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NOTES ON "FOOD" TAPE

This is one of four tapes that were employed in an environmental theatre piece called "Bloody Potatoes or Dr. Ratstar's Need" performed in NY, June '74. "Dr. Ratstar's Need" consisted of 7 spaces designated Food, Water, Sex, Violence, Humor, Null, and Control. Nine actors, working from prepared scripts, occupied these various spaces, the total area taking up some 4500 sq. feet. Four continuously running videotapes with a cycle period of from 10-30 minutes were used in the Food, Water, Sex, and Humor spaces. At the same time, 7 TV cameras, located thruout the total environment and mixed thru a specially designed (by George Brown) 11-input, 5 level keyer, were displayed via 16 TV monitors. The concept was to create a situation in which the audience was moved thru the total environment based on individual need.

Members of the audience, upon selecting an article of food from the food tape, would present the corresponding "gram number" to an actor (Michael Sullivan) inside a booth who was visible via a large (10") diameter wide-angle lens. Michael, in turn, would give them a round, starshaped, cookie in the center of which was a paper phallus--derived from the Hellenistic priapic rites-- and on which was written a routing sequence and prediction corresponding to the "gram number" previously selected. The sequence directed them thru a series of spaces within the total environment.

Statement:

"I've worked at mastering many arts in my 36 years. These days I find myself a video artist and writer. I've authored film scripts (one for Ivan Passer), video columns, and currently teach at the School of Visual Arts. I'm active in developing and applying new video techniques--currently I'm working with still photographs of colorized video-- and supplement my varied video experiences by taping the ever present crisis in my life and the lives of my friends."

Studies:

1961-65 A.B. Harvard College, Honorable Mention
Woodrow Wilson Fellowship
Studies in linguistics and communications,
MIT

Shows:

1974 --- Eleventh Annual Avant Garde Festival, Nov.
"Dr. Ratstar's Need," Kitchen for Electronic
Media, June
1973 --- 2nd Annual Video Arts Festival, May
10th Annual Avant Garde Festival, December
WBAI Video Festival, April
Kitchen For Electronic Media, one-man
shows in January, March, April
1972 --- Ninth Annual Avant Garde Festival, October
Kitchen For Electronic Media, one man shows
in June, October, November
1967 --- Poetry readings: Pennsylvania State College,
University of North Carolina, Duke
University.

Publications:

1974 --- Video Column, Rallying Point Magazine,
January, NYC.
Millimeter Magazine, continuing video
column.
1972 --- Wormwood, original feature film script for
Ivan Passer, purchased by Leroy Street
Productions

Lectures and Teaching Experience:

1974 --- Lecture and workshop on video. Second
International Continuing Education
Institute on Video In Community Psychiatry,
November
1971-75 --- Lecturer in Video and Film, School of
Visual Arts, NYC.
1972 --- Lecturer in Communications, Pratt Institute,
NYC.

Description of Works on Videotape

- Dr. Ratstar's Need Four tapes--- Food, Water, Sex, and Humor--
utilized in environmental piece by the same
name. Tapes utilize multiple keying and
horizontal traveling images. 80 min.
- Thought Morphology A tape utilizing bio-feedback. Brainwaves,
generated by the central character, are used
to trigger the onset and duration of images
as well as influence their size. Employs
three levels of video keying, multiple cameras
image processing and audio synthesizer. 20 min
- Mad Man's Drum Image processed videotape based on woodcuts
by Lynd Ward. Utilizes three cameras, video
keyers, audio synthesizer. 23 min.
- Basye's Last Videotape Co-produced and directed with Mark Margolis
and the Blue Dome Theatre. Concerns the
life of a fictitious video artist. 38 min.
- Shadows Real time dance piece with members of Blue
Dome theatre. 15 min.
- Brainwaves Experimental tape interfacing alfa and beta
waves with video.
- Media Pan One hour panning shot of newspaper clippings
from 1962-68 in collaboration with Jerry
Foyster and the Vasulkas.





