

VICENZA FILM PROJECT – MUSIC

THE SUN RA MYTHIC DREAM ARKESTRA

under the direction of MARSHALL ALLEN

LIVE AT THE TEATRO OLIMPICO

Cornelia Mueller, Associazione la ciaf, Poschiavo Swiss Alps

It's high time for a new film on MARSHALL ALLEN and his exceptionally beautiful Arkestra – THE SUN RA MYTHIC DREAM ARKESTRA. *Mythic* in reference to the most creative composer, musician, poet, philosopher and Arkestra director Sun Ra and *Dream* because of Marshall's dream to enrich the music of the Arkestra by adding kora and bolong (African harps), harp, violin, viola, cello, French horn, clarinet and additional reeds, brass and percussion as well as dancers to the regular formation.

The first appearance of Marshall Allen's dream was THE SUN RA CENTENNIAL DREAM ARKESTRA in 2012 at the UNCOOL Festival in the southeastern Swiss Alps. Please hear the Cosmo Music and watch the videos at <http://www.uncool.ch/2017/arkestra.php>.

THE FILMS

It is actually a project of two conjoint films – on one hand the music film on *The Sun Ra Mythic Dream Arkestra* live at the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza and on the other hand a film that focuses on *Sun Ra* (see his biography) using historic footage and contemporary interviews mainly with Marshall Allen, but also with other long-term members of the Arkestra. Marshall Allen (see his biography) has joined Sun Ra and his Arkestra in 1958 in Chicago, he trained the reed section for decades and has never abandoned the Arkestra. He is now its shining director.

So the music film is about the Cosmo Music of Sun Ra and Marshall Allen presented and narrated by *The Sun Ra Mythic Dream Arkestra under the direction of Marshall Allen*.

The music film will be realized in May 2018 during the VICENZA JAZZ FESTIVAL and on the stage of the TEATRO OLIMPICO¹ – a dream of a theatre constructed by the Italian Renaissance architects

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teatro_Olimpico

The **Teatro Olimpico** ("Olympic Theatre") is a theatre in Vicenza, northern Italy, constructed in 1580-1585. The theatre was the final design by the Italian Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio and was not completed until after his death. The trompe-l'œil onstage scenery, designed by Vincenzo Scamozzi, to give the appearance of long streets receding to a distant horizon, was installed in 1585 for the very first performance held in the theatre, and is the oldest surviving stage set still in existence. The full Roman-style *scaenae frons* back screen across the stage is made from wood and stucco imitating marble.

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ANDREA PALLADIO² and VINCENZO SCAMOZZI³. It has a wonderful acoustic and a spectacular stage where the allies between the tall and decorated houses are arranged like sunrays from the core of the stage. The theatre is so beautiful, almost magic.

I believe that this Renaissance stage scenery illuminated in radiant colors would perfectly fit for a multi-camera video recording on HD or ultra HD (4K) of the shining *Sun Ra Mythic Dream Arkestra*. Professional multi-channel audio recordings will be made too by the theatre technicians.

The audience part of the theatre is constructed like an Amphitheatre, so that the cameras could be installed on stage level as well as at various higher levels. The six cameras will be in fixed positions throughout the concert.

The music film will use the recordings from the different cameras also simultaneously and become in itself a mystic sparkling representation of the music. There will be three filmed concerts (dress rehearsal and two performances) in the Teatro Olimpico and therefor also plenty of footage to compose an extraordinary wonderful film...

The historic film will be surveyed and composed by PETER DENNETT and focuses on Sun Ra using historic footage and various interviews conducted during the Arkestra's stay in Vicenza (see his exposé). The interviews could take place in various settings in Vicenza maybe featuring other works of Palladio.

Both films strongly complement each other and offer unknown dimensions about Sun Ra, Marshall Allen and the Cosmo Music.

THE FILM TEAM

The film team will include six cameramen / camerawomen who will be present also during the rehearsals in order to be trained to follow the flow of the music. The locations in the theatre will be carefully chosen in order to cover the activity of the whole Arkestra including the dancers. Marshall Allen will be in the center of attention since he is the most outstanding musician of the Arkestra and also its most creative director.

²² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea_Palladio

Andrea Palladio (30 November 1508 – 19 August 1580) was an Italian architect active in the Republic of Venice. Palladio, influenced by Roman and Greek architecture, primarily by Vitruvius, is widely considered to be the most influential individual in the history of architecture. All of his buildings are located in what was the Venetian Republic, but his teachings, summarized in the architectural treatise, *The Four Books of Architecture* gained him wide recognition. The city of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincenzo_Scamozzi

Vincenzo Scamozzi (2 September 1548 – 7 August 1616) was an Italian architect and a writer on architecture, active mainly in Vicenza and Republic of Venice area in the second half of the 16th century. He was perhaps the most important figure there between Andrea Palladio, whose unfinished projects he inherited at Palladio's death in 1580, and Baldassarre Longhena, Scamozzi's only pupil.

The great public project of Palladio's that Scamozzi inherited early in the process of construction was the [Teatro Olimpico](#) at Vicenza, which Palladio had designed in the last months of his life.

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The cameramen / camerawomen will also be involved in the historic film. The film team will accompany the interviews and conversations between the Arkestra members and Peter Dennett that will take place in various settings in Vicenza – still to discover. Minimum two cameras per interview will be needed in order to deliver a diverse footage.

The film team is recruited of artists / camera professionals who already worked for the UNCOOL Festivals (1999 – 2012) and also have been involved in the filming and production of the silent film OEDIPUS by KA that will be shortly released. The film team is composed by Götz Rogge, Stephanie Damm, Mauro Lardi, KA and new in the team are Clelia Thal and Anya Arnold. In order to be able to film on the same format, it might be necessary to rent some cameras for the ultra HD (4K) quality.

THE FILM POSTPRODUCTION

The final choice of the music pieces is elaborated together with Marshall Allen who is in control of the music chosen and issued. The first edition (published maybe on USB stick) is 1000 copies. The films could be directly downloaded over the web. The films will also be produced in DCP format and presented in various cinemas.

Peter Dennett will survey the choice of the interviews together with the film editor and in accordance with the interviewee. He also will choose and include historic footage of Sun Ra. For details see his exposé.

Mauro Lardi, KA, Peter Dennett and an additional editor will be involved in the editing process of the music and the historic film. Postproduction will start as soon as possible and should be concluded latest at the end of 2018. By spring 2019 the film should be published, distributed and shown publicly.

THE SUN RA MYTHIC DREAM ARKESTRA

The Sun Ra Mythic Dream Arkestra will include 22 musicians, 3 dancers and 1 choreographer. The final formation of the Arkestra will be announced later.

Rehearsals prior to the performances will be necessary. Rehearsals and performances will take place in the Teatro Olimpico. Three days for the rehearsals, one dress rehearsal and two performances are scheduled from May 7th to 12th. During the rehearsal periods the camera team has the chance to learn about the Arkestra's music and develop some understanding of how the musicians and the dancers might be filmed best.

THE SUN RA MYTHIC DREAM ARKESTRA under the direction of MARSHALL ALLEN include the musicians that are long time members of The Sun Ra Arkestra and also members that joined the Arkestra under Marshall's direction. So far the following musicians take part in the project:

[MARSHALL ALLEN](#) alto saxophone, flute, clarinet, electric valve instrument, kora

[TARA MIDDLETON](#) vocals, violin

[JAMES STEWART](#) tenor saxophone

[KNOEL SCOTT](#) alto saxophone, vocals, percussion

N.N. tenor saxophone

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N.N. clarinet

[DANNY RAY THOMPSON](#) baritone saxophone, flute, conga and bongo drums

[MICHAEL RAY](#) trumpet, vocals

[CECIL BROOKS](#) trumpet

[VINCENT CHANCEY](#) French horn

[CRAIG HARRIS](#) trombone

[DAVE DAVIS](#) trombone

[NINA BOGOMAS](#) harp

[KASH KILLION](#) cello, sarangi, bolong

N.N. violin

N.N. viola

FARID BARON piano

[DAVID HOTEPE](#) guitar

[TYLER MITCHELL](#) bass

N.N. drums

[RON McBEE](#) percussion

[ELSON NASCIMENTO](#) surdo drum, percussion

WISTERIA EL MOONDEW choreography

N.N. dance

N.N. dance

N.N. dance

CONCLUSION

The film project still needs at least one producer and enough financial support in order to be realized. The budget is attached to this presentation of the film idea and outline.

From Vicenza Jazz we received an invitation for May 7th to 12th 2018 to rehearse, perform and film in the Teatro Olimpico. Rehearsals are on May 7th – 8th – 9th, dress rehearsal on May 10th and performances on May 11th and 12th.

Please generously support Marshall Allen's dream and this film project....