

RETROSPECTIVE

THE ORAL TRADITION



1978

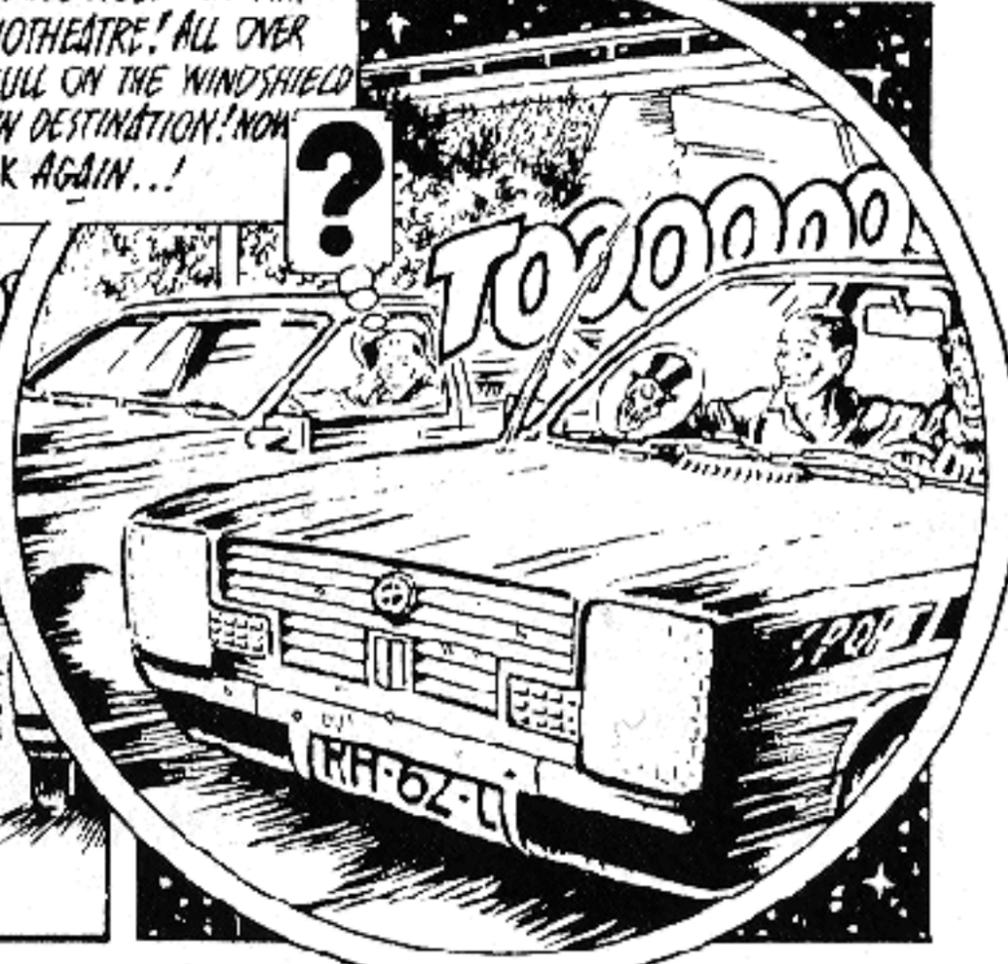
JANUARI 10TH - PAST MIDNIGHT - A DUTCH HIGHWAY...



MY EYES...TIRED! BETTER TURN ON THE RADIO...



YOU ARE PLAYING THE LEADING ROLE IN THIS DEATH FEAR-ESCAPADE-RADIO THEATRE! ALL OVER THE COUNTRY CARS WITH A SKULL ON THE WINDSHIELD ARE HEADED FOR AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION! NOW HONK ONE TIME! NOW HONK AGAIN...!



WHEN YOU LOOK OUT OF YOUR WINDOW YOU WILL SEE MANY LISTENERS THAT PLUNGED THEMSELVES IN THIS RADIO-ADVENTURE! ATTENTION! NOW START PLAYING WITH YOUR LIGHTS...!



THE HAUNTED CASTLE IS WAITING! TURN RIGHT AT 'WOUDRICHEM', TAKE THE DIKE, THE FERRYMAN AWAITS YOU!





WELCOME HOME, DARLING!
THE GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED
AND WE HAD DOZENS OF
CALLS FROM HOLLAND!

APOLOGIES FOR MY LATE ARRIVAL! MY RADIO-
NIGHTRIDE-THATRE TAKES THE BLAME; IT
WAS A NATIONAL COMMOTION! PLEASE FOLLOW
ME TO OUR SALON DE SPECTACLE...!



PLEASE HAVE A SEAT!
THE SHOW WILL BEGIN
IN A MINUTE! NOW, IF
YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...



AH, THERE YOU ARE! I WAS GET-
TING WORRIED I HAD TO PLAY
ALONE! HOW WAS THE NIGHTRIDE?



I TELL YOU-WE MADE
THEATRE-HISTORY! BUT
LET'S GET THE SHOW ROLL-
ING! RAISE THE CURTAIN!



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! YOU WILL NOW BE
SUCKED INTO A WORLD OF ILLUSIONS! A
BIT OF PAINT ON PAPER IS ENOUGH TO MAKE
YOU DREAM! AWAY WITH REALITY!

MAN I

ELISE

JANE

AFTER THE SHOW AT THE DINNER-TABLE...



IT IS REMARKABLE INDEED HOW-IN SPITE OF THE MINIMAL MOVEMENTS-THE PAPER THEATRE BECOMES SO REAL! THE SMALL PROPORTIONS SOON GROW TO LIFE-SIZE! QUITE DIFFERENT FROM YOUR RADIO-THEATRE, I PRESUME?

A KIND OF 19TH CENTURY TELEVISION!

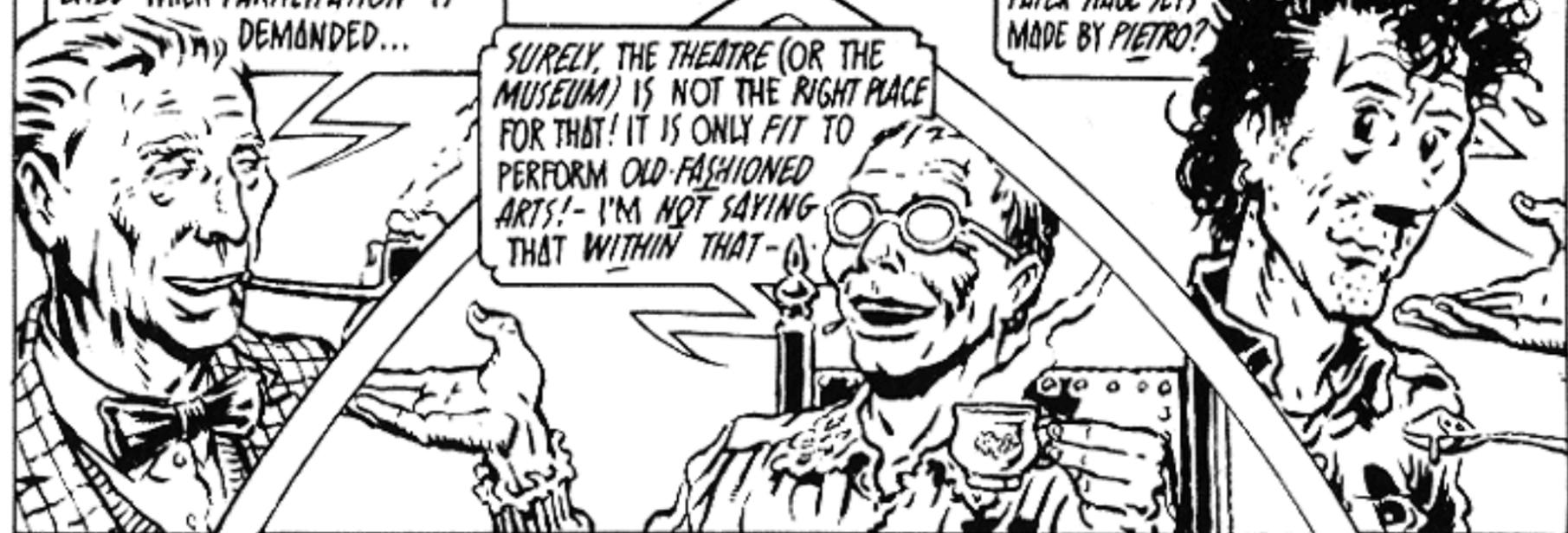
YES, THEATRE IS A PRODUCT OF PAST CENTURIES! TO ME IT SEEMS TO BE HIGH TIME TO ABOLISH THE ACTOR! THE AUDIENCE BECOMES THE ACTOR! IT CAN BE DIRECTED. EH DIRECTLY! ACTING IS MUCH MORE FUN THAN JUST WATCHING!

YOUR KUKICHA-TEA, SIR...

BUT ALL EFFORTS TO ACTIVATE THE AUDIENCE IN THE THEATRE HAVE FAILED! ONE FEELS THREATENED WHEN PARTICIPATION IS DEMANDED...

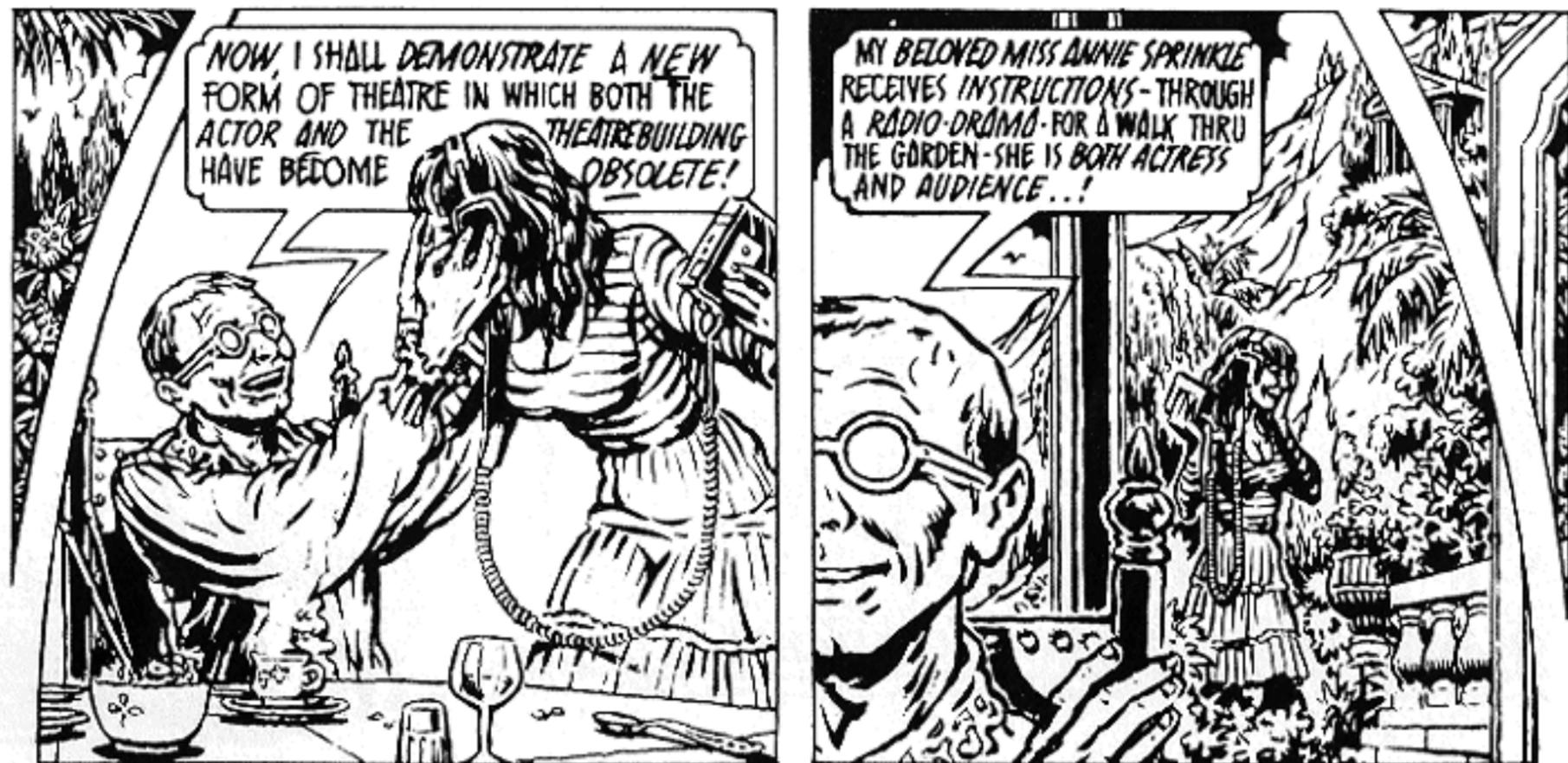
FRAME IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DO BEAUTIFUL THINGS! HOW DID YOU LIKE THE PAPER STAGE-SETS MADE BY PIETRO?

SURELY, THE THEATRE (OR THE MUSEUM) IS NOT THE RIGHT PLACE FOR THAT! IT IS ONLY FIT TO PERFORM OLD-FASHIONED ARTS!- I'M NOT SAYING THAT WITHIN THAT-



NOW, I SHALL DEMONSTRATE A NEW FORM OF THEATRE IN WHICH BOTH THE ACTOR AND THE THEATREBUILDING HAVE BECOME OBSOLETE!

MY BELOVED MISS ANNIE SPRINKLE RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS-THROUGH A RADIO-DRAMA-FOR A WALK THRU THE GARDEN-SHE IS BOTH ACTRESS AND AUDIENCE...!





IN JAPAN THEY DEVELOPED A MINIATURE-CASSETTE PLAYER THAT ENABLES ME TO INTRODUCE MY NEW FORM OF THEATRE ON A LARGE SCALE! THE INVENTION OF THE WALKMAN CREATED ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.



1973

I STARTED EXPERIMENTING WITH SOUND DURING MY FIRST STAY IN HOLLYWOOD, TO BE EXACT IN THE VILLA THAT ONCE BELONGED TO AL JOLSON, THE FIRST SPEAKING MOVIE STAR...!

FROM THE MOMENT THAT SOUND WAS ADDED TO FILMS THE HYPNOTIC EFFECT OF THE ILLUSION-THEATER BECAME COMPLETE! SOUND BECAME ENSLAVED TO IMAGE; RADIO WAS MOVED TO THE BACKGROUND BY TELEVISION! THE WORLD FELL A VICTIM TO A BOMBARDMENT OF IMAGES...!



YES, I KNOW YOUR REPUGNANCE TO FILM, PAINTING, T.V., AND STAGE-ARTS. HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT? IF I REMEMBER WELL, YOU STARTED OUT AS A PAINTER, DIDN'T YOU?



O NO, THAT WAS MUCH LATER! AS A CHILD I TOLD STORIES TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND I HAD A PUPPET-THEATRE... IN FACT IT'S A LONG STORY THAT BEGINS WITH A CRUMPLED PIECE OF PAPER...

WILLEM DE RIDDER'S

#

IN 1959 I DECIDED THAT PAINTING WASN'T RELEVANT ANYMORE (EXCEPT AS A HOBBY OR A THERAPY), SO I TOOK THE SHEET OF

DRAWING-PAPER IN FRONT OF ME AND CREATED THE FIRST OF THE: **1959 A.D.**



BIRTH OF THE PAPER KONSTELLATION

3223223 P.K.-AUTOMOBILE IN AMSTERDAM
1963 ANNO DOMINI
 OF COURSE MANY OPPORTUNISTS WOULD KEEP ON PAINTING FOR THE SIMPLE REASON MUSEA NEED PAINTINGS... I CRUMPLED P.K.'S...



AH, STEREO P.K.-MUSIC!



THE END OF PAINTING INTRODUCED THE BEGINNING OF A UNIVERSAL P.K.-ART, EXAMPLES OF WHICH ARE P.K.-MUSIC, P.K.-THEATRE, P.K.-SCULPTURES, P.K.-BIKINI'S, P.K.-AUTOMOBILES, P.K.-FASHION, P.K.-ENVIRONMENTS, P.K.-PARTIES, P.K.-BUTTONS, P.K.-SHIRTS (THE END OF IRONING), P.K.-MUSEUM-ART, P.K.-FIRE, P.K.-MAGAZINES AND P.K.-ARCHITECTURE...

1963

ON 1958 I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT BESIDES BEING A PLAYWRIGHT I ALSO WANTED TO BE A COMPOSER. AFTER STUDYING FOR YEARS I DECIDED AGAINST GOING TO THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC. MY TALENTS WOULD BE STIFLED THERE FOR EVER, THE OFFICIAL CONCERT-PRACTICE GOT ME EX EMA AND MOST MUSICIANS WERE CLEARLY SUFFERING UNDER THIS PETRIFIED ART-FORM.

THEREFORE I BEGAN MAKING MUSIC DIRECTLY WITH THE CONCERT-AUDIENCE, THUS ELIMINATING THE ORCHESTRA, THE MUSICIANS, THE STAGE. THE SCORE BECAME A SIMPLE CARD.

Card

EVENTS

CONFETTI 1963

PLEASE TEAR UP THIS CARD AFTER READING AND THROW THE LITTLE PIECES HIGH INTO THE AIR ABOVE YOU AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COOPERATION.
WILLEM DE RIDDER

RETURN TO SENDER

PLEASE RETURN THIS CARD AFTER READING TO THE PERSON THAT HANDED IT TO YOU. THANK YOU.

WILLEM DE RIDDER

THE CARD-Scores - OF WHICH ALSO DESERVE TO BE MENTIONED: 'YOUR OWN CARD' AND THE CARD THAT HAD TO BE PASSED ON (AFTER READING) TO THE NEXT PERSON WERE ALSO PERFORMED IN THE STREETS, IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT VEHICLES, ETC.

№ 15

GOOD, THAT WAS NICE. THANK YOU! NOW, I'D LIKE TO SEE № 15... № 15 PLEASE...!

CONTROL

PLEASE THROW THIS CARD WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS HALL IN THE SPECIAL BASKET AT THE EXIT. THANK YOU.

MAKE YOUR OWN CARD-EVENTS

WILLENDORR RIDDER'S

DURING A CONCERT OF THE MOOD ENGINEERING SOCIETY WITH LOUIS ANDRIESEN I PERFORMED THE COMPOSITION 'F 1960'. I CAME ON STAGE AS A SINGER. THE AUDIENCE POLITELY APPLAUDED...

F#1960



AFTER SOUNDING THE F-KEY, SILENCE RETURNS TO THE CONCERT-HALL. NOTHING HAPPENS ON STAGE, SO AFTER MINUTES THE AUDIENCE IS GETTING IMPATIENT...



THEN SUDDENLY...

BOOOOSSSSSSSH!
LOUDER IS THAT ALL I WANT
MY MONEY BACK VERY FUNNY?
PIANO NEEDS! TUNING NOTHING!
AGAINST MODERN MUSIC TOO!
FAR? BORINGSSSSSH! TOOT...



AGAIN MINUTES OF SILENCE...



ETCETERA...



SHAMEJOKER!?



POMAX STUDIOS

MY MUSICAL PIECES WERE PERFORMED IN EUROPE AND AMERICA. NEITHER ORCHESTRAS NOR STAGES ARE NECESSARY, ANY HALL IS SUITABLE. SOME OF THEM ARE STILL BEING PLAYED, FOR EXAMPLE 'PASSING': TWO MUSICIANS ARE STANDING IN THE FRONT AND THE BACK OF THE AUDITORIUM, THEY MOVE ALONGSIDE ALL THE ROWS OF SEATS UNTIL THEY MEET AND SHAKE HANDS.....



PASSING



NOTES

THE MUSICAL THEATRE PIECE 'NOTES' CAN ALSO BE PERFORMED ANYWHERE. THE MUSICIAN COMES ON STAGE HOLDING A PEN AND A WRITING-PAD IN WHICH HE NOTES DOWN SHORT DESCRIPTIONS OF OBJECTS AND PEOPLE IN THE HALL...

THE ROAD

A WINDING PATH-SCORE IS DRAWN ON THE STAGE. SOME PEOPLE FROM THE AUDIENCE ARE INVITED TO FOLLOW THE PATH, CARRYING HEAVY OBJECTS, WALKING SLOWLY. THIS PIECE IS ALSO FIT FOR PERFORMING ON SQUARES, ETC.

A FREQUENTLY PLAYED AND EVER EFFECTIVE COMPOSITION IS: 'LAUGHING' (1963). THE MUSICIANS APPEAR ON STAGE WEARING LAUGHING MASKS AND REMAIN MOTIONLESS UNTILL THE AUDIENCE IS ROARING WITH LAUGHTER. THE CONCERT IS FINISHED WHEN THE LAUGHTER SUBSIDES. SOMETIMES THAT TAKES A LONG TIME...



LAUGHING



WILLEM DE RIDDER'S



YOU ARE NOW A MEMBER FOR LIFE AND YOUR HOUSE IS BEING WATCHED!

SEVERAL THEATRICAL PROJECTS WERE REALIZED THRU 'HITWEEK-ALPHA': THE LISTENING CORPS - YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER HOLLAND OPENED THEIR ROOMS TO STRANGERS OFFERING TEA, RECORDS, BOOKS, EXPERIENCES, ETC. A COOKING COLUMN 'WILLY WIENER'S KITCHEN' INTRODUCED THE HIGHEST ART (IN WRITING AND ON THE RADIO) 'HOLLANDIA INTERNATIONAL' INTRODUCED PARANOIA THEATRE AND MY DANCE-GROUP 'KUNST BAERT KRACHT' INTRODUCED UN-DANCING.

NOW PUT THE BONITA IN THE KOMBU-STOCK STIR IN SPIRALS!

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE ALPHA-LISTENING-CORPS?

AFTER I LEFT THE "CULTURAL WORLD" A READER-WRITTEN TABLOID WAS MY NEXT PROJECT. IT SOON BECAME A POPULAR MEDIUM THAT INTRODUCED NEW LAY-OUT STYLES AND MANY HIDDEN ART-PROJECTS. TWO MULTI-MEDIA CLUBS 'PARADISO' AND 'FANTASIO' GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE AN AUDIENCE-GENERATED THEATRE. IT WAS THE TIME OF FLOWER-POWER AND PSYCHEDELICS AND THE TWO CLUBS WERE VISITED BY YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. SOON MORE THAN 150 SO CALLED 'PROVADYA' MULTI-MEDIA-CLUB OPENED ALL OVER HOLLAND

WILLENDORFFER'S

MUSEUM WALK

IN WIESBADEN THE FIRST MUSEUM-WALK WAS INSTALLED. IN 1983 4 DUTCH MUSEUMS FEATURED THE ADVENTUROUS TOUR.....

IF YOU KEEP DRIVIN' 55 MILES AN HOUR TO PARIS, TIME WILL FLY WITH THIS CARWALK! MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE... AND NOW: MUSIC...!



The WALK

CARWALK

SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE WALK IT HAS BECOME A POPULAR ART-FORM THROUGHOUT EUROPE, DUE TO THE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES THE SOUND THEATRE OFFERS TO THOSE COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS AND THUS BECOME THE LEADING ACTORS IN A 3-D SOUND-DRAMA...!

POMAX STUDIOS

VIENNA - MAY 10TH 1983

YOU ARE ABOUT TO LAND IN SINGAPORE. TURN ON YOUR CASSETTE UNTIL YOU ARE THRU CUSTOMS. AFTER THAT, THIS WALK WILL OPEN THE GATES OF SINGAPORE TO YOUR STUNNED SENSES!

LAUFEN SIE WEITER BIS AM STEFAN-KIRCHE; WENN SIE DORT ANKOMMEN, BITTE DREHEN SIE DAS FUNK-GERÄT SEHR LAUT...!



TRAVEL WALK

WIENER WALK

WILLEM DE RIDDER'S

DO YOU SEE THAT UNDULATING BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET? GO INSIDE AND TAKE THE ELEVATOR TO THE ROOF....

ALTHOUGH I HAD BEEN WORKING WITH SOUND FOR YEARS, THROUGH RADIO AND LIVE, THE INVENTION OF THE WALKMAN CREATED A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES FOR THE THEATRE. FROM THEN ON THE WHOLE WORLD BECAME A STAGE. ANYONE WITH A WALKMAN CAN BE AN ACTOR...

POMAX STUDIOS



WELCOME IN AMSTERDAM HAS IT BEEN 12 O'CLOCK YET? NO? THEN IT'S NOW TIME TO GO TO THE CENTRAL STATION...

THE HOLLAND FESTIVAL OFFERS YOU A WALK THROUGH AMSTERDAM. WITH ONLY ONE CASSETTE YOU'LL HAVE MANY ADVENTURES. AVAILABLE AT MOST AMSTERDAM BOX-OFFICES.

IN COÖPERATION WITH AVENUE, A DUTCH MAGAZINE ON SOPHISTICATED LIVING THE AVENUE-TRAVEL-ADVENTURE WAS CREATED. ANYONE THAT SPEAKS DUTCH AND OWNS A CAR CAN ORDER 4 CASSETTES THAT WILL SEND HIM OR HER ON A MYSTERIOUS JOURNEY THAT LASTS TWO DAYS AND ONE NIGHT...

DEAR CONDUCTOR, YOU ARE STANDING WITH YOUR BACK TO THE ORCHESTRA.. NOW SLOWLY TURN AROUND



IN 1982 IN THE MUSEUM OF WIESBADEN (GERMANY) THE WORLD-DEBUT OF THE WALKMAN-THEATRE TOOK PLACE...

AT THE HOLLAND FESTIVAL THE WALKMAN-SCORE 1983 WAS PERFORMED BY THE 'RADIO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA'. REHEARSALS WERE NOT NECESSARY.

