THE KITCHEN

RELATIVES

Constance DeJong & Tony Oursler
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by Constance DeJong and Tony Oursler

RELATIVES, a collaboration between writer Constance DeJong and artist Tony Oursler, presents a modern icon: Person and Screen. It combines Oursler's video and DeJong's spoken text to create a fictitious family. As the performer and video interact, a tale of shifting identity emerges, shaped through the lineage of the media. The interrelations between technological evolution and biological generations form a hybrid family tree.

Original Music: Neil Leonard
Video Players: Mark Anuill, Robert Gibson, Stephanie Goode, Kate Reiche and Kim Salt
Vocals: Dominique Eade, Guitar/Music Consultant: Brian Carey
Production Assistant: Stephanie Goode
Video Assistance: Joe Briganti
Camera (Beanie scene): Blyth Hazin
Computer Rendering: Brian Williams
Computer Consultants: Diane Roman and Ron Wallace

Weather Maps: WBZ TV, Boston (October 27, 1988), and Kavouras, Inc. Minneapolis.
Film Montage: Blood and Sand (1922) with Rudolph Valentino, (silent); Cleopatra (1963) with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton; The Final Extra (1927) with Marguerite DeLaMotte; The Road to Yesterday (1925) by Cecil B. DeMille.

TV Montage: Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, Lost in Space, Hazel, The Trouble with Father and The Beaula Show.


Video Game Montage: Super Contra, SDI, Galaxy's End, Interceptor, and Terror Pods.
Fractal Images: Collapse of a Siegel Disk by Robert Dunayev, Boston University, Mathematics Department.

Thanks to Trevor Fairbrother, Museum of Fine Art; Candace Holzman; Hubert Hohn, Massachusetts College of Art; Dave Murray, WBZ TV; Annette Nyffler; Barbara Richied, Kavouras, Inc.; John Russell; Steve's Pizza, Boston; Jack Fahay, Ken Winokur, Stephanie Goode and Matthew Siegal.

Constance DeJong was born in Canton, Ohio in 1947. She received a BA from Ohio State University and an MA from Hunter College. She is one of the young post-modern writers who has made performance a natural extension of her work as a writer. She has performed adaptations from Modern Love (1977), and The Lucy Amarillo Stories (1978), internationally. She wrote the libretto and book for Satyagraha (1981), an opera for Phillip Glass. DeJong has contributed to Drama Review, Arts, Art Press International, Impulse and Artforum as well as others. DeJong recently completed an audio/text work for Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo and collaborated on a videotape, In Shadow City, with Ken Feingold.

Tony Oursler was born in New York City in 1957. He received a BFA from California Institute for the Arts and has exhibited his video work internationally in both solo and group shows at spaces including The Kitchen, the Centre Pompidou, the Stedelijk Museum, Lincoln Center, PS1, LACE, Los Angeles Center of Photographic Studies, Diane Brown Gallery and the Walker Arts Center. He collaborated in 1988 on Joy Ride TM with Constance DeJong. Oursler currently teaches video at the Massachusetts College of Art, Boston.

Neil Leonard was born in Boston in 1959. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and is active as a composer, instrumentalist and interdisciplinary artist. He has appeared with East Coast and Caribbean groups, including "Henry Jimenez y la Nueva Organization," "Lunk" and "The Bob Jones Experience."

The Contemporary Art Television Fund (Producer) began in 1983 with a Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities New Works Development Award. Set up as a collaboration between the ICA and the WGBH New Television Workshop, it was designed to foster the highest level of excellence in the exploration of television as a creative medium. The CAT Fund has commissioned seventeen new video works, including works for television, performance, installation and interactive videodisc. The CAT Fund receives support from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the WGBH Educational Foundation and the Charles Engelhard Foundation.