

Chat Transcript
Videofreex, March 27, 2017

Davidson:I hear you all just fine.

vishaka:Hello from Singapore!

Phyllis:hi from DC - Phyllis & Michael here

beverley:Hello! So great to meet you all! :)

Skip Blumberg:hello! is Peter Bradley attending?

Alvin:Good morning and evening fellow earthlings

Alvin:From Tampines New Town, Singapore here

dlb:greetings from Brooklyn

dlb:sorry, I should say it as "BROOOKLYN IN DA HOUUUUSSSSSEEEE!!!!!!!"

Alvin:Way to go Beverley!

Randall Packer:<https://thirdspacenet.com/>

Skip Blumberg:welcome to Brklyn!

Alvin:Locations: Singapore, California, Connecticut and NY? Did I get that right?

Alvin:They look like one happy family. Wow, amazing hair in the 60s-70s.

Randall Packer:Videofreex site <https://videofreex.com/>

Alvin:That image was banned where? On American television in the 70s?

Alvin:Unsurprising if it was. I recall how 60s television like I Love Lucy depicting Lucy and Desi Arnaz in separate beds on certain episodes even though they were husband and wife onscreen and in real life.

Alvin:So were male underarms banned on American television back then?

dlb:john satin from the Addams family said something to the effect "the censors complained that Gomez and mortician had the first relationship between a married couple that could possibly have produced children"

dlb:satin even

dlb:and morticia, spell check hates me

Alvin:Looking at American dramas now, it's hard to imagine what American censorship was like back then

Alvin:Were male actors shown on television by the beach or in the pool in compression shirts then?

dlb:Gomez's weird wrist/hand fetish came from them not wanting them to kiss on the lips, so john astin made it creepier in response

Alvin:Lol

Alvin:I think there were images of Cary Grant and James Dean exposing their underarms, but not on TV I suppose

Alvin:I grew up with Sesame Street, the Muppets and the Electric Company, The Cosby Show in the 80s --- pretty decent fare: We only ever saw Kermit's underarms.

Alvin:Question for Ms Ratcliff: What was it like as a lady, in this pioneering field in the day?

Alvin:I ask this question because I recall a dangerous situation when a videofreexist was videographing a police officer who was about to hit him with his baton. Did the ladies ever encounter the same level of hostility and violence?

Alvin:Oh, I didn't know there were different roles for men and women in broadcast in the 70s

dlb:One possibly indirect (or at a higher Chakra level as skip said) influence on the area is that wavefarm.org 's transmission art center is up in Greene county in acre, more audio focused, but exploring broadcast as an art form

Alvin:So I suppose sexism was rife in broadcasting then?

dlb:(yay RISD, I took classes there when I was in grad school at Brown)

dlb:sexism is rife in broadcasting today, I can't even imagine what life at the mainstream media back then, weather girls and spokes models, women were pretty subjects to be lensed not the people controlling the lens

Alvin:Oh yes, you just reminded me of Vannah White

Alvin:Wheel of Fortune

dlb:let's spin the wheel!!

Randall Packer:Please, questions from the online audience

Tania:I noticed in an earlier slide that you labelled yourselves as 'unlicensed broadcaster'. How did this status quo both extend and distance yourselves from viewers and participants? Esp when some of the filming was done live.

Tania:**closed and distanced yourselves.

Tania:yet distanced

Skip Blumberg:Nobody cared about legality in Lanesville. Republican was liberal to the mountain folk... who were rugged individualists.

dlb:random question: why lanesville? I know numerous artists and writers were moving into places up the Hudson valley from NYC (with varying degrees of success) such as Allen Ginsberg and (briefly) William S.Burroughs, etc what prompted that particular little spot?

Tania:interesting!

Noah Kimerling:no one else was doing this

Skip Blumberg:part of it was back to nature. part: the price for what we got was affordable. we started looking close to the city and kept looking further and further until we got to Lanesville and then stopped.

Yi Xian:What was the experience like making art that was so new and against the current at the time? What motivated you to keep doing so and did you have any doubts in the process?

Skip Blumberg:making pure art is exhilarating. try it yourself. you have to dare to make mistakes to achieve something new.

Skip Blumberg:hey Noah. what's up?

Noah Kimerling:we were radicals doing radical radio to a smaLL COMUNITY

Skip Blumberg:more than radio w pictures

Noah Kimerling:We gave this small comunity entertainment & information including tax info.

Noah Kimerling 2:Noah was your account im suprised you cant remember

Noah Kimerling 2:Then one and only radical accountant for the radical comunity!!

Alvin:Question to all 3 revolutionaries: What were your individual motivations in setting up and operating an unlicensed outfit? What was the most drastic action the authorities took in reaction to your unlicensed activities? I ask this because Videofreex reminds me of Noam Chomsky's article, The Responsibility of Intellectuals. Chomsky offers an institutional analysis of broadcast media that functions as a tool of propaganda, and calls on readers to tell the truth as a moral obligation. Videofreex appears to me almost prophetic --- political dissidents, critical of received opinion, risking life and limb to tell the truth.. The Internal Security Department is fearful of dissidents telling the truth, and would shut down unlicensed outfits speaking inconvenient truths that the doctrinal system wishes to conceal.

Alvin:A political dissident here was detained for 28 years without trial.

Nat Goh:What do you all feel is the difference between the broadcasting now (like on youtube, facebook live, etc) and when you all did broadcasting then?

Skip Blumberg:Live TV is a real kick w immediate very positive feedback. Remember b'cast TV was far and away the most important source of news AND entertainment at that time. So we had the added pleasure of harnessing that power in our hands (literally).

Skip Blumberg:Then it wuz hard to get on but when we did we had huge audiences. Now everyone can get on (the internet) but how do you get publicity to get an audience?

dlb:Alvin: I love Singapore but I'm always was a bit worried I'll be bundled off for something, now I'm more worried crossing borders to/from the US

Skip Blumberg:That's an amazing and ironic comment.

Alvin:And we know how the media took revenge on Nixon. lol

Skip Blumberg:We have to get together now and support each other to make a better world.

Skip Blumberg:Nixon was a patsy. Videofreex has a recording of Nixon before he went on the air live to resign. It is a hoot!

Alvin:Live TV is a kick especially when bloopers happen

Noah Kimerling:Abby was a revolutionary leader that we unfortunately dont have now

Alvin:dlb: Singapore loves you as long as you adhere to its laws. Lol

Alvin:Conformity is a requirement in the civil service

Skip Blumberg:No spitting. That's a good law. But the punishment is ? can I say that or better to stay away from that?

Alvin:the private sector is more suited for creative tpes

Alvin:types

Alvin:Well, spitting is legal, if into a sink

Skip Blumberg:That's a wrap!