

ARTS EXTRA!

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Arts Review

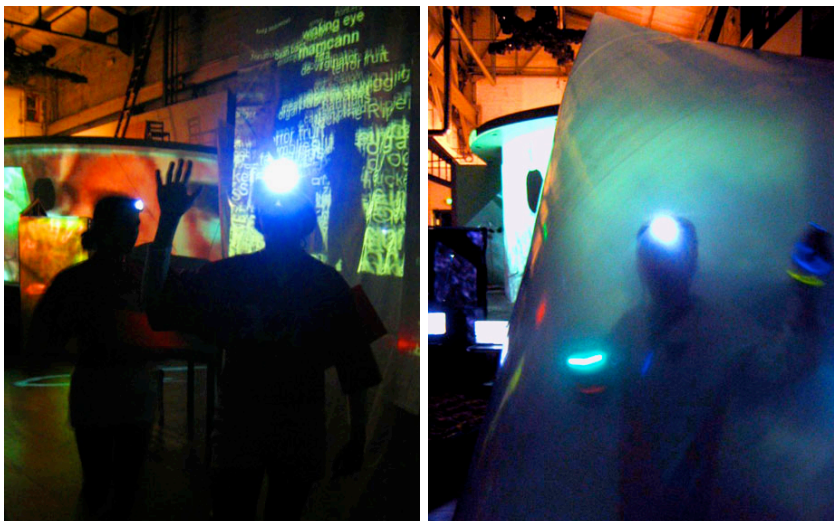
Sunday 04.JUN.06

Double Vision creates an ironic gallery of interactive scenarios at CELLspace

MISSION DISTRICT — The CELLspace gallery opened into a galactic playground of the imagination where the doorway to a collaborative art group's performance created an electro-wonderland of socio-political proportions.

A spontaneous combustion of colliding performances, including cheerleaders racing against themselves through space and time, cowboys and angels roping viewers into a hit-and-run hoedown, and a stranded scientist seeking exile from his lunar setting, redefined performance art into an ironic gallery of interactive scenarios.

Hosted at CELLspace on Friday, May 26, Double Vision's "Evolutionary Patterns and the Lonely Owl (Mutation #2)" created a performance experience for both artist and observer that allowed the audience to roam freely to explore multiple layers of performances, environments, and installations.



Left: Double Vision's "Evolutionary Patterns and the Lonely Owl (Mutation #2)" features cheerleaders racing against themselves through space and time, cowboys and angels roping viewers into a hit-and-run hoedown, and a stranded scientist seeking exile from his lunar setting, redefined performance art into an ironic gallery of interactive scenarios. **Right:** Artist Jason B. Jones plays Dr. Stranded, who communicates with visitors from inside an inflatable moon with lights and body gestures.

Directed by Sean Clute and Pauline Jennings, Double Vision's artists forged a balance between unity, complexity, and chaos as visitors roamed freely through an environment of performance, dance, music, video and technology. Jennings, co-director of Double Vision, explained that the collaboration wanted to foster an environment where no discussion is required, only the creation of a shared performance.

"The interesting thing that happens, is that even when interaction between the various pieces is not planned, it naturally occurs," she said. "Just as a pedestrian walking down the street may be influenced by a horn honking or a pigeon crossing it's path, whether the horn interrupts their thoughts or changes their mood and the pigeon changes their path, all performers (and attendees) at these events undergo similar experiences constantly as light, sound and physical space changes."

In Jennings's interactive piece, "Ample Autonomous Accumulators", which includes performance artists Wendy Marrinaccio and Cecelia Peterson, three dancers race against time, space, memory and each other. The performers encourage audience members to place wagers, follow the scorecard and attempt to impede or help the performers, in what Pauline describes as "the tension of overall competition of trying to co-exist."

Artist Jason B. Jones played Dr. Stranded, who communicated with visitors from inside an inflatable moon with lights and body gestures. Jones said that the theme of isolation was used to have very intimate contact with people where freedom and a barrier simultaneously exist. "We can have close contact but less interaction with each other," he said. "You can get very close to people, but still be very distant from them. It's about isolation, but how you communicate through that and make a connection."

Other performance works and installations featured constructions by Marielle Amrhein, Steven Baudonnet, Matt Bell, Liz Bootz, Sean Clute, Amanda Crawford, Brian Enright, Simran Gleason, Jammin' Ammon, Ron Goldin, Jessica Gomula, Elisabeth Kohnke, Chris Kruzic, Amy Leonards, Michelle K. Lynch, Amy Nielson, Tim Thompson, Bill Wolter, and Nicole Zvarik.

One of Lonely Owl's production goals is to create an ensemble of artists interested in blurring the boundaries between their different media, according to Jennings. "Each mutation of the series has granted more control to the artist, and less to a centralized authority and more freedom to choose the level of interactivity they desire," she said.