

MICHEL AUDER

JESUS

IS A VIDEO COLLAGE OF ICONOGRAPHY, AN ASSEMBLAGE OF: CONFESSION, FANATICISM, STATEMENTS FROM FRIENDS, INTERVIEWS OF PEOPLE IN THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN. THIS MATERIAL IS DELIBERATELY ORIENTATED SO AS TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF CHRIST, A STATEMENT WHICH BECAME MY OWN AT THE END OF THIS VIDEO TAPE.

"JESUS" WITH:

ALICE NEEL VIVA JACKIE CURTIS LARRY RIVERS TINA L'HOTSKY
TAYLOR MEAD ROBERT SMITH GEOFFREY CAREY DIEGO CORTEZ
MIMI LUTZ ALEXANDRA AUDER FLORENCE LAMBERT GERARD MALANGA

In Jesus, a brilliantly colorful assemblage of iconography, fanaticism and confession, the point is not so much the damage wrought by religious training, nor the exposure of the sadomasochist underpinnings of Catholicism, but rather the ingenuity with which human beings learn to live with their psychic scars and bruises, and sometimes heal themselves.

Gary Indiana

Florence Lambert and Michel Auder show me their video collage, *Jesus*, a ravishingly photographed survey of religious images and testimonials from former Catholics about the mystery of Jesus. (What I so much value in Michel's work is its organic necessity, the way it arises naturally from his life—also his courtliness towards his material.)

In the tape, Tina L'hotsky explains that Jesus was an alien from outer space, sent here to take over everyone's mind. Diego Cortez describes how he and some friends made six hundred dollars swiping pocketbooks at a revival meeting. Taylor Mead, dressed as the Bishop of Tribeca, blesses the fire hydrants and the cars, and is then attacked by a Devil brandishing an enormous rubber penis.

"Take and eat of this, for this is my body," Alice Neel quotes. "To me, that's pure cannibalism carried over."

Every Tuesday, Father Hathaway gave religious instruction for the boys at St. Thomas Aquinas. You had to ask him what was a sin, what wasn't, in an endless attempt to rid your soul of venial and mortal offenses.

Was it a sin to masturbate, Gerard Papillon wanted to know.

"If you did it before you knew it was a sin, no," Father Hathaway assured everybody. "But now you know, it is."

At the height of the Hostage Crisis, Iranians marched through Tehran whipping themselves with chains as part of an annual religious frenzy.

"See?" A cab driver told me excitedly. "They're totally insane. You don't know what they'll do next. They aren't brought up like us. They're not Christian."