

# Migrating Identity – *Transmission/Reconstruction*

May 22 – June 20, 2004, Arti et Amicitiae, Rokin 112 Amsterdam and surrounding public places



**Walk this way** is an evening with Gary Carsley presenting the serial self and multiple identities comprising the art & life of Leigh Bowery. Carsley's archive of Leigh Bowery is the largest of its kind. Some of the material is being shown for the first time in Europe.

## **Films/Lectures I:**

Friday, May 28 20:00 - 22:00

Arti et Amicitiae, Rokin 112, Amsterdam

## **Admission:**

any currency with the value of 2 Euro's

<http://migratingidentity.net>

## Walk this Way

F i l m s / L e c t u r e s I

**Leigh Bowery**, who was born in Sunshine Victoria, Australia in 1961, has in the 10 years since his death in London on New Year's Eve 1994, become well known as possibly one of the most innovative and challenging performance artists of recent times. Although infamous as the host of London's premier 80's night club "**Taboo**" [1], Bowery came to the attention of the art world press because of his critically acclaimed performance at London's prestigious **Anthony d'Offay Gallery**. This consisted of a daily performance by the artist from behind a two-way mirror, wearing a different spectacular costume each day. Like Warhol's appearances in a glass fronted cubicle, his performances involved nothing more than "being himself", and they initiated a period in feverish, media driven art from London know as the Y.B.A. or young British Art Movement. Bowery's use of himself as both the motif and motive of his art had an enormous influence on his peers such as **Tracy Emin** and **Damien Hirst** and his impact on fashion designers such as **Jean Paul Gaultier** and **Vivienne Westwood** is widely acknowledged. However, a general art audience knows him as the favorite model of celebrated English painter **Lucien Freud**.

Leigh Bowery had a 5-year working relationship with Amsterdam's pre-eminent nightclub "Roxy" – beginning with his appearance as a Judge at the Roxy's "**Acid Queen Contest**" in 1989 and ending with his last major performance in Europe at the 1994 "**Love Ball**". His association with the Netherlands was his most important working relationship outside Great Britain and his work with **DJ Joost van Bellen** and curator and historian **Anna Tilroe** are among his most enduring images. In conjunction with **Migrating Identity – Transmission/Reconstruction** the organisers will present a film evening bringing together some of Leigh Bowery's innovative and important performance works including the Anthony d'Offay performance and the first version of his **scandalous birth performance at London's Kinky Gerlinky**. It will be hosted by Gary Carsley the curator of "Take a Bowery", the recent retrospective at **Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art**.

[1] So called because nothing that happened inside was Taboo, it was also the name of a recent London and New York musical based on the life of Leigh Bowery, written by and starring Boy George.

Program:

1. D'Offay Performance (Cerrith Wynne-Evans)
2. Whats My Reaction to the Show (Dick Jewell)
3. Serpentine Performance (Dick Jewell)
4. Getting Dressed from "Hail the New Puritan"
5. Mrs Peanut visits New York
6. Dance floor Kinky Girlinky
7. 1st version of the Birth Performance
8. Wanna Be Model
9. Interview
10. Boys
11. Ik Ben Kunst

Please see <http://migratingidentity.net> for further details about the exhibition and opening hours.

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