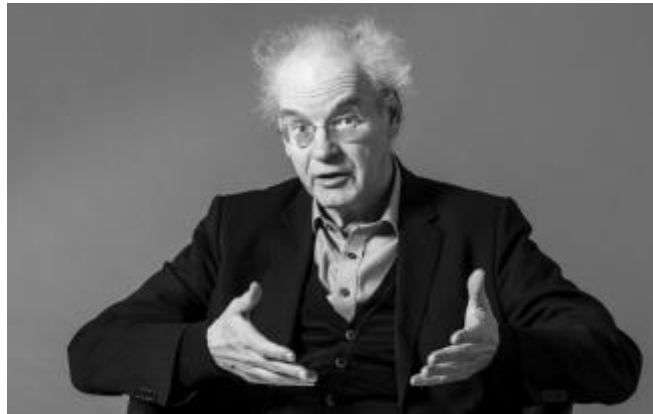


MEDIA RELEASE

WORLD FAMOUS AUDIO-SPECTATOR MICHEL CHION TO PERFORM AND PRESENT IN MELBOURNE



MELBOURNE, 3 May 2017 – Presented by Liquid Architecture, Melbourne International Film Festival and ACMI (Australian Centre for the Moving Image), world renowned composer, filmmaker and theorist Michel Chion will visit Australia for the first time with an historic and unlikely-to-be repeated concert and performative lecture at ACMI Cinemas.

As part of the MIFF program, Michel Chion will present two events:

- A performative lecture entitled ***The Voice in Cinema***, tracing a history of the ‘acousmètre’ – Chion’s term for the mysterious off-screen voice in cinema, through his own oeuvre and the works of Bresson, Lang, Syberberg, Spike Jonze and more.
- Plus an epic two-and-a-half-hour **concert** using ten surround-speakers featuring the classic composition *Requiem* (1973) alongside two new audiovisual compositions, *The Scream* (2017), and *Third Symphony* (2016).

Michel Chion said: “I am so happy and moved to come to Australia for the first time with my wife Anne-Marie Marsaguet, to present my music, audio-visual works and ideas. In the 1970s, in Paris, I knew about the work of numerous Australian researchers and composers in the field of electroacoustics. Some, like William Skyvington, who often exchanged with Pierre Schaeffer, contributed greatly to the advancement of computer music in France. William now lives in the South of France, and I, born in France, will come here to cities whose names make me dream for a long time. The earth is round and one, and sound and image, associated or not, are universal media!”

Born in 1947, Michel Chion is a composer, filmmaker, historian and writer – and arguably the world’s foremost thinker on sound in cinema.

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In the 1970s he was a member of the Groupe de Recherches Musicales (GRM), the influential collective led by composer and theoretician Pierre Schaeffer dedicated to furthering the art of 'musique concrète' through experiments in audiovisual communication, audible phenomena and music in general. It was at the GRM that Chion composed arguably his most famous work, *Requiem*, a noisy and surreal deconstruction of the Funeral Mass made whilst pondering the "troubled minority of the living, rather than the silent majority of the dead."

Since the 1980s, Chion has written extensively on the relationship of sound and image in the cinema, publishing in 1990 what many consider the definitive theoretical guide to the subject, *Audio-Vision: Sound on Screen*. In this momentous book, Chion advances a whole new lexicon for describing audiovisual concepts, via the works of Jacques Tati, Alfred Hitchcock, Jean-Luc Godard and others. On reading, film scholar Claudia Gorbman was moved to name him "a poet in theoretician's clothing."

For more contextual information on the concert, visit the [MIFF blog](#), where Chion writes in more depth about the three works he will be performing, including the world premiere of the musique concrète piece for two-track video-audio, *Le Cri (The Scream)*.

This special event is presented by Liquid Architecture, Melbourne International Film Festival and ACMI.

[Liquid Architecture](#) is an Australian organisation for artists working with sound.

The 2017 Melbourne International Film Festival runs 3 – 20 August.

TICKETS FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENT ARE NOW ON SALE via miff.com.au/michelchion

The Audio-Spectator Concert - Thursday 17 August, 6.30pm at ACMI

The Voice in Cinema Lecture - Wednesday 16 August, 6pm at ACMI

This special event is presented by:



acmi



NOTE TO EDITORS:

Michel Chion is available for interviews on request.

Liquid Architecture curators Joel Stern and Anabelle Lacroix are also available to discuss Michel Chion's work and the development of this special project.

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