

## **"Subliminal History of New York State" 2007 Summer Tour**

**Contact:** Carrie Dashow (917) 821-7024 [carrie@subliminalstate.org](mailto:carrie@subliminalstate.org) / <http://www.subliminalstate.org>

### **OVERVIEW:**

The Subliminal History of New York State is an ongoing multi-tiered project to be regionally presented this coming June and July. The project's presentation varies by location and includes storytelling, hand made books, songs, and video. We are currently organizing a 2007 summer tour of upstate New York. Like a traveling caravan we will stop at a variety of historical and community centers following New York State's route of progress along the Hudson River and Erie Canal waterways.

At each location, Carrie Dashow, with composer collaborator Jesse Pearlman Karlsberg, will work with historical and cultural centers to present singing and video workshops, infused with local history and shaped by the participation of the local community. These workshops will culminate in a video installation made by members of the community and participatory performances of vignettes and audience-sung shape note songs. The Subliminal History of New York State is in part funded through NYSCA and the New York State Music Fund.

### **THE VISIT:**

At each location we expect to stay a total of 3-7 days. The first section of each visit is an archeological dig of sorts: We will conduct research and explore local histories and geographies through dialogue with local historians, residents, geologist, librarians, tour-guides etc.

### **WORKSHOP 1, SINGING:**

Findings will be written into vignettes and poems and then composed into shape note songs by composer collaborator, Jesse Pearlman Karlsberg. During this time Jesse will present shape note singing workshops free to the public. Participants in the workshops will be prepared to lead in the singing of these original shape note songs during the culminating participatory performance.

#### **Shape Note Music:**

Shape note music is a loud and often boisterous traditional community singing style once popular in upstate New York. Nineteenth century itinerant singing masters would tour the region writing songs, holding workshops, then selling their tunebooks before moving on. At a shape note singing, singers sit in an inward-facing hollow square, singing toward the square's center, and taking turns standing in the middle to lead songs.

### **WORKSHOP 2, VIDEO:**

Carrie Dashow will host one video workshop with a group of 10 diverse members of the community selected by our liason. The footage shot will be transformed into a multi-channel synchronized video installation to express subliminal visions of the town itself. It will be presented on the Final Evening and then run throughout it in a separate or same room as the Performance

### **FINAL PERFORMANCE:**

Our stay will conclude with an evening of presentations, first the video installation followed by a participatory performance of what we have created while in town including storytelling, shape note singing, and more.

At the conclusion of the visit we will leave with you a Compact Disc of songs sung, a dvd of the video created and copy of the onsite made tunebook for your archives or displays.

## **HOSTS:**

What an organization we work with will need provide (our needs are negotiable and will vary from location to location and are flexible. This list serves as a general guide):

1. An historian, liaison, contacts with local communities/ community members.
2. Access to a photocopy machine and someone to help us with our tunebooks.
3. Some technical help for final performance (not specialized).
4. When possible a video projector.
5. Room and Board for 2 separate people (Same room is ok, but different bed) for the duration of our stay.
6. Assistance in scheduling and organizing several singing workshops.
7. Selection of local participants for Video shoot.
8. The participating organization will provide press for our workshops, installation, and performance so people in the town will know to attend.
9. A venue for workshops, and performance (workshops and performance can be held at different venues). Including the scheduling of these events/workshops.
10. Assistance compiling a contact list of attendees to local event for us to use for a later event in NYC and possibly Buffalo of the entire tour after the conclusion of summer.

If possible we ask that you apply for Finishing Funds to help out with fees. I am happy to provide written material and assistance for this and have been in regular contact with the funding organization about this project. Successfully applying for Finishing Funds is very possible, but must be done this March.

Finishing Funds are available through the Experimental Television Center:

<http://www.experimentalvcenter.org/>

## **TOUR:**

Locations:

Roosevelt Island (completed), NYC, Rosendale (Widow Jane Mine)(completed), Troy (Sanctuary for Independent Media), Herkimer County (Mohawk Valley Arts), Schenectady Museum (Vale Park), Rome Arts and Community Center, Wayne County (TBA), Buffalo (BECHS -TBA), Lily Dale Assembly, and the Woodside Campground.

## **SUBLIMINALHISTORY:**

Subliminal history gathers information from history, myth, feeling and local lore. It is the unwritten truth visible in metaphor. As subliminal historians we uncover geographical features and built environments as powerful agents capable of manipulating New York's human inhabitants diverse sources are woven together, to form a story of New York that is truer than true. "a better history than what I have written," says Judy Berdy, President of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society. The Subliminal History of New York State is an attempt to feel another, almost untouchable truth, buried under the guise of fact and rekindling a deep connection to place.

This evolving multidisciplinary exploration tracks the story of a living land with its own agency that speaks through us and the built structures atop it. New York is the site for this exploration due to its significance as a cultural and transportation hub, and since, not coincidentally, it is our home.

## **PAST PERFORMANCES/ OUR HISTORY:**

Carrie and Jesse have done several performances using Ms. Dashow's stories combined with Mr. Karlsberg's compositions. Together they Co-Direct the Society for a Subliminal State.

<http://www.subliminalstate.org>

The Subliminal History of New York State has been performed on Roosevelt Island in NYC, at PS1/MOMA in Queens, Gigantic ArtSpace (NYC), The Contemporary Artist Center (North Adams, MA) and in the Widow Jane Mine of Rosendale, NY.

Some video documentation of the performance in Rosendale, NY can be seen here (7 MB, takes a minute plus to download):

<http://www.dashow.net/images/movies/RosendaleMortal>

Songs:

<http://subliminalstate.org/site/subliminal-history-of-new-york-state/under-island/under-island-cd/>

Please see the website:

<http://www.subliminalstate.org>

Read an article about Subliminal History in the New York Sun:

<http://www.nysun.com/article/38580>

## **BIOS:**

Director of Subliminal History and Video Workshops:

<http://www.dashow.net>

**Carrie Dashow** is a New York City based interdisciplinary artist working between performance and video. She holds a an MFA in Integrated Electronic Arts from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a BFA in Video and Performance from the San Francisco Art Institute. Her work has been exhibited at venues internationally from St. Petersburg, Seoul, Paris and Berlin to New York, L.A. and Pittsburg, PA. Including P.S. 1/MOMA, UCLA Hammer Museum, ExitArt, Jessica Murray Projects, Gigantic ArtSpace, Printed Matter, Eyebeam, Andy Warhol Museum, in mines, public parks, campervans and her living room. Ms. Dashow is a Part Time professor of New Media at Purchase College.

Composer and Leader of Singing Workshops:

<http://www.silversand.org/>

**Jesse Pearlman Karlsberg** is a composer and shape note singer who lives and works in Troy, NY. He has an MFA in Integrated Electronic Arts from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a BA in Music and Philosophy from Wesleyan University. His work has been performed at shape note singings throughout the northeast and exhibited at venues and festivals including the Tang Museum, the Hudson Valley Center for Contemporary Art, the Conflux Festival, the Boston Cyberarts Festival, Eyebeam, the Center for Contemporary Culture in Barcelona, Art Interactive, free103point9's Wave Farm, and the Old Songs Building, Voorheesville, NY

Poster for and photograph of SHNYS participatory performance in the Widow Jane Mine, Rosendale, NY. Sponsored by the Century House Historical Society, July 30, 2006

