

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WNET/THIRTEEN TO PRESENT "GOOD MORNING, MR. ORWELL"--

A LIVE NEW YEAR'S DAY SATELLITE SPECTACULAR

FEATURING PERFORMERS FROM NEW YORK AND PARIS--

To Air Nationally Over PBS Sunday, January 1 at Noon

LIVE from New York and Paris, WNET/THIRTEEN presents Nam June Paik's "Good Morning, Mr. Orwell," a satellite spectacular welcoming the dawn of 1984 with music, dance and poetry. Hosted by George Plimpton, this event will be seen in America over PBS on Sunday, January 1 at 12 Noon,* and will also be seen in Europe via FR3 French National Television. (In New York the program will be seen on THIRTEEN at that time.)

"George Orwell was the first media prophet and philosopher," explains Paik. "However, he emphasized only the negative aspects of the media: TV as Big Brother. 'Good Morning, Mr. Orwell' the first global interactive use of the satellite among international artists, celebrates the positive possibilities of the media by showcasing both established and new young talents from both sides of the Atlantic. This show is symbolic of how television can cross international borders and provide a liberating information/communications service."

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*Please check local PBS listings in your area.

Program host George Plimpton believes in experiencing first-hand the areas of his writing. For his various books Plimpton has played quarterback for the Detroit Lions, pitched against major league baseball players, boxed against Archie Moore and played basketball with the Boston Celtics. Plimpton, author of the recent best-selling "Edie: An American Biography," has also played percussion with the New York Philharmonic, worked as a Playboy magazine photographer, performed stand-up comedy at Caesar's Palace and acted in both "Reds" and "Lawrence of Arabia."

Among the scheduled segments from WNET/THIRTEEN's New York studio comprising this celebration of 1984, a year made famous by George Orwell's chilling novel of the same name, will be rock stars Laurie Anderson and Peter Gabriel singing "Good Morning, Mr. Orwell," which they composed and recorded especially for the broadcast; choreographer-dancer Merce Cunningham and composer-performer John Cage performing to video images being transmitted from Paris; Allen Ginsberg and Peter Orlovsky singing one of their compositions; commentary by artist Robert Rauschenberg; interludes with comedians Leslie Fuller and Mitchell Kriegman, formerly of "Saturday Night Live;" a performance of Paik's "TV Cello" by Charlotte Moorman; and the world television premiere of "Act III," an award-winning video work by Dean Winkler and John Sanborn to music by Philip Glass.

Appearing from the Centre Georges Pompidou during this hour-long variety show will be Joseph Beuys performing a piece for piano in the midst of immense Calder sculptures and 2,000 spectators; pop-star Sapho singing one of her recent hits; performances by Urban Sax, a group of eighty futuristically costumed musicians; a piece by performance artist Ben Vauthier; an extraordinary pair

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of fireworks displays by Pierre-Alain Hubert, who has provided installations for Rolling Stones concerts and the historic summit meeting at Versailles; and a parade of outrageous fashions from Studio Bergot.

Appearing on videotape from Germany are artists Salvador Dali; performance artist Mauricio Kagel; and composer Karlheinz Stockhausen, conducting part of his "Momenta."

"Good Morning, Mr. Orwell" has been officially designated a World Communications Year Event by the United States Council for World Communications Year.

The trans-Atlantic television satellite transmission for this program is courtesy of Bright Star Communications, Ltd. Special thanks to Westar/Western Union, for the U.S. television satellite transmission.

A co-production of the Television Laboratory at WNET/THIRTEEN, FR3 French National TV and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. For WNET: Director: Emile Ardolino; Executive producer: Carol Brandenburg, co-Director of the Television Laboratory; Producer: Sam Paul; Associate producer: Vicki Lynn. Conceived and coordinated by Nam June Paik.

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November 29, 1983

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PERFORMING FROM NEW YORK

LAURIE ANDERSON -- One of the world's foremost performance artists, Ms. Anderson is an accomplished singer, composer, filmmaker, photographer, sculptor and musician. Her hit song, "O Superman," made it to number two on the British charts last year and her latest piece, a seven-hour marathon work entitled "United States," was presented at the Brooklyn Academy of Music earlier this year.

JOHN CAGE -- For more than 35 years, Cage has been challenging audiences to explore his very individual approach to music through composition and collaboration with other artists, including choreographer Merce Cunningham and artist Robert Rauschenberg. A student of music his entire life, Cage has composed his works within a unique philosophical framework, drawing upon the teachings of Zen Buddhism and using his own interpretation of the "I Ching, The Book of Changes."

MERCE CUNNINGHAM -- One of the true revolutionaries in the history of dance, Cunningham's choreography is based on the premise that the dancer can use any point in space, and that all movements are equivalent. He and John Cage have collaborated since 1938. They share the philosophy that dance and music are independent entities, with only their duration in common for any given piece. Once a dancer with Martha Graham, Cunningham and his company of dancers have enjoyed a long history of international acclaim.

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LESLIE FULLER -- She is a writer/composer with extensive work in television, especially musical television and comedy. Fuller is a former staff writer for NBC-TV's "Saturday Night Live"; creator/writer of an experimental TV Pilot, "Finley's Half-Way House," for Columbia Pictures; creator/composer/lyricist/music producer for Metromedia's new prime time puppet series, "The Book and Sandwich Club," and writer/performer for ABC-TV's "The Fourth Network."

PETER GABRIEL -- The flavor of Gabriel's songs remains as unique as his broadening frame of musical and lyrical reference. Gabriel has utilized various, wildly contrasting ethnic sounds; yet whether the original influence for a piece derives from the California Indians, Central Africa or industrial Europe, each number has a distinct soul. Where others may pay lip service to ethnic strains, Gabriel always bears himself open to the subject.

ALLEN GINSBERG -- An internationally-renowned poet and social activist, Allen Ginsberg has published over 40 books of poetry and prose. For more than 25 years, Ginsberg has consistently supported peace movements throughout the world. Some of his most well-known colleagues from the "Beat Generation" of the 50's through the present include Jack Kerouac, William Burroughs and Daniel Berrigan.

PHILIP GLASS -- One of America's foremost composers, Glass is best-known for his compositions of "minimalist" music. Here Glass has created a unique hypnotic style of fusion music, combining classical, popular and ethnic traditions by utilizing electric keyboards, amplified woodwinds and wordless female voices. His works include "Einstein on the Beach," a collaboration with playwright Robert Wilson, and "Satyagraha," which was based on the life of Mahatma Gandhi and set to a Sanskrit text.

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MITCHELL KRIEGMAN -- He is a writer/performer/director working in television and radio. Kriegman has been an artist-in-residence at WNET's Television Laboratory since 1976, and was a featured performer, writer and video maker at NBC-TV's "Saturday Night Live." He is currently a contributing editor to National Lampoon. His video tapes have been shown at the Whitney Museum and in galleries and museums throughout the country and Europe.

CHARLOTTE MOORMAN -- This internationally-acclaimed cellist and performance artist is known for her controversial duets with video artist Nam June Paik. For the past 20 years, they have collaborated on such works as "TV Cello" and "Video Bra," in which Ms. Moorman has played the cello in various stages of undress while Mr. Paik created video images on television monitors. Ms. Moorman is also originator of the New York Avant-Garde Festival.

PETER ORLOVSKY -- An innovative poet, Orlovsky's style embraces both comedy and lyric tenderness. Orlovsky's playful prose reveals a traditional literary character which explores differing sexual lifestyles, plant life and the beat-beatitude-beauty of humankind, among many provocative topics. Orlovsky is the long-time companion of Allen Ginsberg.

ROBERT RAUSCHENBERG -- One of America's foremost avant-garde artists, whose entire style is built upon the notion of shunning preconceptions and responding impulsively. He is currently blending cultures and technologies from the many countries he has visited into his work. Some recent examples include a 100-foot long photograph of China inspired by Rauschenberg's 1982 visit there.

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JOSEPH BEUYS -- Beuys has polarized the artistic community with his unconventional sculpture and performance pieces. Utilizing felt and tallow, at once symbols of trauma in the artist's life and two of the basic elements in his sculptural vocabulary, Beuys attempts to exorcise the demons of past and spiritually reform the present.

ROBERT COMBAS -- Born in 1957 in Lion, France, Combas presented his first one-man show in Medamothi, Montteller. This innovative artist had his first group show in St. Etienne called "Apres la Classicism." A member of the French Free-Figurative Group, Combas has had five one-man shows in Europe. His works have appeared in the United States at such galleries as New York's Holly Solomon Gallery and the Castelli Gallery.

PIERRE-ALAIN HUBERT -- A performance artist who uses fireworks as his medium, Hubert is well-known in Europe for his annual Bastille Day exhibitions in Marseilles, France. Hubert, who calls himself "The Dream Seller," has also masterminded performances for the 1982 summit conference at Versailles and the Rolling Stones' concerts in Paris.

SAPHO -- A popular French singing star, Sapho studied literature and psychology before turning to performing. During a recent year-long stay in New York, the Moroccan native gave concerts at Max's Kansas City, CBGB and Hurrah. She is featured on numerous recordings and is the author of "Sapho, A Memoir."

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STUDIO BERCOT -- This innovative fashion design group was created in 1971 and specializes in utilizing unconventional materials, forms and colors with designs based on symbolism taken from works of art. Their most recent success was a show at the Paris Museum of Modern Art in the spring of 1983.

URBAN SAX -- This is a group of 80 musicians and vocalists, most of whom play the saxophone. Since 1976, they have been performing at concerts and music festivals throughout Europe, and were selected to play at the Carnival of Venice and French President Mitterand's global summit at Versailles.

BEN VAUTHIER -- A native Italian, Vauthier has been the creative force behind numerous European performance events. His poetry, theatre, films and musical compositions are well-known throughout the avant-garde community.

JACQUES VILLERS -- This popular entertainer and well-known program host for numerous French programs will serve as the Paris-based host of "Good Morning, Mr. Orwell."

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SALVADOR DALI -- Legendary surrealist painter whose innovative works have ranged from depicting the travails of a paint manufacturer to the 19th century Battle of Tetuan. Some of Dali's better-known works include "The Great Masturbator," "Tuna Fishing," "The Visage of War," "The Enigma of Hitler," and "The Horse of Death."

MAURICIO KAGEL -- An experimental musical composer best known for his anti-operas. Among Kagel's brilliantly ironic works are "Variete," a concert spectacle for circus and variety artists; "Aus Deutschland," a production including song texts based on the works of philosophers such as Heine and Schiller, and "Ex-Position," which explored the realm of pantomimed gymnastic comedy.

KARLHEINZ STOCKHAUSEN -- A German composer whose visionary compositions have been preserved on more than 70 records. Among Stockhausen's better-known works are "The Little Harlequin"; "Mondeva"; "Michaels Jugend," and "Luzifers Abschied."

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