

# WHITE FLAG PROJECTS

## PRESS RELEASE

Dirty Looks presents

## *City of Lost Souls (Stadt der Verlorenen Seelen)*

A film by Rosa von Praunheim

Saturday evening September 15, 2012

8 PM

Admission is free



White Flag Projects is pleased to host the New York City-based queer film series Dirty Looks presentation of *City of Lost Souls* (*Stadt der Verlorenen Seelen*), 1983, a trans punk musical by Rosa von Praunheim, starring Jayne County. The film will be screened Saturday, September 15 at 8 PM, with an introduction by Dirty Looks curator Bradford Nordeen. The screening is accompanied by a publication including writings by Bruce Benderson, Joe E. Jeffreys, Amos Mac, Justin Shock, Marc Siegel, and an excerpt from Jayne County's memoirs, *Man Enough to be a Woman*. Admission is free of charge.

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### About the film

*City of Lost Souls* finds Angie Stardust running a boarding house filled with misfit lodgers including an erotic trapeze duo, a magical group therapist, and other assorted layabouts, including Lila (Jayne County), a Southern blonde who dreams of Hollywood. But when Lila gets knocked up by a Communist who promises to make her a superstar on television in East Berlin, the real havoc ensues. Rosa Von Praunheim directs this mostly American cast in a trans musical spectacular that has been described as “Hedwig and the Angry Inch... in reverse.”

### About *Dirty Looks*

Curated by St. Louis native Bradford Nordeen, *Dirty Looks* is a roaming series held throughout New York City designed to trace contemporary queer aesthetics through historical works, presenting quintessential GLBT film and video alongside emerging artists and filmmakers. Occupying a vacancy in Queer experimental programming in the New York film community, *Dirty Looks* exhibits a lineage of queer tactics and visual styles as an open platform for inquiry, discussion and debate.

### About the curator

*Dirty Looks* curator Bradford Nordeen has organized screenings internationally at venues like PARTICIPANT INC, The Kitchen, the Hammer Museum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, White Columns, Artists Space, and Judson Memorial Church. His writing has been published in *Art In America*, *the Huffington Post*, *Lambda Literary*, *Little Joe*, *X-TRA Contemporary Art Quarterly*, and *Butt Magazine*, among others. He holds an MA in Cinema Cultures from King's College London and a BFA in Photography and Media from CalArts. Nordeen lives in Brooklyn, New York.

### About the filmmaker

Filmmaker and gay-rights activist Rosa von Praunheim is one of the leading figures in gay and lesbian cinema and New German Cinema, although his deliberately controversial techniques, designed to challenge audiences, have sometimes caused him to be criticized by both gay and anti-gay supporters. Praunheim originally studied painting in Berlin, later assisting gay filmmakers including Werner Schroeter and Gregory J. Markopoulos. As a director, von Praunheim made many underground short films on Super-8 or 16 mm stock before going to work in television where he became known for such genre parodies as *Die Bettwurst/ The Bedroll* (1970).

Von Praunheim made his first gay-themed film, *Sisters of the Revolution*, in 1969. The film was a three-part look at homosexual participation in the early women's liberation movement taking place in New York. One of his most influential films was 1970's made-for-TV *It Is Not the Homosexual Who Is Perverse, But the Situation in Which He Lives*, another example of his usage of negative gay stereotypes to politicize their plight and plea for more rights. Many of von Praunheim's films also focus on characters living on the fringes of society.

### About the performers

Jayne County became rock's first undeniable transgender superstar, influencing acts like David Bowie, The Ramones, Patti Smith, Lou Reed, and The Police. Having performed in Warhol's Factory, County became an international sensation with her songs like "Are You Man Enough to be a Woman" and "Fuck Off," as well as an appearance in the film *Wigstock: The Movie*. Jayne County published her autobiography *Man Enough To Be A Woman* through Serpent's Tail Press in 1995.

Angie Stardust (1940 - 2007), née Mel Michaels, was a singer and drag artist who began performing at the age of 14. She was a staple at the Jewel Box Revue in the late 1950s and 1960s, when she became the first black performer at the 82 Club, which also served as a transitional venue for the Rock and Country who had performed at Max's Kansas City, before the opening of CBGBs. She was fired from the club after it was discovered that she was self-administering female hormones. In 1974 she moved to Hamburg, where she would act in 4 German-language films, eventually opening her own club.

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WHAT: Film screening: *City of Lost Souls (Stadt der Verlorenen Seelen)*

WHEN: September 15, 2012  
8 PM

WHERE: White Flag Projects  
4568 Manchester Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63110  
314.531.3442

COST: Admission is free.

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White Flag Projects is supported by generous contributions from individuals and corporations. Opening receptions are sponsored in part by Schlafly Beer. White Flag Projects is a not-for-profit alternative arts institution established in 2006 to facilitate meaningful exhibitions of international, national, and local artists.