

Grey Suit

Video for Art & Literature

"Grey Suit is a magazine on VHS cassette featuring poets, performers, musicians, film-makers and video artists. As well as sights and sounds, readings, opinions and innovative uses of text are presented. Contributions can be in any language. The ethos of Grey Suit is to provide an interface between creative fields and to get the work seen. Viewers take advantage of our access to an international grapevine of writers and practitioners in the time-based media. Grey Suit makes their work available worldwide at an affordable price. It brings together original material from all countries. We aim for broadcast quality so long as this does not restrict the inclusion of exceptional work. Back issues of Grey Suit build into a library of the arts in the nineties.

The magazine is published quarterly and lasts one hour."

Text taken from the Grey Suit catalogue.

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The ACELAP Archive currently holds issues 3 – 12 of the video series.

ISSUE 1 (*nb. not currently held by the Theatre Collection*)

Spring 1993

Contents:

The CRITICAL TIRADE

(9 mins.)

A regular feature allowing critics, theorists etc. to vent their spleen about matters that concern them. In this issue, Anthony Howell 'sounds off about specialised arts magazines';

SHIT!

(3 mins.)

A video by German artist Kai Zimmer. 'A (Federal) Chancellor's views and a young man's problems with constipation.';

MY AFRICAN STOOL

(3 mins.)

Anna Petrie settles on her African stool, but discovers it to be an unstable colonial perch!;

STRAMBOTTI VARIATIONS

(4 mins.)

The poet F.T. Prince, celebrating his eightieth year, reads love poems whose structure is based on that of Italian folk-songs;

The DISCOVERY OF THE PHONOGRAPH

(6 mins.)

Video of a 16mm film by American sculptor/performer Stuart Sherman. 'The streets of New York serenade us - but then the phonograph is "discovered" and song ebbs from the city.'

ISSUE 2 *(nb. not currently held by the Theatre Collection)*

Summer 1993

Contents:

The CRITICAL TIRADE

(4 mins.)

Jason Walsh argues against arts funding which favours "minority" status;

WIDE (OF GROWTH AND DIVERSION)

(13 mins.)

Norwegian poet/performer Caroline Bergvall reads, with slide dissolves by Chris Hewitt and music by Michelle Chowrimootoo;

HARISSA

(3 mins.)

Video from Z Productions in Marseilles. 'L'Harissa ca m'arrache le bec.';

TOILET

(6 mins.)

Hugo Williams reads this and other poems;

COPENHAGEN SUSPENSION

(14 mins.)

Australian body artist Stelarc suspended by 18 meathooks, swings by a crane many metres above the roofs of Copenhagen. Music by Michael Nyman;

BRIOCHE

(3 mins.)

Video from Z Productions in Marseilles. 'Recette traditionnelle de la brioche au beurre et ce qui s'ensuite.';

BAUSTELL

(10 mins.)

Video from Frigo in Lyons. 'A chain of workers create a rhythmic ballet as they build a house in new Delhi.'

ISSUE 3

Autumn 1993

Contents:

The CRITICAL TIRADE

(5 mins.)

Deborah Levy and Anthony Howell discuss the tendency to rhapsodise which they argue so often debases literary and dramatic work;

METHUSELAH

(20 mins.)

Video by Irish Australian Cathy Vogan who lives in Paris in which she compares the oldest tree in the world with ageing actor Ernest Berk. The music is by Chet Baker;

NASE

(2 mins.)

A short, gyroscopic video by the German artist and film-maker Harald Busch;

AUTUMN

(18 mins.)

An essay on temporality in which British video artist Catherine Elwes invokes a personification of the season, offering another view of ageing or fading;

JOHN ASHBERRY

(6 mins.)

The American poet reads a selection of his verse;

CAPTIVATE VIOLATE

(2 mins.)

Performance artist Clare Pritchard '...achieves a condition of suspended helplessness.'

ISSUE 4

Winter 1993

Contents:

The CRITICAL TIRADE

(5 mins.)

Anthony Howell looks at the Gwen John works in the National Museum of Wales and considers the pros and cons of "regional internationalism";

The SWEATLODGE

(7 mins.)

Video of a 35mm film by Mike Stubbs based on a grey-suited performance by Man Act;

ROTOR

(4 mins.)

Video of an 8mm film by Julian Woropay which spins around a fairground phenomenon;

DEREK BAILEY

(5 mins.)

The guitarist Derek Bailey improvises;

CX/FIN

(5 mins.)

Video by Parisian Yann Nguyen Minh which has 'the dark quality of an erotic dream';

ANNE-MARIE ALBIACH

(10 mins.)

The poet reads her work in her Parisian home, videotaped by Joseph Simas;

The TOWER

(18 mins.)

Video of a 16mm film of a table construction by Anthony Howell performed in the Art Gallery of New South Wales and directed by Australian film-maker James Bogle.

ISSUE 5

Spring 1994

Contents:

SNIG

(5 mins.)

Video of an early 16mm film by Jayne Parker. Eels are revealed among the bedsheets;

ON THE SPENT AND SILENT SAND

(4 mins.)

Video of an 8mm film by Dennis Dracup. 'In it a remarkable lens captures a mournful seascape';

FALSE PREMISES

(25 mins.)

Video by Tanya Ury. 'The growth of a house is contrasted with the growth of a woman';

I WANNA BE YOUR FAVOURITE BEE

(3 mins.)

Video by Philippe Dorain and Serge Comte 'evoking the urges of Spring';

POETS OF OBSCURITY

(5 mins.)

Huang Xiuqi, scholar of Chinese modernism, reads the abstract poems of this group of writers who surfaced in China in 1979, many of whom are now in exile;

OVER ENKELE OGENBLIKKEN

(13 mins.; English title: **IN A FEW MOMENTS' TIME**)

Video of a 16mm film by Dutch film-maker Wineke Van Muiswinkel in which 'the home travels by rail'.

ISSUE 6

Summer 1994

Contents:

SEARCH

(8 mins.)

A silent video by Pat Naldi and Wendy Kirkup of a synchronised walk through Newcastle observed by 16 police-operated 24 hour surveillance cameras;

SPLEEN

(3 mins.)

An erotic video by Paris-based artist Yann Nguyen Minh which pays homage to Baudelaire;

SINGLE SPACE

(4 mins.)

A performance by Mehmet Sander, a Turkish dancer living in Los Angeles. 'In response to a more fatal condition, his strictly formal energy astounds us as he defies being braced in a frame;

The LOOSE JOINTS OF PERFORMANCE WRITING

(8 mins.)

A video meditation by Norwegian poet/performer Caroline Bergvall who uses performance to extend her texts;

RED SHOVEL

(9 mins.)

Video of an impressionistic 16mm film by Iowa-based artist Leighton Pierce, shot beside the verge of a road;

ORGY

(8 mins.)

'A performance flashed out of the dark by Gavin McGrath;

THREAD OF VOICE

(19 mins.)

Video of a 16mm film made by sound poetry group Arf Arf, who have been working in Europe and Australia since 1985.

ISSUE 7

Autumn 1994

Contents:

PASSAGE À L'ACTE

(12 mins.)

Video of a 16mm black and white film by Martin Arnold from Austria. 'Four people at the breakfast table, trapped by the pulsating repetitions of the editing table'. Utilises images from the 1962 US feature film "To Kill a Mocking Bird" directed by Robert Mulligan;

CENOTAPH

(4.5 mins.)

New music improviser Phil Minton vocalises in a Cardiff pedestrian subway;

TRANSMISSIONS

(5.5 mins.)

Performer and theorist Sarbjit Samra rails against funding bodies demanding positive images in a conservative framework when supporting ethnic issues;

ENCORE

(10 mins.)

English performance artist Francesca Gore 'becomes the shimmering prow of a harp at an angle which generates a tremor of tension';

The BULADELAH-TAREE HOLIDAY SONG CYCLE

(18 mins.)

Australian poet Les Murray reads a sequence based on an Aboriginal poetic form;

FAINT CLUE

(5.5 mins.)

One of five songs from the video album "8 Million" by American film and video-maker Abigail Child and musician Ikue Mori.

ISSUE 8

Winter 1994

Contents:

SITE-ATIONS SELECTION

(20 mins.)

Presents work shown at the international gathering of artists in performance and installation, held in Cardiff in Autumn 1994, including sculptor David Shepherd's smoking oil-drum ovens saluting trains passing beneath a flyover, Seiji Shimoda from Japan performing a fantastic feat of stamina - 'On the Table', and sculptor Gary Bristow's self-sawing branch pursuing the inevitability of its practice;

PALE BLACK

(13 mins.)

Video of a 16mm film by Australian author/film-maker Marie Craven 'following the shadows of her dreams';

CITY RACING

(4 mins.)

A kinetic installation by Clare Charnley created in London in 1993;

Le BRUIT DE LA VRIETTE

(9 mins.; English title: **The NOISE OF THE WOODWORM**)

An enigmatic video by French artist François Vogel, recently on military service in Noumea, New Caledonia;

The JITTERS

(14 mins.)

Poet/performer Cris Cheek '...gradually consumes the lettuce that illuminates his performance.'

ISSUE 9

Spring 1995

Contents:

The TITLE ROLE

(6 mins.)

Video by Dublin-based performance artist Anne Seagrave;

REPAST

(8.5 mins.)

Sexual tension over the dinner table by American video artist and poet Joseph Simas with Elodie Picquet';

MUSEUM PIECES II

(1 min.)

Video by London-based artist Annie Griffin;

VIVARIUM

(12.5 mins.)

Video dance filmed by Australian Mahalya Middlemist and performed by Sue- Ellen Kohler;

POEMS

(6 mins.)

By Hull-based avant-garde artist Peter Didsbury;

NYLON

(40 seconds)

Video short by Lorraine Butler;

The PINK

(7.5 mins.)

`Videographic innovation meshes with visual assault in a video by Rosalind Finch';

GRIDLOCK

(12 mins.)

Tense images from a performance by Andre Stitt;

FETISHISM

(7.5 mins.)

Artist and theorist Alastair Peebles concludes his talk at the Cardiff Art in Time event;

The HAIR OR THE MAN

(10 mins.)

`A clipped reaction to sensual image fetishism by Oladele Bamgboye';

I WILL SURVIVE

(2 mins.)

Award winning short by Sean Roe;

BERLIN WEST

(7 mins.)

`Linguistic coincidences by American Stuart Sherman';

CONTEMPLATING A PENCIL

(2 mins.)

A second short video by Lorraine Butler;

IMMORAL SONNETS

(7 mins.)

`Scandalous rhyming by Anthony Howell';

SUSPENSION (BRIDGE)

(4 mins.)

`Luke McKeown hangs within his own installation';

HEAD PIECES: "REVENGE"

(1 min.)

A short film by Annie Griffin;

MBIRA SONGS

(18 mins.)

Played by Zimbabwean musician Stella Chiweshe - `Queen of the Thumb Piano'.

ISSUE 10

Summer 1995

Contents:

SIT

(2.5 mins.)

Video by concept artist, Alan Currall - using the blackboard to draw the impossible;

FALLOW FIELD

(20 mins.)

An account of a video installation mounted at the Royal Festival Hall in London in 1994 by Lulu Quinn, Tony Sinden and Stan Steele, and featuring Major the shire horse. 'Ploughed furrows make a vivid contrast to the plate-glass structures of the city'. Video edited by Lulu Quinn;

TWO COW POEMS

(7 mins.)

The first by Glaswegian Liz Lochhead, the second by Australian Les Murray, both recorded in Cardiff on National Poetry Day 1994;

The PISSER

(5 mins.)

'Richard Squires prolongs the agony until homeostasis is achieved through a cascade';

LAP

(1 min.)

Second conceptual video by Alan Currall;

CUCKOO

(40 mins.)

A performance by Station House Opera from 1987. 'To the music of bowed cellos and sawn wardrobes, the company nail each other to the furniture and elevate the floor...'

ISSUE 11

Autumn 1995

Contents:

'TAP'

(2.5 mins.)

A short, lyrical, watery video by Tracey McConnell-Wood;

'KITCHEN SHOW'

(22 mins.)

Bobby Baker's dynamic performance about domestic and culinary ritual;

'STREAM LINE'

(8 mins.)

A film made by Chris Welsby in 1976, presents a continuous real time tracking shot of a stream bed on Mount Kinderscout in Derbyshire;

'UNTITLED'

(3 mins.)

A delicately balanced video by Alan Schechner;

'POEMS'

(15 mins.)

A performance by Welsh performance poet, Ifor Thomas recorded at the 1995 Cardiff Art in Time Show;

'HI-8 REPORT'

(4.5 mins.)

A rapportage item featuring events seen at the 1995 AVE Festival in Arnhem, Netherlands.

ISSUE 12

Winter 1995

Contents:

'OPEN CLOSING DOOR'

(14 mins.)

Impossible Theatre use animation to examine the relations between the criminal and victim, using the taped voices of the protagonists;

'LET'S GO SHOPPING'

(6 mins.)

A prose piece by Canadian, Kerry-Lee Powell, describing the exhilaration of credit card fraud;

'FINGER BURGER'

(2 mins.)

A short by French video artist, Paul Granjon - 100% beef?;

'MEAT'

(11 mins.)

Ian Williams presents a poetic use of text and image in a cannibalistic atmosphere of fear and paranoia;

'SPEED ZOMBIE'

(5 mins.)

Kim Hjorthrox, Karl Ramberg and Per Teljer/Sunny Heart Videos from Trondheim, bathe in the gore-spattered clichés of classic slasher films;

'HOMAGE TO ROUSSEL'

(22 mins.)

A performance by Anthony Howell - the formal techniques of Raymond Roussel applied to action appear to culminate in perverse violence