

BECAUSE WASHINGTON IS HOLLYWOOD FOR UGLY PEOPLE



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Synopsis

"Because Washington Is Hollywood For Ugly People" is a video/animation that employs images from popular culture, political figures and imagery found in the internet. The piece adopts the form of viral advertising in a reduction of contemporary events to a cartoon like mythology while touching on issues such as identity politics, U.S. foreign policy, sexuality and power.

Backed by ranting narration of MC Paul Barman and original music by John Blue, "Because Washington is Hollywood for Ugly People" is hitting hard at the hypocrisy of the political rhetoric of the last few years leading up to the current presidential election. As hilarious as it is scary, the video merges internet-scavenged imagery and original animation with pop graphics to create semi-fictional relationships between political figures, corporations, and mass media iconography. Imagine Bush-headed Jennifer Aniston, Arafatfaced Gozilla, Osama bin Laden on a cross, Saddam Hussein on the skateboard, Kim Jong Il as Terminator, Hillary as multi-headed Hydra, Big Macs in Mecca and more.

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Title and Credits

"Because Washington Is Hollywood For Ugly People"
2007

directed by
Kenneth Tin-Kin Hung

narration written and performed by
MC Paul Barman

music by
John Blue



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Kenneth Tin-Kin Hung

Director and Creator

Kenneth Tin-Kin Hung is a new media artist based in New York City. He works in various media including Internet art, interactive installation, animation and video game. His works have been exhibited extensively at international arts and film festivals. Recent exhibitions venues include New Museum (New York, U.S.A.), Yerba Buena Center Of The Arts (San Francisco, U.S.A.), Postmasters Gallery (New York, U.S.A.) and Cartwright Hall Art Gallery (Bradford, United Kingdom), to name a few.

He won the "VIPER International Award- Internet" in Switzerland and was given an "Honorary Mention- Net Excellence" in the 2002 Prix Ars Electronica. In 2007, Hung was awarded the Media Arts fellowships from Renew Media to develop an online game about Global Warming.

More info of the artist online at www.TINKIN.com.

Filmography

2007 "Gas Zappers"

2007 "Because Washington is Hollywood For Ugly People"



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MC Paul Barman

Narration Writer and Performer

MC Paul Barman is an artist and language innovator based in New York City. His first record "It's Very Stimulating" brought new life to hip-hop and garnered a four star review in Rolling Stone. The creator of theme songs, tag lines, and new products, he has performed extensively across America and a lil bit in Europe.

www.mcpaulbarman.com

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John Blue

Music

John Blue is a composer who writes and performs music for film. With a focus on documentary and experimental work, the compositions have ranged from classical compositions for solo and ensemble, to modern Americana inspired guitar and sound collage.

His soundtracks for film have shown in festivals internationally, and have received numerous awards worldwide. Crystal Harvest and Suspension were both awarded Golden Spires at the San Francisco International Film Festival. As Láthair received an award from the Irish Arts Council for Experimental video, while the narrative short Timmy's Wish was voted Best of the Fest at the Humboldt International Film Festival and the audience award at Valleyfest.

His compositions for dance and theatre have been performed at Hebbel Am Ufer in Berlin, the Bardovan Opera House in New York, Highways in Los Angeles, and in San Francisco ODC, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, the Herbst Theatre, and Theater Artaud.

He is a founding member of A Thousand Pieces, an interdisciplinary artist collective creating music, film and dance together since 1994.

As a musician he has appeared as a guest with many bands, most recently playing on a track from the Talkincircles album for the Willowz as a cellist and producing a video for the song Heartstrings from the same record. He has also appeared with Nelly Bly, Shana Falana, Fuzzy Star in New York and Los Angeles.

More info at www.BlueSoundCut.com

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Reviews

'NOT YOUR PARENTS' MTV'

by ROBERTA SMITH

New York Times

July 20, 2007

Several of the summer's gallery group shows are dominated by one outstanding work. Here, among mostly credible riffs on or departures from the music-video convention, the big draw is Kenneth Tin-Kin Hung's "Because Washington Is Hollywood for Ugly People." A hilarious, scarifying portrayal of the nation's leadership and its machinations around the war in Iraq, this work is exhibited inside a newsprint structure that is part mosque, part United States Congress.

The video itself adds very sharp teeth and a bit of scatology to the hot colors and dense collages of 1960s psychedelia. Its low-tech animation allows images to function as independent wholes and as part of the action, and it is perfectly backed by the music of MC Paul Barman, careering wildly between disco and rant. In total, it is like the cover of the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper" album or the credits of the Monty Python television show, with jet fuel.

Born in Hong Kong, Mr. Hung earned a bachelor's degree in art from San Francisco State University in 2001 and now lives in New York. He has exhibited in digital and Internet art shows and festivals around the world and a few San Francisco galleries but is most visible on his Web site, tinkin.com. According to the site's biography of the artist, this brashly beautiful, furious work is his first to be shown in New York. Take notice.



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Narration Scripts

written and performed by MC Paul Barman

silence = death
violence = sex
scientific meth
id, ego, superego
wherever we go
gotta plant a flag like Stratego

I'll shoot a light flare through your nightmare

there's something new under the sun
old folks now outnumber the young
and if the gap gets any larger
the world will look like work of Henry Darger
old men against stem cells
will use them themselves
juice the youths, live to 112
Robert J Lifton
deciphered the system for indoctrination
this is his listin:
isolation
hunger
fatigue
stress
fear/love relationships
unperceived threats
violence, both physical and mental
objects: commerce, converts and teaching disciples
that's the nuts and bolts of cults
we're kept from being adults
no different from Moonies' eunuchy communities
in a bread and circus bled of purpose
til we're dead and worthless
a royal rumble would have been an enjoyable jumble

Tony Blair should send his cronies where
he'd fight himself, it's only fair

you can play it safe
and pray to save
so many jewels
it's Plato's cave
if you don't share
they'll raid your grave
makin waves don't raise your wage
sometimes rich folks behave like slaves

this is now with Bill Moyers
first thing we do is kill lawyers
not all viewers are skilled voyeurs
all kinds of folk need signs of hope

we need media literacy immediately
to teach the kiddies plopped in front of the TV
to dispel the mystique
parents, watch with your seeds
and speak a critique
is there a laughtrack?
product placement then ads after that?
is violence the only graphic act?
yet sex jokes are constant?
how do advertisers influence content?
do plotlines defy common sense?
do couples always have the same spat?
who's it aimed at?
it's stealing kids from a candystore
the warfront's antipropaganda and if
PBS shifts then they can't be stopped
but that's a liberal
willing to listen to fibs of glib feds
who will literally kill every kid in the world
it's poetry
a moderate will hang you from a Iowa tree
you're current events actors

teach history backwards
start with today
you can get to yesterday afterwards

I'm the pastor of text
the last word is next
Tinkin has yet to master After Effects
sweet isnit
I'm like a guy in the audience
but u got to listen to it
then again
maybe I can't be heard thru the din
at the opening
but you hear it the next day
when you go again with a friend

it's good to see Tinkin simplify
every ho hopes her pimp'll die
chimp up high is an empty vessel
like when we set a place for Elijah
but if one cuts off his head
it regrows on the Hydra
therefore to succeed
we need community
with you n me 1 an 1 is 3
now that's some real deal pimp shit

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Narration Scripts

continue

for these limp dick pinpricks
you only win it for a minute
until we instill kinship
incest drove that thin chick to skin flicks
watching her perform makes you complicit
it's supply and demand
a line in the sand
friends are enemies
when it's 'better them than me'
a friend is family only after amnesty
you're land. I'm sea.
we make clay to build fantasy.

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Film Details

TITLE: Because Washington Is Hollywood For Ugly People

GENRE: animation

RUNNING TIME: 00:07:42

ASPECT RATIO: 16:9

SOUND: Stereo Dual Channel

CREATED WITH: Adobe After Effects 7.0

EXHIBITION FORMAT: Sony HDCAM 1080i/59.94i and HD-DVD

RELEASE DATE: June 2007

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE: English

Contact Info

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screenshots images (14 images total 43.3mb):
<http://www.tinkin.com/download/washington/screenshots.zip>

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