

CURRENT PROGRAM

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THE BLUEPRINT PROJECT

ARCHIVES

ABOUT PLEASURE DOME

PUBLICATIONS

PREVIEWS

LINKS

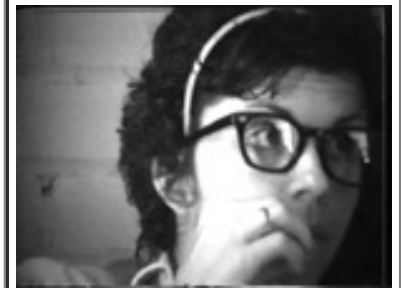
SUBMISSIONS

Wednesday, March 15, 8 pm @ Rivoli
(back room), 334 Queen St. W.

Be Somebody
*Seminal Videos by Paul Wong and
Lisa Steele & Kim Tomczak (In
Person)*

Paul Wong, Lisa Steele and Kim Tomczak were among the winners of the 2005 Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts. Tonight we honour them with a program of their short work from the late seventies and early eighties that exemplifies their commitment to performance as a tool for political change, critiquing fallacious mass media representations with wit and charm.

Wong, Steele and Tomczak all started making tapes separately in the seventies, and many of these works are now canonical examples of body and video art: Wong's *60 UNIT: BRUISE* (1976) and Steele's *Birthday Suit — with scars and defects* (1974) immediately come to mind, as does Steele & Tomczak's brave meta-porn *In the Dark* (1984). Not to be ignored is the enormous contribution that all three have made to building institutions for the support of artists — especially the video scene — in Canada: Wong with Video In and On Edge in Vancouver, and Steele & Tomczak with Toronto's own Vtape.



In Wong's comically deadpan *Prime Cuts* (1981), a group of glamorous young people performs privilege, affluence and pleasure, while in *7 Day Activity* (1977), Wong documents his severe acne and his attempts to discipline a body out of control. Steele and Tomczak's *Working the Double Shift* (1984) deconstructs the same idealized, commercial images that *Prime Cuts* parodies, examining how patriarchal, capitalist culture is encoded in television; its barrage of kitschy ads and a fantasized mass resignation of parliament lend humour to this bold manifesto. Tomczak's *A Demonstration of the Fear of Pain* (1980) features a man's awkward, pained rant bluntly detailing his hardships and marginalization in the face of official history. Finally, in *The Damages* (1978) and *Makin' Strange* (1978), Steele performs one of the most memorable characters in Canadian cinema: Mrs. Pauly, who was based on women Steele met working in a shelter for women and children, many survivors of domestic violence. Caught in a web of medical, legal, financial and romantic red tape, Mrs. Pauly never simply lays down and dies — the result is incredibly poignant and wryly funny.

Works include: Paul Wong's *Prime Cuts* (1981) and *7 Day Activity* (1977); Steele & Tomczak's *Working the Double Shift* (1984); Kim Tomczak's *A Demonstration of the Fear of Pain* (1980); and Lisa Steele's *The Damages* (1978) and *Makin' Strange* (1978).

SAT. JAN 28, 8PM	SAT. FEB. 11, 8pm	THURS. MAR. 2, 7pm	WED. MAR. 15, 8pm	SUN. MAR. 19, 3pm	FRI. APR. 7, 8pm	SAT. APR. 8, 8pm

Pleasure Dome is a year-round film and video exhibition group dedicated to the presentation of experimental film and video. The 2005/2006 Programming Collective is: Scott Berry, Daniel Cockburn, Jon Davies, Claire Eckert, Firoza Elavia, Linda Feese, Graham Hollings, Jean-Paul Kelly, Chris Kennedy, Ben Portis and Michèle Stanley. Tom Taylor is the Program Coordinator. Pleasure Dome acknowledges the support of our members, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council.

Pleasure Dome does not submit any of its film and video programming for prior approval by any censoring bodies. We applaud Glad Day Bookstore's successful challenge of the Ontario Film Review Board.

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