

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SITE Santa Fe presents
A SCREENING OF THE 1928 SILENT MASTERPIECE
THE MAN WHO LAUGHS
with the world premiere of an original SCORE
performed live by BING
A program of the Fifth International Biennial
DISPARITIES AND DEFORMATIONS: OUR GROTESQUE
Friday, August 6, 2004, 7 PM**

Santa Fe, NM— As part of its Fifth International Biennial programming, SITE Santa Fe will present a screening of the highly acclaimed silent film, *The Man Who Laughs*, accompanied by the world premiere of a live musical score performed by the octet BING on Friday, August 6, 2004 at 7 pm at the Lensic Performing Arts Center, 211 W. San Francisco Street, Santa Fe.

Writing earlier this year, noted film critic Roger Ebert described *The Man Who Laughs* as "Remarkable....One of the final treasures of German silent Expressionism." This 1928 classic is both a spectacularly entertaining piece of late silent cinema and a seminal film that served as the prototype for the famed Universal Studio horror movies of the 1930s and 40s. In *The Man Who Laughs*, Gwynplaine, the son of a nobleman is orphaned while still a child and kidnapped by outlaws. He escapes with his life, but not before a monstrous "smile" has been carved onto his face. Gwynplaine is played by Conrad Veidt, the great German actor, well to known to audiences for his performance as Maj. Heinrich Strasser opposite Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, in *Casablanca*.

For this performance, SITE Santa Fe has commissioned a new score by the octet BING, led by performer-composers Chris Jonas and Molly Sturges. "We are composing the live music as a direct counterpart to the film," says Jonas, "rather than a traditional soundtrack." Recent BING projects include a new score for Buster Keaton's 1929 silent film *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*, commissioned in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Albuquerque's historic KiMo Theater; and the score for *Circus Luminous*, which played to sold out crowds at the Lensic in 2003 and will tour throughout New Mexico and Colorado beginning in 2005.

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Tickets are \$12 for Adults; \$6 for students & seniors, and SITE Santa Fe members at Friend and Family levels. For SITE Santa Fe members at the Supporter level and above, tickets are free with advance reservation. Seating is limited, advance purchase/reservation is highly recommended. Please call the Lensic Box Office at 988-1234 to purchase tickets. This program is part of SITE's Fifth International Biennial exhibition's *Art & Culture* series. This program is presented in conjunction with The Lensic, Santa Fe's Performing Arts Center. The film print has been provided courtesy of The Library of Congress.

A limited number of free tickets will be made available on a first-come, first-serve basis to students with ID at the door.

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Summer exhibition hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 am–6:00 pm; Friday, 10:00 am–7:00 pm; Sunday, noon–6 pm, through September 5, 2004. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors; members are free. Free admission is offered on Fridays, made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston. Free tours by SITE Guides are available during public visits, and are also offered on Fridays at 6 pm, Saturdays & Sundays at 2 pm. SITE Santa Fe gift certificates are available. Call 505.989.1199 for more information. This announcement is partially funded by the City of Santa Fe Arts Commission and the 1% Lodgers' Tax.

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