

1971 **20** 1991

# THE KITCHEN

VIDEO MUSIC DANCE PERFORMANCE FILM LITERATURE

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## TOM RUBNITZ

### A Video Retrospective

Sunday, April 12, 1992

8pm

Tickets: \$10, Members \$7

Continuing in the Video Viewing Room

12 - 5pm, Mondays - Fridays, April 13 - May 15, 1992

Free Admission

The Kitchen is pleased to present **Tom Rubnitz: A Video Retrospective** in the Video Viewing Room. The program premieres as an evening screening on Sunday, April 12, with M.C., The Lady Bunny, and live performances by Frieda and other surprise guests.

Tom Rubnitz is recognized as one of video art's premiere humorists. In 1981, he began videotaping shows at the Pyramid Cocktail Lounge producing work that shares a kitsch, comic sensibility and a disarming charm. It is there he met many of the performers who would both inspire and play featured roles in his work over the next decade, including Ann Magnuson, John Sex, John Kelly, Ethyl Eichelberger, Hapi Phace, DANCENOISE, The Lady Bunny, Sister Dimension, Freida, and others. His short works range from music videos, Public Service Announcements, psuedo-commercials and movie trailers to documentaries and video art works.

Tom Rubnitz has been living with AIDS for four years, and has witnessed the deaths of countless friends and collaborators, including John Sex, Ethyl Eichelberger and Tseng Kwong Chi. Yet his work has never wavered in its joyful celebration of life. Rubnitz's work is a unique document of a remarkable generation of young, mostly gay performers, many of whom have succumbed to AIDS. His work is a testament to the power of humor and to the remarkable community of artists who have inspired and are featured in Rubnitz's videotapes.

Featured videotapes include:

*Plastic Rap* (1983), a music video for Freida, produced by Rubnitz, Barbara Lipp and Tom Koken

*John Sex: The True Story* (1983), a rockumentary about the king of sex, John Sex

*Chicken Elaine* (1983), a brief cooking show with Tom Rubnitz and Marlene Menard

*Made for TV* (1984), Rubnitz's award-winning collaboration with Ann Magnuson, featuring Magnuson in dozens of roles, spoofing commercial television and the capitalist dream

*Hustle With My Muscle* (1986), music video for John Sex

*The Drag Queen Marathon* (1985), a tour of New York landmarks conducted by a roving band of drag queens, featuring Dagmar Onassis, Sister Dimension, Tabboo, The Lady Bunny, Hapi Phace, and others

*Bump It and Grind It* (1986), a music video for John Sex

*WIGSTOCK: the movie* (1987), a documentary about New York's annual celebration of drag culture, featuring The Lady Bunny, John Kelly, Lypsinka, Baby Gregor and John Sex

*Undercover . . . ME!* (1988), a fake movie trailer for a James Bond-like feature, with John Sex and Hapi Phace

*Try My Love* (1988), a music video for Paul Zone

*Summer of Love*, a public service announcement produced by Rubnitz and MICA-TV for the American Foundation for AIDS Research, featuring the B-52's and friends

*The Fairies* (1989), an allegory about love in the age of AIDS, based on a story by Charles Perault, featuring Anne Iobst, Lucy Sexton, Kyle deCamp, Michael Clark and Sister Dimension

*Strawberry Short-Cut* (1989), a short commercial for The Lady Bunny's "strawberry short-cut"

*Pickle Surprise!* (1990), a hilarious fake commercial, featuring The Lady Bunny, Sister Dimension, LaHoma Van Zant, David Dalrymple and Ru Paul

*Love is the Message* (1990), a music video for Paul Zone

*The Mother Show* (1991), a tribute to mothers everywhere, produced in collaboration with Barbara Lipp and Tom Koken, featuring Freida