



Vertical Blanking

• **The Depositions of Vertical Blanking**

Film/Video

March 24

8 PM

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theater

CALARTS

California Institute of the Arts

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash people including the Gabrieleño, Fernandeño, and Ventureño; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This program presents the first-ever retrospective of Vertical Blanking, a video art, performance, and experimental music duo consisting of ia Kamandalu and Michael J. Masucci. Working out of West Hollywood's seminal "video gallery" microcinema and production space EZTV from 1986–1993, Vertical Blanking created early examples of what became known as "desktop video" that combined analog video tape decks with hot-rodded desktop computers, experimental soundtracks, and live performance elements. The five short videos in the program explore wide-ranging themes of feminism, Pan-Pacific mythology, UFO/UAP conspiracies, consumerism, and televangelism, and feature collaborations with Dr. Timothy Leary and a number of other artists.

Programmed by Elizabeth Purchell and Hollywood Entertainment as the kickoff for a Los Angeles-wide celebration of EZTV's 45th anniversary.

Featuring founding member and director of EZTV Michael J. Masucci in conversation with Elizabeth Purchell and a live performance by Alina Kalinouskaya.

All videos were shot on consumer or industrial equipment in non-Broadcast Quality Standard Def analog video.

Please note: The Video Depositions of Vertical Blanking contains flashing lights, nudity, and mature content.

The Jack H. Skirball Series is organized by Jheanelle Brown.

ABOUT THE SERIES

Founded by frustrated aspiring filmmaker John Dorr in 1979, EZTV was created as an independent art space and production studio dedicated to video and, eventually, digital and performance art. From feature-length narrative dramas to horror, comedy, erotica, documentaries, and more, EZTV provided the space and equipment for independent videomakers of all stripes and backgrounds to realize their visions. Video Capital of the World is a weeklong screening and performance series honoring the diverse range of artists and communities that have found a home at EZTV over the first 45 years of its existence and the

ROY AND EDNA DISNEY CALARTS THEATER

global influence that it has had on the development of video, digital, and performance art. Featuring nine wide-ranging programs across six different venues and online, the series is a first-of-its-kind expansive tribute to a still under-understood LA institution.

Performance

Black Cat (2025), 5 mins.

Concept, live performance and music by Alina Kalinouskaya

What if a black cat reclaims herself? What if she shifts her own psychology-no longer internalizing the shame society projects onto her, no longer carrying the weight of its judgments? What if she chooses to be something other than the black cat? In the 45-year tradition of EZTV and their ‘black cat’ status, this performance challenges the preconceptions, biases and stereotypes still present in the way that society perceives the “proper” roles for women. As with earlier brave artists like ia Kamandalu and Vertical Blanking, this work interrogates the ways that society’s preordained values concerning gender still dominate social expectations. —Kalinouskaya

Films

Clone Shopping Club (1992), 5 mins.

This piece from Vertical Blanking's final live multimedia performance parodies the style of the Home Shopping Club, where viewers call in and give "unsolicited and impromptu" endorsements of the products being sold before taking an unexpectedly sexual and Messianic turn. Starring Dan Bell.

Bad TV (1986), 12 mins.

An experiment in "doing everything wrong," *Bad TV* is an unedited, single continuous shot videotaped live performance that imagines (and attempts) every possible mistake in conventional broadcast television, including live changes of lens filters, dramatic adjustments in lighting, crane shots achieved through climbing ladders. Shot in front of a live audience who would watch both the actual performance and the video monitor showing seemingly a different performance. Performance Artist/Dancer: Nina Barlow.

Pain or Gain: The Event Horizon (excerpt) (1992), 1 min.

A piece of a live multimedia performance/ collaboration with choreographer Zina Bethune & Dancers, several

actors, and Dr. Timothy Leary. This documentation is from the finale of the CyberArts International Conferences in 1992.

Outside Looking In: One Last Visit with Dr. Timothy Leary (excerpt) (1996), 6 mins.

This insightful and light-hearted portrait of experiential pioneer Dr. Timothy Leary was possibly his last filmed interview before his passing in 1996. Produced by his friends Michael J. Masucci and Natasha Vita-More, *Outside Looking In* features footage of live performances at EZTV by Leary, Dr. Fiorella Terenzi, and Genesis P-Orridge as well as videos by his collaborative partners Retinal Logic, Vertical Blanking and Hyperdelic Media. Produced as a commission by London's Institute of Contemporary Art, where it premiered in 1996.

Theater of Dreams: I Thought This Is What You Wanted (1989), 7 mins.

Theater of Dreams begins tranquil and dreamlike and transforms into a biting and angry assault on feminine stereotypes, identity, and the roles and expectations that misogyny seeks to demand.

Lemuria (1986), 20 mins.

An expressionistic evocation of archetypal feminine mystery. The fabled lost culture of Lemuria, believed to have been destroyed in a cataclysmic landmass eruption during Southern California's pre-history, is imagined through dance, ritual, and haunting video imagery. EZTV's most popular home video release.

NightLight (1992), 4 mins.

A video art and performance piece exploring conspiracy theories of alien abduction featuring Tracey Fitzpatrick, Diane Holland, and a robot by Peter Greenwood and Mike Hood.

Deposition (1991), 7 mins.

The result of extensive research into the multi-generational UFO abduction experiences of women, this desktop video premiered at the 1991 CyberArts International Conference before going on to play at LA FreeWaves.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Michael J. Masucci, a founding member of EZTV, served as Co-Artistic Director since 1986 and Director since 1993, is a museum-exhibited artist, Santa Monica Arts Commissioner and co-creator of DNA Festival Santa Monica. He serves as a member of UCSC's Center for Applied Values and Ethics in Advancing Technologies. He previously taught at Otis College and has guest lectured at universities and conferences internationally.

ia Kamandalu (formerly known as Kim McKillip) is a performer, poet, dancer, and musician. She has appeared in films, theater pieces and on music recordings and experiments with the intersection of identity, media and pop culture. Beginning as a teenager dancing in music videos, she then studied at Stella Adler Institute and became a core member of EZTV, beginning the process of preserving its archives.

Alina Kalinouskaya is a conceptual artist and dancer whose work has been featured in Getty PST Art, the DNA Festival Santa Monica, Lois Lambert Gallery, and the iEXCELL Holographic Theatre at UNMC.

Elizabeth Purchell is a Brooklyn-based queer film historian, programmer, filmmaker, and the creator of *Ask Any Buddy*, which has been shown at over two dozen international film festivals. She has appeared on over forty home video releases, programs and hosts the monthly *Queer Cinema: Lost and Found* screening series at Austin Film Society and the weekly *Weird Wednesday* series at Alamo Drafthouse Brooklyn. She also co-programs and hosts the monthly queer film series and podcast *Cruising the Movies* at IFC Center. She was also on the programming team for the 2024 iteration of *Frameline*.

Hollywood Entertainment was created to entertain and educate filmgoers by screening and preserving eclectic, underseen, non-commercial, rare, and socially beneficial films and film-related artifacts. The non-profit organization evolved out of *Moviepassed*, a near-daily stream of online movie watching that began in April 2020.

UPCOMING FILM/VIDEO AT REDCAT

Emilia Beatriz

barrunto

April 14

“barrunto” is a word used in Puerto Rico to refer to a bodily unrest, an omen or a forecast sensed via signals present in the environment. “barrunto” is a way of thinking with surface and subconscious, underfoot and underground. Emilia Beatriz’s film is a speculative narrative informed by poetry and theories of quantum entanglement across diasporic distance.

CalArts Film/Video Showcase

May 7 - 10

The CalArts School of Film/Video presents four nights of special screenings featuring new films by BFA and MFA students in its programs—a diverse collection of bold, innovative cinematic works.

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Projectionist: Jessica Gonzales

Associate Projectionist: Jean-Paul Jones

REDCAT.ORG

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