

The Kitchen Center for Video and Music

press release

VIDEO

CHARLES ATLAS

MORE MEN

March 14 8:30pm

\$3.00/\$2.00 members

The Kitchen, 484 Broome St.

Reservations: 925-3615

On March 14th, The Kitchen features an evening screening of the complete version of MORE MEN by Charles Atlas.

The thin margin between truth and fiction widens and narrows in this two-channel video presentation, which combines video portraiture, acted sequences and "found" television material within a loose narrative design.

Irony is the hallmark of this thematic corridor where doors open onto a variety of characters: generations of men.

The relationship of the two channels is contrived with computer-aided precision. In form the two-channel juxtaposition is exploited for its presentation of the video material in ways that allow content contrast and rhythmic variation.

More Men features Dave Atlas, Michael Bloom, Johnny Carson, Lon Chaney III, Donald Duck, John Erdman, David Kennedy, Joseph Lennon, and Laszlo Le Tsurckkinaski.

CHARLES ATLAS is a visual artist who has been working in video since 1975. His early works in this media were "videodances" made in collaboration with choreographer Merce Cunningham. Those were explorations of a variety of ways of combining video and dance which attempted to bring the demands of the video medium into the heart of the choreographic process and to include dance as a high energy activity. The results are the "videodances": WESTBETH (1975), BLUE STUDIO: FIVE SEGMENTS (1976), SQUAREGAME VIDEO (1977), VIDEO TRIANGLE (1977), FRACTIONS I AND II (1978). More recently he has been pursuing a new direction in video. The two-channel work MORE MEN (1981) includes video portraiture, acted performances and "found" video material.

In 1980 a retrospective of his videotapes was presented at The Kitchen. His video work has also been shown in NYC at the Museum of Modern Art, the Anthology Film Archives, and the Donnell Library, and at museums throughout the United States as well as at the American Center in Paris. He is currently filmmaker-in-residence with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company and also serves as its production supervisor. Throughout his association with the dance company he has continued to make personal work in a variety of media: theatre pieces, including the full evening work WONDER, TRY (SKETCHY VERSION) (1973), and other dance related films and video tapes such as MAYONNAISSE (1973), a film portrait/gesture dance featuring Douglas Dunn, and most recently he has presented with composer Rhys Chatham the film/live electric guitar work DECIBEL DIARY (1982). Mr. Atlas has also designed visual presentations and/or costumes and lights for the works of choreographers Karole Armitage, Merce Cunningham, Douglas Dunn and Dana Reitz.