

MOBIUS EVENTS

354 CONGRESS STREET BOSTON (FORT POINT) (617) 542-7416

a new space for experimental work in the performing and media arts

MOBIUS is dedicated to sponsoring and developing experimental work in the performing and media arts - performance art/theater, sound/music, movement/dance, video/film, mixed media and installations.

Vol. I No. 4

STAND-UP: A "MODERN" DANCE

Choreographer: Alice Trexler
Comedian: Tony V

HANDS-OFF

Drawings by Mark Pugh

Fridays and Saturdays, March 30 and 31,
April 6 and 7 at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$5.00 with reservations

For some time I've been considering how I could combine the two seemingly disparate forms of stand-up comedy and post-modern dance. For many years, my choreographic concerns have mostly been formalist, problem-solving ventures, not oriented toward entertainment per se. Several years ago, I introduced elements of comedy into my "Post-Modern Tales: A Non-Lecture" and also performed the humorous text for dancer, "Running Out of Breath", by the composer Tom Johnson. My interest in comedy had been sparked.

Since the end of the summer, I have sporadically performed my own stand-up act throughout the open-mike circuit in town and have watched numerous comics. After working such a long time in the opposite direction, I remain fascinated by the challenge of immediately gratifying the audience. At this writing, the work is in rehearsal and decisions are being made about weaving Tony's material with mine. I look forward to teaching non-dancer Tony V his movement solo.

The choreographic elements will refer to well-known post-modern choreographers and conventions with the four dancers reflecting facets of stand-up through gesture, content, and structure. I think of the concert as being an evening-length work rather than a series of discrete dances/events as many dance concerts are.

Alice Trexler

"Hands-Off", an exhibition of large-scale pencil drawings (4 foot by 5 foot), will be on view during the performance of "Stand-Up". This exhibition is part of a series of 40 drawings to be finished early in '85.

Mark Pugh

STATEMENTS ON PERFORMANCE by Jonathan Scheuer

- Re-create performance as a devotional activity.
- Self-expression is a medium, not an object.
- It's not absurd to develop a performance structure before choosing imagery or events.
- Every perceptual moment includes an emotion. Every action has an emotive basis.
- Imagery can provoke outrage. Form (repetition) can only provoke annoyance.
- Concentration is everything.
- Performance style: as if not performing.
- Lifestyle: as if an audience is ever-present.
- Today's audience will sit still for just about anything.
- People who work hard have a right to some entertainment.
- Diverse and contradictory responses indicate that the performance was on target.
- The audience is disturbed when you fail to vindicate its prejudices.
- How intelligent was Shakespeare's audience?
- Devotional activity serves to glorify existence.

MOBIUS EVENTS

BABY STEPS

Deborah Fortson
Steve Seidel

Thursdays through Saturdays,
April 19 - 21 and April 26 - 28 at 8:00 pm;
Sundays, April 22 and 29 at 3:00 pm

Tickets: \$5.00

Baby Steps is a performance of the movements of a baby from birth through walking, with a monologue composed of many voices, characters who speak through the baby's body as it is growing and playing. The monologue is a river of thought: the pleasure of the body/fatigue/injury/death; mourning/family history/the future of the child; motherhood/working/intimacy/play/imagination; the pressures which a competitive society puts on the development of these last five.

In October we performed Baby Steps at Mobius as a work-in-progress. We received a wide range of useful commentary and enthusiasm which has helped us in the process of finishing and shaping the work.

First, we finished the script and blocked it to the movement. Then we showed it to an audience in New York and it didn't work. So we threw the order away and changed our process from one of thinking out the choreography to one of improvising with the pieces of voice and movement until combinations surface which seem right. As we are working now, the pieces shift around from rehearsal to rehearsal.

This may be the structure for the final performances, with some sequences being set and others varying from day to day. The process is very exciting and opens up greater range for combinations of rhythms and dynamic builds which will shape the final piece in a lively way.

We will be rehearsing at Mobius in March and anyone interested in watching should give us a call for times. Having watchers adds energy to an improv session, sometimes makes possible a greater leap into the unknown!

(Call 731-9697 if you want to observe a rehearsal of Baby Steps.)



1984

Eventworks--- Program to date (all subject to change) Tel. 731-2040

March 21	benefit	Limbo Race, Three Colors, Children of Paradise	The Rat, Kenmore Sq. \$5 donation
April 1	OPENING	PARTY WITH PERFORMANCES, VIDEO AND DANCE	AT MOBIUS AT 2 PM
April 4	film	FILM FORWARD, 1984 local artists	Longwood Theater
April 7	film	AMNON BUCHBINDER screening + lecture	Longwood Theater
April 11	perf/ music	DAN MYDLACK "another performance by danny mydlack" MARIO-ERIK PAOLI "open city"	Tower Auditorium
April 13	visual/ video	LISA CRAFTS, KALEB SAMPSON "octopus exultation"	Longwood Theater
April 15	video	PAUL WONG and the NEW CANADIAN VIDEO SHOW	Boston Arch. Center
April 18	sound	SOUND PERFORMANCE + AUDIO TAPES "new + used"	Church of the Covenant
April 19	media	MARTHA ROSLER "the camera as weapon"	Morse Auditorium
April 20	media	MARTHA ROSLER video + talk	Inst. Contemp. Art
April 21	art/ music	ZYPHER + ERO "style rights" with rappers	Filene's and Downtown Crossing
April 22	ritual/ music	Psychic TV, GENESIS P-ORRIDGE	TBA
April 25	video	CLAYTON MATTOS "how many marists can fit on a bridge?"	Mass. College of Arts/ squash courts
April 29	perf/ music	DIAMANDA GALAS + EISENKINDER recorded for radio broadcast over satellite	Longwood Theater
May 1	media/ perf	RANDY +BERENICCI GALA CLOSING EVENT...FREE with fireworks...perhaps....	Charles River Reservation Cambridge

MOBIUS EVENTS

WHY I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME A WEALTHY ARTIST

A statement by Polare Levine

A few months ago, I was relieving myself in the men's room at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Cambridge. On the wall was a print of a Mark Rothko painting. I immediately recalled a bank I had been in. On the walls were a number of large paintings in the style of Jackson Pollock. They were piping in a muzak version of a song about Van Gogh. Here in the mainstream of American consciousness are three tortured rebels who died for the sins of the bourgeoisie. I also recall waiting on a supermarket line where I saw a magazine cover with a color glossy picture of two people. One was a former member of the Fluxus group and the other was a man who had once outraged the Western world by proclaiming himself more popular than Jesus. Some of the words on the cover said, "YOKO: How Will She Cope With Life After John?" I paid for my groceries with three one-dollar bills. Each bill had on it the picture of the generalissimo of a radical band of guerilla soldiers. With that same dollar bill a housewife in Corpus Christi, Texas, will buy three cans of Campbell's chicken noodle soup: three vessels, each containing nutritionally raped semi-liquids. These same cans were icons of the 60's avant-garde.

I've recently come to the conclusion that today's avant-garde is tomorrow's advertising slop and vice versa.

It makes one give pause.

America eats rebels every day for lunch and says, "mmm mmm good". John Cage is a tuna sandwich. Nothing more, nothing less. The sum total of Western culture equals exactly a bowl of soup and a piece of toast. I don't find this disturbing in the least. I'm merely acknowledging in public a very mundane fact of life.

So why do we artists think we're all such hot stuff and our little projects worthy of so much attention? Why do we construct hierarchic pyramids of achievement that suggest that the people on the bottom level of the pyramid paint and buy pictures of sailboats and fruitbowls and the people who inhabit the top of the pyramid fill a 1200 sq. ft. room with topsoil?

We make firm distinctions between art and entertainment. If "Laverne and Shirley" is entertainment, is Laurie Anderson an artist or is she an entertainer for the educated elite? Is the purpose of art to entertain and decorate? If so, are Johnny Carson and Calvin Kline artists? If not, are Spalding Gray and Andy Warhol entertainers? If art's purpose is to uplift one spiritually, is Billy Graham an artist? If it is to politicize, is Ronald Reagan an artist? If it is a means of confrontation, is Larry Flint an artist?

We artists spend much of our lives nurturing the identity of an exclusive fraternity of mystics entrusted with putting the pure essence of Beauty and Truth upon an endless mass of foam guzzlers and nosepickers. We call the The Bourgeoisie. They are dumb and rich. We are smart and broke. And we commit ourselves to this formula.

However, it's only the bourgeoisie who have the means to spend a portion of their lives in places such as medical schools, art schools and the like. It's only the bourgeoisie who are at leisure to pass their time in heated debate of the fine points of aesthetics or in the making or buying of art.

But I'm not bourgeois! I don't own a luxurious complete 9-piece dinette set from the renowned collection of Ethan Allen! Who is the bourgeoisie anyway? Is it the power brokers? They are the only ones who can afford art. Is it everyone out there who doesn't appreciate, understand and rally around the banner of the avant-garde? If so, there are only 15,000 people on the entire planet who are not bourgeois. Unless one accepts only the most rigid definition, it's difficult to escape the inescapable: We are of them. There's even a bit of Mom and Pop in us all.

Unfortunately for us, the hordes out there are immune to shock tactics. They've been through, the cubists, the Dadaists, Sinatra, Elvis, Brando, JD's, Lenny Bruce, Larry Flint, The Beatles, hippies, happenings, saying "fuck" on stages, doing fuck on stages and watching people eat shit on the big silver screen. Far out art can at best bore the non-believer. The Masses have learned to simply change the station. They now go to art events with the express intention of being "shocked". They like it. In present day America we are as potent as whoopie cushions when it comes to popping holes in the smiley-face balloon. Rebels are heretofore unemployed. It's time for us to find a new line of work, a new formula. Such as the business of being creative and sensitive; sensitive to the amorphous and futile dichotomy of our social and aesthetic assumptions. Creativity is the only remaining viable avenue of rebellion against all the stupidity on this green sphere. Unselfconscious, non-dogmatic, non-hierarchic creativity is so insidious a weapon that its enemy never notices its presence. It's that subtle. Very quiet in its own unassuming, unselfcongratulatory way. It has integrity. It has stiletto fineness. It has no favorite style. It has no favorite occupation, be that "artist" or "dentist". And it moves people in spite of itself.

excerpted from a lecture delivered at Mass College of Art

11/83

From the Editors

This issue of Mobius Events contains, in addition to statements by Alice Trexler and Deborah Fortson regarding the work they will show here, a pair of credos by Jonathan Scheuer and Polare Levine. We want to thank Jonathan and Polare for their contributions -- and to repeat our call to artists to send us your statements, declarations, articulations of your desires and dreams. Let us hear from you!

J.A.
D.M.

MARCH 20 VERNAL EQUINOX EVENT
Boston Performance Artists
7:00 pm at MOBIUS
Donation \$6

Mobius is supported, in part, by the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, a state agency; by a City Arts Grant from the City of Boston; and by the generous support of its audiences and friends.



EVENTS AT MOBIUS				
<u>MARCH</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u> 29	<u>FRIDAY</u> 30	<u>SATURDAY</u> 31	<u>SUNDAY</u> 1
	Stand-Up & "Hands-Off" 8:00 pm	Stand-up & "Hands-Off" 8:00 pm	Stand-Up & "Hands-Off" 8:00 pm	Eventworks Opening 2:00 pm
<u>APRIL</u>				
	19 Baby Steps 8:00 pm	20 Baby Steps 8:00 pm	21 Baby Steps 8:00 pm	22 Baby Steps 3:00 pm
	26 Baby Steps 8:00 pm	27 Baby Steps 8:00 pm	28 Baby Steps 8:00 pm	29 Baby Steps 3:00 pm

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