

FEEDBACK FRED a phonic Body

Benoît Maubrey is the director of DIE AUDIO GRUPPE a Berlin-based art group that build and perform with electronic clothes (AUDIO BALLERINAS, AUDIO GEISHAS, AUDIO STEELWORKERS, BONG BOYS, VIDEO PEACOCKS...). Basically these are electro-acoustic clothes and dresses (equipped with amplifiers and loudspeakers) that create sounds by interacting with their environment.

Over the years some of the Audio Gruppe's members have developed solos with a particular instrument: certain costumes have muted into highly individualistic and self-contained sound units. These are individual "phonic" bodies that produce their own personal sounds and movements in intimate and close-to-the-spectator performances.

An essential figure is Feedback Fred.. This character, equipped with an oversized loudspeaker box on his back and a microphone-mask, "feeds back" his own voice through the interaction of his wearable PA system and physical gyrations throughout the performance space. This personality can be likened to a cross-cloning of Hamlet and an electronic-laden Hunchback of Notre Dame. Known as a performer (recently at the Digital Arts Week in Zurich and VERSCH Festival in Amsterdam) he is actually a social fellow trying to interact with casual acquaintances and everyday encounters, like most of us he only wants friendship and love -- were it not for his inborn handicap.



Feedback Fred. Spiral Hall, Tokyo, 1997.



Feedback Fred, 12 volt 30 watts.
Sound and Movement Conference, Freie Universität Berlin 2001.
Microphone face mask and loudspeaker box.

Feedback Fred
Sound and Movement Conference
Freie Universität Berlin 2001.
Microphone face mask and loudspeaker box.



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Performances, Festivals and Installations (a selection):

- 2007 IM AUGES KLÄNGE, Schloss Moyland/ Joseph Beuys Archive.
-- INGENUITY, Cleveland Festival for Arts and Technology.
-- Digital Arts Week, Zurich.
- 2006 ROBODOK Festival, Amsterdam.
-- Taipei Digital Arts Festival, Taiwan.
-- Sitelines Festival, NYC.
-- Lange Mozart Nacht, Augsburg.
-- SIGGRAPH, Boston.
-- Digital Arts Week, Zurich.
- 2005 CORPUS Festival, Brugge, Belgien.
-- The ELECTRONIC GUY solo Tour, Vancouver (Video In), NYC (Location 1).
-- Die Blaue Nacht, Nürnberg.
- 2004 "Sonoric Atmospheres / Ostsee Biennale der Klangkunst.
-- AUDIO IGLOO, sound sculpture in the Singuhr-Hörgalerie, Parochial Church/Berlin.
-- Thailand New Media Art Festival/Bangkok.
-- "Soundscape & Shadow" Musikfestival, Denkmalschmiede Höfgen.
-- Lowlands Festival, Holland.
-- Schweriner Kultursommer.
-- LEM Festival (Gracia Territoria Sonora), Barcelona.
-- BUGA Park Potsdam, AUDIO PEACOCKS, gARTen event.
- 2002 AUDIO BALLERINAS, Location One, NYC.
-- HIGH FIDELITY production, Musiktheater im Revier, Gelsenkirchen (co-production with Berndt Schindowski).
-- AUDIO PEACOCKS, Artist in Residence at Lieux Publics, Marseille.
-- Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum fuer Gegenwartskunst, Berlin.
-- Potsdamer Festspiele.
- 2001 KunstMuseum / Wolfsburg.
-- Berliner Festspiele.
-- New Haven Festival for Arts and Ideas.
-- Seoul Performing Arts Festival.
-- Medi@terra, Athens.
-- Musee des Arts et Industrie, Saint-Etienne.
-- FETA Festival, Gdansk.
- 2000 Monaco Dance Danse Forum, Montecarlo.
-- Tollwood Festival, Munich.
-- Postdamer Musikfestspiele, Potsdam.
- 1999 IDAT (International Dance and Technology Conference), Phoenix, Arizona.
-- Danztag, Kulturhus Aarhus, Denmark.
-- "Audio Ballerinas and Electronic Guys", Theatre am Hallesches Ufer / Berlin.
-- AUDIO IGLOO, commissioned electro-acoustic sculpture at Hull Time Based Arts, UK.
-- Les Nuits Savoureuses de Belfort, France.
- 1998 MALTA Festival, Poznan, Poland.
-- Stockton Riverside Festival, UK.
-- International Symposium for Electronic Arts, Chicago.
-- "Audio Ballerinas and Electronic Guys" USA tour, The Kitchen (NYC).
-- MALTA Festival, Poznan, Poland.
-- Stockton Riverside Festival, UK.
-- Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
-- Sound Art Festival, Krakow.
- 1997 AUDIO GEISHAS, ICC-NTT Tokyo City Opera House.
-- ISEA, Chicago.
-- Ostranenie Festival, Stiftung Bauhaus / Dessau.

- 1996 XIX International Triennale Exhibition of Milan.
-- SONAMBIENTE Sound Art Festival, Academy of Arts, Berlin.
-- International Street Theatre Festival, Holzminden (1st Prize for "Mobility and Flexibility").
-- "Audio Ballerinas and Electronic Guys" Tour/ USA, The KITCHEN (NYC), Scena Theatre (Washington, D.C.), Buskers Fare (NYC).
-- KRYPTONAL Festival, Berlin.
-- 38eme Rugissants, Grenoble.
- 1995 Krakow (THE KRAKOVIAN MEETINGS).
-- Sound Art Festival, Hannover.
- 1994 "Audio Drama", Theatre zum Westlichen Staathirschen, Berlin.
-- International Symposium for Electronic Art, Helsinki.
-- "Audio Drama", co-production with Theatre zum Westlichen Staathirschen, Berlin.
-- German Television Video Prize, SWF, Baden-Baden.
- 1993 MEDIALE, Hamburg.
-- Art and Computers, University of Moscow.
-- "Augenlied", Schloß Pluschow, Mecklenburgische Künstlerhaus.
-- BECK Forum, Munich.
-- ULTIMA Festival, Oslo.
- 1992 Cleveland Performance Festival, Ohio.
-- The Night of Electricity, Rotterdam.
-- TISEA, Sydney.
- 1991 European Land Art Biennale, Cottbus, Germany.
- 1990 Festival les Arts au Soleil, Aeronef Lille, France.
-- Sound Symposium, St. John's, Newfoundland.
-- "Urbane Aboriginale", Berlin.
- 1989 Festival PERSPECTIVES, Saarbrücken.
- 1988 Festival des Arts Electroniques, Rennes, France.
-- "Parcours Sonores", Musée de La Villette, Paris.
-- Festival of European Street Theatre, Aurillac, France.
- 1987 STEIRISCHE HERBST, Graz, Austria.
-- Galerie Giannozzo, Berlin.
- 1986 ARS ELECTRONICA, Linz, Austria.
-- The Mattress Factory, Pittsburg, Pa.
-- Berlin Atonal Festival.
- 1985 Bundesgartenschau 85, Berlin.
-- "Berlin in the Gasteig Art Center", Munich.
-- Alternativa IV, Lisbon.

Awards and Honors

- European Award for Street Theatre/Holzminden 1995,
Franklin Furnace Fund for Performance NYC 2006.

Grants/ residencies:

- 1999 Hull Time Based Arts/UK,
2006 KuenstlerSchloss Wiepersdorf, Brandenburg/Germany.

Selected Bibliography:

- LEONARDO, Vol.28, No.2, pp.93-97,1995, Audio Jackets and Other Electroacoustic Clothes.
-- BENOIT MAUBREY/ DIE AUDIO GRUPPE, catalog 1985.
-- Die Audio Gruppe 1982-1998, catalog 1989.
-- PERFORMANCES WITH ELECTROACOUSTIC CLOTHES, DVD 2007.

Miscellaneous:

- Workshop/ presentations (selection) at the MIT Media Lab, Oberlin College,
Johns Hopkins University, Virginia Commonwealth and Concordia Universities.