

Press Release – 14 Oct 2009

**The Panacea Casebook:  
A Performance Lecture featuring a Puppet  
Doctor, Three Artists and Six Remedies**



Artists **Zoë Walker & Neil Bromwich, Michael Pinsky** and Professor Hilary present The Panacea Casebook – six case studies which scrutinize the impact of the artists' work on a variety of human subjects, seen through the analytical brain of the puppet doctor, Professor Hilary. Together the team examines the relationship between art and wellbeing. Asking pertinent questions such as; is it possible for the work of artists to solve political dilemmas? Can art significantly improve our health? Can art heal wounds in society?

Panacea is an expandable and traveling artwork currently being developed by Michael Pinsky, Zoë Walker & Neil Bromwich to function as a universal formula to cure social, economical and political problems. Pinsky, Walker & Bromwich search for artistic 'solutions' that simultaneously offer viewers/participants an aesthetic experience and a practical tool to improve life. Panacea strikes a fine balance between naive optimism and an ironic critique on society's increasingly untenable expectations of artists as: maker of beautiful objects, social reformers, economic revitalisers and catalysts for all things good.

The evenings will also see the launch of the Panacea publication and the artists' first monographs, published by the John Hansard Gallery.

Panacea, which began in 2005, is an ambitious artist-led collaboration by Michael Pinsky, Zoë Walker & Neil Bromwich, supported by the Wellcome Trust and Arts Council England, and developed with the John Hansard Gallery. The Panacea Casebook tours to BALTIC, CCA, MAO and the John Hansard Gallery is managed by the Contemporary Arts Society.

Panacea Casebook collaborators: **Dr Mark Down, Professor Hilary** and **Blind Summit Theatre**.

## Notes to editors

For more information visit Panacea website [www.panaceaproject.org](http://www.panaceaproject.org)

### **Panacea Casebook is touring the following venues:**

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2009 at 6.30pm
Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2009 at 7pm
John Hansard Gallery, Southampton	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2009 at 7pm
Modern Art Oxford, Oxford,	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2009 at 7pm

The books are published by John Hansard Gallery and distributed by Cornerhouse. They retail at £9.99 each or at a discounted £19.99 for the three volume set.

To order please contact John Hansard Gallery ([R.V.Carter@soton.ac.uk](mailto:R.V.Carter@soton.ac.uk)) or Cornerhouse ([James.Brady@Cornerhouse.org](mailto:James.Brady@Cornerhouse.org))

## The Artists

**Michael Pinsky** takes the combined roles of urban planner, activist, researcher, resident and artist. Using the mediums of video, performance, mapping and programming, he responds site-specifically to physical and sociological space. Pinsky has exhibited at the ICA, London; Saatchi Gallery, London; Liverpool Biennial, Modern Art Oxford; John Hansard Gallery, Southampton; Cornerhouse, Manchester; Milton Keynes Gallery; Centre de Création Contemporaine, Tours, France; Armory Centre of the Arts, LA, USA and the Contemporary Art Forum, Canada. He has undertaken major commissions in the public realm across the UK and Europe.

[www.michaelpinsky.com](http://www.michaelpinsky.com)

**Zoë Walker and Neil Bromwich** protest and dream, via public art, sculpture and performance.. Their work explores the space between the real landscape and an imagined location inviting their audience to consider an 'other' way of being. They have shown at the BALTIC, Gateshead; Turner Contemporary, Margate; ACCA Melbourne; Fruitmarket, Edinburgh; Cornerhouse, Manchester; Künstlerhaus, Vienna; Zeppelin Museum Germany; Milton Keynes Gallery, Whitechapel Gallery, Camden Arts Centre and the South London Gallery. Their partnership has resulted in international residencies and commissions, including *Celestial Odyssey* 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennale, Thessaloniki, Greece; *My Island Home* for the V&A Museum; *One Day Sculpture*, New Zealand.

[www.walkerandbromwich.org.uk](http://www.walkerandbromwich.org.uk)

**Professor Hilary** was created and performed by **Blind Summit Theatre**, which was formed by designer and puppet maker, Nick Barnes and writer, director and performer, Mark Down. Through subverting the art form they have redefined puppetry for contemporary western audiences. Their collaborations include creating the celebrated puppetry in Anthony Minghella's production of *Madam Butterfly* for ENO and the Metropolitan Opera, in *Shun-kin* for Complicite and Setagaya Theatre, and in Philip Haas's film installation *Butchers, Dragons, Gods and Skeletons* currently showing at the Kimbell Gallery in Fort Worth, Texas. Their own productions include *Low Life* and *Pirate Puppetry*. Their new stage adaptation of George Orwell's *1984* will run at Battersea Arts Centre in December and then tour in the UK. [www.blindsummit.com](http://www.blindsummit.com)