

Artangel

Press Release

Sukhdev Sandhu

Night Haunts: a nocturnal journal

www.nighthaunts.org.uk

Through 2006

Whatever happened to the London night? It certainly feels to me as if the London night has been decommissioned and that its fissile, threatening energies are now spent. ... Over the course of the next year I will be journeying from dusk until dawn; by road, air and water; from its concrete centre to its pastoral fringes; from its subterranean cellars to high up in the sky – with a view to exploring the extent to which nocturnal London can counterbalance an increasingly legible and emulsified diurnal London. I want to mainline its covert and shadowy energies, to locate the ghosts of old London...

Sukhdev Sandhu

In the 1920s, the Edwardian travel writer H.V. Morton explored nocturnal London discovering the worlds of the 'work-o'nights' or 'owls of London' who he finds repairing the Underground, partying in a Chinese café in Limehouse, printing newspapers, bare-knuckle boxing or waiting at stage doors. His wanderings through the 'infinite possibilities' of the night-time metropolis became the book, *Nights of London*, the inspiration for Artangel Interaction's latest project: www.nightsoflondon.org.uk.

Contemporary London writer Sukhdev Sandhu will retrace H V Morton's steps for a new take on the nocturnal city. *Night Haunts* is a contemporary nocturnal journal which sees Sandhu prospecting in the London night with the people who drive its pulse, from night cleaners to security guards, zookeepers and exorcists. In each episode Sandhu reflects on the nature of the urban night. Has 'night life' been gradually corroded and colonised by light and entertainment? What are the invisible economies that pulse through the sleeping city? Does the Thames change its character at dusk? Is authentic darkness impossible?

Sandhu is posting *Night Haunts* in sequential episodes from February 2006 at www.nighthaunts.org.uk on a microsite specially designed by Ian Budden of Mind Unit and sound artist and musician Scanner. Budden says, "we've developed a virtual landscape that reflects the physicality of Sukhdev's experiences. The site involves a method of programming which we call 'tectonic animation', using a greatly enlarged version of the pixel, the fundamental building block of internet technology."

In his book *London Calling*, Sukhdev Sandhu has brilliantly chronicled the way Black and Asian writers have experienced and re-imagined the city since the 1770's. His latest book, *I'll Get My Coat* with Usman Saeed, was launched in October 2005.

He is chief film critic for the *Daily Telegraph* and was named Critic of the Year at the British Press Awards, 2005. He regularly participates in public and radio debates, and his writing has appeared in a range of publications including the *London Review of Books*, *Modern Painters*, *Smoke* and *Times Literary Supplement*. He lives in Whitechapel.

Sukhdev Sandhu's *Night Haunts* is the latest in Artangel Interaction's ongoing series of artist-led projects, *Nights of London*, exploring the nocturnal city with the people who wake, work and watch over it. *Nights of London* began with artist David Blandy collaborating with young people from The Avenues Youth Project in Westminster to make a documentary film, *Radio Nights* (Spring, 2005), investigating the nocturnal worlds, musical innovations and underground language of West London's minority and pirate radio broadcasters. Further artists' projects with night-time Londoners are in development.

For further information and images please contact Janette Scott on 020 7713 1400 or js@artangel.org.uk

Notes to editors

1. Email updates about the launch of each Night Haunts episode can be received by completing the subscription form on www.nighthaunts.org.uk
2. Scanner, British artist Robin Rimbaud, traverses the experimental terrain between sound, space, image and form, creating absorbing, multi-layered sound pieces that twist technology in unconventional ways. Born in London, Scanner is committed to working with cutting edge artists from a varied range of genres including dance, music, and the visual arts. Since 1991 he has been intensely active in sound art, producing concerts, compositions, installations and recordings, the albums *Mass Observation* (1994), *Delivery* (1997), and *The Garden is Full of Metal* (1998) hailed by critics as innovative and inspirational works of contemporary electronic music. His diverse body of work has been presented throughout the United States, Asia, Australia and Europe.
3. *Night Haunts* is made possible with the kind support of Mala Gaonkar. Artangel Interaction is funded by Arts Council Lottery, John Lyons Charity and the support of Vincent and Elizabeth Meyer.
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