LINCOLN CENTER CELEBRATES ANDRIESSEN WITH MULTIMEDIA ‘SONIC EVOLUTIONS’ FESTIVAL

Louis Andriessen is the subject of a Lincoln Center retrospective called ‘Sonic Evolutions,’ May 1-15. Theater works and concert pieces, performed by leading Andriessen interpreters, are presented side by side with films by Peter Greenaway, Hal Hartley, and Steve Martland, offering a multifaceted view of one of Europe’s most fascinating and innovative artistic figures. Andriessen is only the second living composer to be so honored by Lincoln Center, following the John Adams festival last year.

Dutch for ‘matter’
The festival begins on May Day at Alice Tully Hall with a concert performance of the 1988 stage work De Materie, a signature piece of Andriessen’s that is viewed by many as a landmark in 20th century music. It is performed by the artists who gave the premiere: Amsterdam’s Asko and Schoenberg Ensembles, conducted by Reinbert de Leeuw.

a most peculiar triangle
On May 3, the Walter Reade Theater hosts the U.S. premiere of the film Rosa, a Horse Drama, Andriessen’s controversial opera of sexual obsession, produced with director/filmmaker Peter Greenaway. Premiered in Amsterdam by the Netherlands Opera in 1994, Rosa tells the fictional story of Uruguayan composer Juan Manuel de Rosa, his dual love affair with fiancée Esmerelda and a black horse, and the mysterious circumstances of his death - which point to an ongoing conspiracy to murder composers, one that has already taken Anton Webern and John Lennon.

his newest major score
David Robertson conducts the London Sinfonietta in the closing concert on May 15 at Alice Tully Hall, with the U.S. premiere of Andriessen’s 2002 work La Passione. This emotionally-charged piece sets World War I-era texts by Italian poet Dino Campagna. Says The Guardian, “Andriessen’s inventiveness allows him to create a distinctively sharp-edged, yet dusky, desolate sonority that seems to convey the sufferings or ‘passion’ of the sectioned Campana… Everything is available for creative use, nothing taken for granted, except a fiercely disciplined musicianship.” Visit www.lincolncenter.org for further details on ‘Sonic Evolutions.’