

# THE GIRL WITH X-RAY EYES

*An artist's film by Phillip Warnell*

**Screening at Warwick Arts Centre**

**8 May 2008, 6 – 8pm**

**Tickets: £7.50 (£5 concs.)**

**and then at:**

**NFT3, BFI Southbank, London**

**4 June 2008 6.10pm**

**Tickets: £5 (£4 concs.)**

Natasha Demkina is known internationally as **The Girl with X-ray Eyes**. A Russian medical student, she is purported to have the ability to look directly inside bodies. Using a form of supplementary vision or second sight, she produces detailed medical diagnoses. Last summer, artist Phillip Warnell went to Moscow and offered up his own body as the subject for Natasha's scrutiny before a series of witnesses. The resulting 23 minute artist's film reveals his extraordinary encounter with **The Girl with X-ray Eyes**. It will be screened at Warwick Arts Centre this May then at London's BFI Southbank in June.

Introducing ideas on the negotiated use of filmic space, the project is concerned with the direct act of looking; how looking and seeing can indeed become a veritable act. Charting the process through which Natasha scans the body, producing a verbal report on her findings, the film also questions the role and status of the artist, drawing attention to ulterior motives and furtive, discreet forms of communication.

The film is accompanied by a specially commissioned soundtrack from Russian composer Vladimir Nikolaev, featuring the use of the Theremin, a non-contact Russian musical instrument, the history of which is intrinsically linked to that of espionage and immaterial phenomena - music from the ether.

**Listings details: (both include live Theremin accompaniment)**

**8 May 2008 6 – 8pm**

Warwick Arts Centre Cinema

University of Warwick

Coventry, CV4 7AL. Tel: 024 7652 4524

[www.warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://www.warwickartscentre.co.uk)

Tickets: £7.50, £5 concs.

**4 June 6.10pm, NFT3**

**(To be screened as part of *The Happy Hand*, which is Programme One of *Double Vision*, an Anglo-Canadian exchange of innovative media art)**

BFI Southbank, Belvedere Road ,

London SE1, Tel: 020 7928 3232

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

Tickets: £5 (£4 concs.)

**Launch event at Warwick Arts Centre on 8 May includes:**

*Film screening with live Theremin accompaniment (by Lydia Kavina)*

*Talk on the popular fantasy of acquiring x-ray vision by Steven Connor*

*Rare screening on film of Werner Herzog's documentary, *Bells from the Deep* (40mins).*

*Steven Connor is professor of Modern Literature & Theory at Birkbeck College, London .*

*Theremin concert by Lydia Kavina ([www.lydiakavina.com](http://www.lydiakavina.com))*

*Following the event, *The Girl with X-ray Eyes* accompanying book will be launched at a reception in the Mead Gallery. The publication, co-published by The Mead Gallery and Leamington Spa Museum and Gallery, contains film stills, commissioned essays by Steven Connor and Gérard Wajcman, an interview with Natasha Demkina and photographic documentation of the project by Zhenia Sveshinsky.*

The Warwick Arts Centre event is supported by the Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick , from their Wellcome Trust Strategic Award funding.

**The Girl with X-ray Eyes** is funded by Arts Council England.

**About Phillip Warnell**

Phillip Warnell is an interdisciplinary artist based in London . Over the past 15 years he has worked with the body as a site of exploration producing a series of works positioned between performance, the visual, and the sonic. Through various media – including live performance, video, ultra-sound and high-speed film cameras - a considerable part of his work has concerned itself with the exploration of, and curiosity with, the body's interior, or more precisely, its 'inside-ness'. He studied Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art & Design & Middlesex University, London , in Paris at Cergy Pontoise Art School and at The Fine Art Academy in Prague . He has exhibited internationally since 1995. Recent projects include a solo exhibition at 300m3 gallery, Gothenburg (2008), the Brakkegrond Arts Centre, Amsterdam (2007), Endo-Ecto, ICA , London (2006), Suture, The Old Operating Theatre, London (2006), Homo Futuris, Ghent (2006). He is currently artist in residence at Warwick University. Further information at [www.phillipwarnell.com](http://www.phillipwarnell.com)

**For further press information and images please contact Alison Wright on 01608 811 474 or 07814 796 930 or email [alison@alisonwrightpr.com](mailto:alison@alisonwrightpr.com)**