

## PRESS RELEASE

### Nathaniel Robin Mann begins artist residency at Pitt Rivers Museum and OCM

Composer and performer Nathaniel Robin Mann has begun his eighteen month artist residency with Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum and OCM. His residency is part of Sound and Music's Embedded project, which partners musicians with organisations who can support and develop their creative practice, forging new and exciting relationships. Embedded residencies have an extremely competitive application process with only five places being awarded in 2012-2013.

Nathaniel is an artist, performer, composer and sound designer. Performing solo as Animateddog and as one third of Dead Rat Orchestra, he draws strongly on folk idioms whilst using unusual objects (including 2x4, ukulele, guitar, phonofiddle and meat cleaver!) and conventional instruments to create unique and playfully experimental music.

Both organisations are delighted to be part of Embedded and to be working with Nathaniel. Jo Ross, Director of OCM said:

*"Nathan's work to date and the ideas he has for the residency are intriguing, playful and very unusual... We think he'll fit in very well at the museum and I'm genuinely excited about working with him to help realise his projects." --*

Noel Lobley, Ethnomusicologist and Researcher at the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford said:

*"Nathan is a wonderfully creative artist whose endless curiosity will perfectly complement the wide variety of collections at the Pitt Rivers Museum."*

Nathaniel began his residency in mid-July, exploring the museum's rich collections with special access to archives that are not on public display. He will draw inspiration both from the extraordinary objects as well as the museum's little-known sound archive. The sound archive includes the work of prolific field recorder Louis Sarno and his extensive recordings of the BayAka communities from the rainforests of the Central African Republic.

Nathaniel plans to create new work and performances throughout the next eighteen months. Details will be posted on the OCM website ([www.ocmevents.org](http://www.ocmevents.org)) and the Pitt Rivers Museum website (<http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk>) with more in-depth updates posted on Reel to Real (<http://pittrivers-sound.blogspot.co.uk/>), the Pitt River's blog dedicated to its sound collections.

ENDS



**Pitt Rivers Museum**  
South Parks Road  
Oxford OX1 3PP  
T: +44 (0)1865 270927  
F: +44 (0)1865 270943  
pr@pr.ox.ac.uk  
www.prm.ox.ac.uk

**Date of Issue: 31/07/2012**

## Notes for Editors

**Nathaniel Robin Mann** aka Animateddog is perhaps better known as one third of the UK's finest performance outfit Dead Rat Orchestra. Described as 'unconventional, traditional, highly liberal and subversive' (Sam Lee Magpies Nest) his solo explorations chart diverse realms; from the folk vernacular to the best of Disney show tunes. Tipping his cap along the way from everyone from Jacques Brel to Saul Williams, Mike Waterson to Nina Simone. From her darkest dirges to her lighter shades of puerile pop.

On stage Nathaniel uses a curious collection of instruments and objects to provide accompaniment and percussion: Phonofiddle, meat cleaver, 2x4, ukulele, guitar, stomps, bells and whistles, which provide stark contrast to his cappella moments. All drawing from a collection of both folk tradition and original material. 2012 will see Nathaniel's first solo releases, an EP of songs on the independent Antigen Records and a full length album on Fire Records off-shoot Critical Heights.

Within the Dead Rat Orchestra, Nathaniel has collaborated closely with Baby Dee, Marc Almond & Eric Chenuax, and in his solo guise has had the pleasure of sharing the stage with such diverse artists such as Ryan Driver, Doomed Bird of Providence and Emily Portman.

[beardsandtongues.tumblr.com/nathaniel](http://beardsandtongues.tumblr.com/nathaniel)  
[nathanielmann.co.uk](http://nathanielmann.co.uk)

**OCM** is a unique producer that works to develop and present the highest quality and most innovative new music and sound-based live events, to engage diverse local and national audiences with its work, and to deepen understanding and appreciation of musical cultures from within the UK and worldwide. Its raison d'être is to bring music, artists and audiences together in ways that encourage and create memorable and meaningful experiences for all.

Past commissions and projects include **Power Plant** (recently achieving a sell-out tour to Sydney, Tasmania and Hong Kong), award winning sound artist Robert Jarvis's **Echolocation** (a sound installation for a choir of bats at Chimney Meadows Nature Reserve), and **Music from the Genome** (the world premiere of Michael Zev Gordon's award winning Allele based on cutting edge research into the human genome, performed at the UK's national synchrotron facility Diamond Light Source). Ray Lee's **Ethometric Museum** was premiered at Oxford's Museum of the History of Science and has since been to 2011's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, at which it received excellent reviews, South Hill Park and BAC. OCM's latest project is Mira Calix's **Nothing Is Set In Stone**, which will be premiered at Fairlop Waters in June 2012 and is part of Secrets, presented by the Mayor of London and London 2012 Festival.

[www.ocmevents.org](http://www.ocmevents.org)

**Pitt Rivers Museum** was founded in 1884 when General Pitt-Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology, gave his collection to the University of Oxford. The General's founding gift contained more than 18,000 objects but there are now over half a million, including extensive photographic and sound archives. Early anthropologists and explorers donated many objects to the Museum and collecting continues through donations, bequests, special purchases and staff and student fieldwork. [www.prm.ox.ac.uk](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk)

**Sound and Music** promotes challenging contemporary music and sound art through a range of projects, incorporating live events, learning, artist development, and digital platforms. We embrace complexity and risk-taking and invite the audience to listen in new ways.

Our ambition is to reach as broad an audience as possible by providing opportunities to experience the enormous diversity of this work and the many different approaches to creating, producing and presenting it.

[www.soundandmusic.org](http://www.soundandmusic.org)

**For more information, print quality images and interviews contact:**

Victoria Boshier, Deputy Director  
01865 488369 / victoria@ocmevents.org  
OCM, Richard Hamilton Building, Oxford Brookes University, Headington Hill Campus, Oxford OX3 0BP

or

Kate Webber, Marketing & Press Officer  
01865 613017 / kate.webber@prm.ox.ac.uk  
Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3PP

