

# DADA AT THE MOVIES

Guy Livingston leads a varied career as a pianist and producer on both sides of the Atlantic. Based in Paris, Mr. Livingston has given recitals at the Louvre, Radio France, Chatelet, and the Centre Pompidou. His performances have also taken him to Holland (De IJsbreker, Paradiso, Korzo, Vredenburg, Holland Festival, MuziekGebouw), Russia, Italy, Poland, Germany, and South Africa.

In the United States, Mr. Livingston has performed in New York at Lincoln Center, the Knitting Factory, the Cooper Union, the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and Columbia University.

Inspired by the extraordinary artists who participated that night, pianist Guy Livingston has re-created the music and rediscovered the films, bringing us back to 1923 for his new one-man show, Drinks with the Dadaists (now known as Dada at the Movies) launched at the Holland Festival in June 2006. The show toured the US and Canada in 2006-07, and European venues and festivals in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

On July 8, 1923, the Parisian Dadaists organized the most famous Dada event ever. Everybody who was anybody was on the program that night: a play by Tristan Tzara, films by Man Ray and Hans Richter, live music by George Antheil, Erik Satie, and Darius Milhaud. During the show, a riot broke out amongst the rival Dada factions, and the poet Paul Eluard was thrown off the stage, breaking his arm. The gendarmes were summoned, and the Dada Soirée was memorialized as one of the great Parisian art scandals of all time.

*NOTE: The show can be adapted for smaller venues, particularly film series, which may not have the same resources as a concert hall. Contact us for more information.*

**PROGRAM:** The stage is dark, except for a spotlight illuminating a bicycle wheel from below (homage to Marcel Duchamp), which turns slowly, casting an ominous shadow onto the ceiling. The films are all with live piano music, performed by Livingston.

*Man Ray's Return to Reason* (2 min) newly re-set to music of George Antheil, who played at the first screening.

*Manhatta* by Charles Sheeler, music by George Antheil (6 min) (film celebrating the construction of New York's skyscrapers)

*Rhythmus 21*, the first abstract film, by Eggeling and Richter (3 min), music by George Antheil.

*Hats before Breakfast*, by Hans Richter (5 min) a comic film including Milhaud as one of the actors. Music by Darius Milhaud.

*Ursonate* by Kurt Schwitters (4 min excerpt) (not a film, rather a vocal performance art piece, performed in period cardboard cutout dada costumes)

Feature film: *Entracte* by Picabia and René Clair; music by Erik Satie (18 min) The most famous Dada film ever includes a chess game between Man Ray and Duchamp on the roof of the Théâtre du Chatelet in Paris, also a runaway hearse and a camel.

Livingston plays piano and percussion.

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