

Flash Art

PARIS

Parreno's puppet

On the evening of September 18th 2006, about 160 people were invited by Philippe Parreno and gallery Air de Paris to a mysterious event in Studio 28, Paris' legendary movie theatre. A strange man was on stage, who would soon be introduced by Parreno as the ventriloquist Ronn Lucas. Together, and for approximately an hour, they performed a show that was entitled *Le cri ultrasonique de l'écureuil* (The ultrasonic sound of the squirrel). During this live performance, Philippe Parreno became a puppet through which the ventriloquist spoke, telling stories written by the artist himself, the first of which, entitled *The Underground Man*, was about a 15 or 16 year old boy interested in another kind of live performance: DJing. The simila-



Philippe Parreno, Documentation of *Le cri ultrasonique de l'écureuil*, Courtesy Air de Paris, Paris.

rities between the story and the experience were numerous, and reinforced the spectators' feeling of taking part in a particularly dense experience. This unique live performance will not result in a video nor a film, but in a series of photographs as well as a sound recording. For the artist, it is also likely to become a source from which other works could be developed in the future.

—Florence Derieux