

dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y

A FILM BY JOHAN GRIMONPREZ

Exhibition Dates: 20 March - 2 May 1999

68 mins, colour and black & white, stereo, digital Betacam, written, edited and directed by Johan Grimonprez. Excerpts from *Mao II* and *White Noise* by Don deLillo. Soundtrack by David Shea. Produced by Kunstencentrum STUC and Centre Georges Pompidou.

Dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y is the unofficial chronicle of world-wide airplane hijacking. Clips from archival news, home movies, propaganda films and cartoons are spliced together, the soundtrack jumps between seventies soundtracks and a narrative taken from Don deLillo's *Mao II* and *White Noise*, but the whole remains steadily focused on the apparent complicity of terrorism, the media and government.

We are led from the relative innocence of the sixties hijacker-revolutionary, to chilling anonymous destruction in the nineties, by way of Tokyo, Tel Aviv, Algiers, Beirut and Lockerbie. Horror appears between snatches of banality or kitsch, hostages are shot, planes blown up, hijackers executed. The Japanese Red Army, Fidelistas, Black Panthers, the PLO and the CIA all have their cameo roles; and so do the airhostesses, the pilot enjoying five minutes of fame, the cute kid who says he would do it all again if he didn't have to go back to school.

The archive footage provides a parallel history of the evolution of television, from black and white to colour, with theme music, soundbites, logos and links. Film gives way to video and finally to camcorder: now everyone has the chance to shoot their own catastrophe. The TV set is the medium for the intrusion of violence and anarchy into the intimacy and order of the home. Grimonprez concocts the same queasy mixture of glamour, banality and horror that we are regularly fed by the media.

This is the Australian premiere of *Dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y*, widely celebrated as a highlight of 1997's Documenta X festival. Johan Grimonprez is a Belgian artist who has studied in Ghent, Maastricht and New York and is currently living and working in Berlin.

Screening times Tues - Fri 11am, 12.15pm, 1.30pm, 2.45pm, 4pm
Sat and Sun 12pm, 1.15pm, 2.30pm, 3.45pm

Corporate Sponsors: Corporate Initiatives, KEF and Luxman.

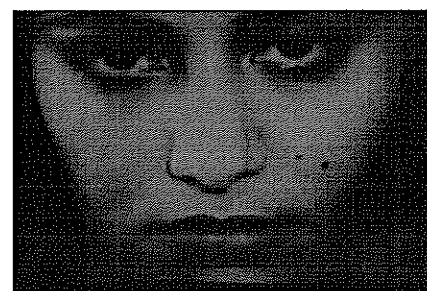
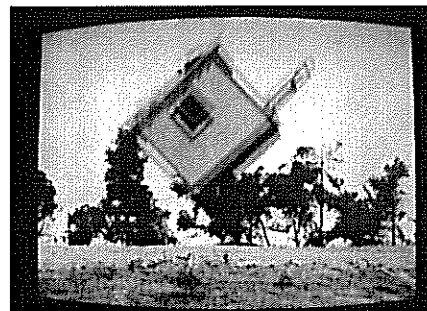


Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Dallas Brooks Drive, South Yarra 3141

Gallery Hours: Tues to Fri 11 - 5 Sat and Sun 12 - 5 acca@adm.monash.edu.au

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Johan Grimonprez, *dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y*, 1997, video stills