morrison set to a sound score by Jóhann Jóhannsson featuring a specially assembled group of regional and international musicians. The work will be presented live in Durham on 15 and 16 July 2010 before touring internationally.

Jóhann Jóhannsson's emotionally resonant compositions are slow-building and bewitching. He combines minimalist, ambient and symphonic music to create stately scores that rise slowly out of silence to sonic heights.

Cinematic in its vision, his work draws from the past and the present, combining electronics and orchestral arrangements to create panoramic and romantic soundscapes. Although mostly instrumental, Jóhannsson's work involves complex narratives, which often involve man's relationship with the world of machines and decaying and obsolete technology. Jóhannsson is a prolific composer for film and theatre and has previously collaborated with artists including Marc Almond, Barry Adamson and Pan Sonic, among others.

Bill Morrison is an award-winning filmmaker whose films have been screened at festivals, museums and concert halls including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Sundance Film Festival, Tate Modern and the Royal Festival Hall, London. His work includes documentary, fiction and found footage collages often accompanied by live music composed by some of today's most acclaimed contemporary classical composers such as John Adams, Gavin Bryars and Steve Reich.

Morrison is committed to working with communities in Durham County and beyond to fully reflect the visual history of the local area and would like to encourage anyone who has relevant historical film footage to participate. Suitable subject matters include the Miners' Galas and other brass events or parades, picnics, sports matches, dances and simple everyday activities like preparing and eating meals, going to school, work or church. Film footage should be submitted to the Northern Region Film and Television Archive (NRFTA) for possible inclusion in the final film. Please see the [Notes](#) below for specific instructions on how to do this.

The 2010 Forma commission for BRASS: Durham International Festival, developed in partnership with culture¹⁰, will form part of North East England's world-class programme of festivals and events during 2010.

For further information, images or interviews please contact Roisin Stimpson, Communications Manager, on rs@forma.org.uk or 0207 456 7823, or Janette Scott on janettescottartspr@yahoo.co.uk.

Notes to editors

Screening and concert ticket details. 14 July 2009

The screening of *Decasia: The State of Decay* and *Light is Calling* begins at 7pm. This event is free of charge but tickets must be booked in advance. Jóhann Jóhannsson's concert begins at 8.30pm and is a ticketed event (£8 full price, £6 concessions). All tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.galadurham.co.uk/> or from the box office on 0191 332 4041. Gala Theatre, Millenium Place, Durham DH1 1WA. Each event lasts for 1 hour 15 minutes.

Instructions for submitting film footage to the Northern Region Film and Television Archive

Initial inquiries should be directed to Steve McIntyre, Manager, Northern Region Film and Television Archive, Teesside University, on S.McIntyre@tees.ac.uk. For all film/video deposited at the Archive, depositors will be sent a dvd copy of their material. The deadline for selecting material for the film is 15 October 2009, though please be advised that the NRFTA always accepts footage for its archives at any time. Contributors whose footage has been used will be acknowledged in the credits.

BRASS: Durham International Brass Festival (4-19 July 2009)

BRASS: Durham International Festival delivers a programme that showcases the contemporary use of brass music across the globe, as well as informing those new to Brass about the qualities of the genre. Events include free street performances [Streets of Brass], music residencies, workshops (including the British Trombone Society) and special commissions, as well as playing an important role in one of the region's biggest community events, The Durham Miners' Gala. The 2009 Festival line-up includes the Black Dyke Band (6th), Jimi Tenor (8th), Mnozil Brass (12th), Femi Kuti and Positive Force (13th), Jóhann Jóhannsson and Ensemble, with a free screening of Bill Morrison's films *Decasia: The State of Decay* and *Light is Calling* (14th), Issie Barratt (16th), La Bottine Sourriante (17th), Hypnotic Brass Ensemble and Hot 8 (19th). Music from Germany, Holland, Iceland, Mexico, Nigeria, UK and USA will therefore be represented.

<http://www.brassfestival.co.uk/>

Forma

Forma is one of Europe's leading production agencies for ambitious, interdisciplinary contemporary art. Collaborating with some of today's most interesting artists, it produces, tours and publishes groundbreaking new projects that seamlessly combine diverse media. Its programme pioneers new hybrid forms of music, visual art, film, new media, dance, theatre and live art. Forma's international programme encompasses single concerts and large-scale tours for leading performing and visual arts venues and festivals; one-off exhibitions in established visual arts spaces; screenings at film and new media festivals; and major public realm projects that engage with particular places.

For further information, please visit www.forma.org.uk

Forma is supported by Arts Council England

Culture¹⁰

The 2010 Forma commission for BRASS: Durham International Festival, developed in partnership with culture 10, will form part of North East England's world-class programme of festivals and events during 2010. Culture¹⁰ is an annual curated programme of exceptional cultural events and festivals across NewcastleGateshead and North East England. Established in 2004, it is managed by the culture¹⁰ team, funded by Newcastle City Council, Gateshead Council, One North East, Northern Rock Foundation and Arts Council England, North East, working in partnership with NewcastleGateshead Initiative. For further details see www.NewcastleGateshead.com

Northern Region Film and Television Archive (NRFTA)

The NRFTA is the public-sector moving image archive serving County Durham, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tees Valley and Tyne and Wear, recognised as such by the UK Film Archive Forum. It is also a member organisation of the North East Museums, Libraries and Archives' Council (NEMLAC), the North East Regional Archives Council and the Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA).

Core funding comes from the University of Teesside, Northern Film and Media, a government agency charged with promoting and funding moving image culture in the north-east, Gateshead Council, a number of smaller sources and from commercial revenue (e.g. licensing footage to broadcasters).

<http://www.nrfia.org.uk/about.html>

