

Critique Bundle 3

Artist Statement:

The Nowadays Show is a work that explores the tension between normative cis-hetero-patriarchal ideals of gender and the experiences of those who fall outside of this norm for any number of reasons. This dichotomy is analyzed through the lens of a classic 1960s-1970s style talk show format that is interrupted by more radical streams of thought breaking through. Non-binary identity, neurodivergence's impact on personal gender identity, queerness, and efforts at pushing back against patriarchal systems are represented in often satirical, sometimes more serious, experimental video works.

The episode incorporates both analogue and 4K digital camera work, mirroring the contrast between the outdated ideas put forth during the talk show and the more subversive video art pieces that envelop it. Additionally, the talk show segments are edited relatively straightforward to reflect a safe, normative setting, while the interrupting sections explore experimental modes of media creation. Animation, green screen, 3D scans, video distortion, and overall heightened editing choices are seen throughout, placing those works in a more contemporary world. Another point of contrast is found in the score, jumping from organic instrumentation in the talk show to brash electronic sounds for the more experimental works.

Though the gender diverse characters are seemingly trapped within the cis-hetero-patriarchal confines of The Nowadays Show, the conclusion alludes to a literal breaking free into a purely experimental, open ended, and brighter place.

Background Information:

In The Nowadays Show, Maya Creede-Penna, Breanna McBride, Jamie Pyle, and Alexander Skerrett played characters on screen, and also worked behind the camera in numerous sections of the episode. Maya and Jamie operated the analogue camera and microphone during the shooting of the talk show segments, and Alexander took on that role later during the filming of the conclusion and final credits scenes on the Black Magic camera. Laurie Starlight's vinyl show was filmed independently by Jamie, and the Divine Thought ad was filmed independently by Maya. For Joan Freya's DIY show, Breanna acted in front of the camera while Maya and Alexander operated the camera and microphone, and for the Lola Doll ad, Jamie and Breanna acted in front of the camera and also operated the camera. Shooting took place from the middle of February into the start of March, with most ensemble sections being filmed in one day!

Maya Creede-Penna, Breanna McBride, Jamie Pyle, Alexander Skerrett

During post-production, Alexander created an intro animation for the talkshow, and Maya created animations for their character Dusty for scenes in the talk show, their own fully animated segment, the conclusion scene, and the final credits. Maya additionally edited their Divine Thought ad and Divine Thought talk show segment, and created collages to be edited in as a live studio audience during the talk show segments. Jamie edited her Laurie Starlight character's talk show and vinyl show, the final credits (including a 3D scan she made of Maya's Divine Thought), and worked together with Breanna to edit their joint Lola Doll ad. Breanna edited her Joan Freya talk show and DIY show, and the conclusion scene. Together, Breanna and Jamie created the score for the episode, including background music for segments as well as a jingle for the Lola Doll ad. Maya independently created the score for their Divine Thought ad and Dusty segment. Alexander, Breanna, Jamie, and Maya all created art pieces to act as background during the final credits scene, including collage, painting, and digital drawing. The final cut was edited together by Breanna, involving VHS distortion transitions between each section and equalizing the sound to ensure consistency throughout.

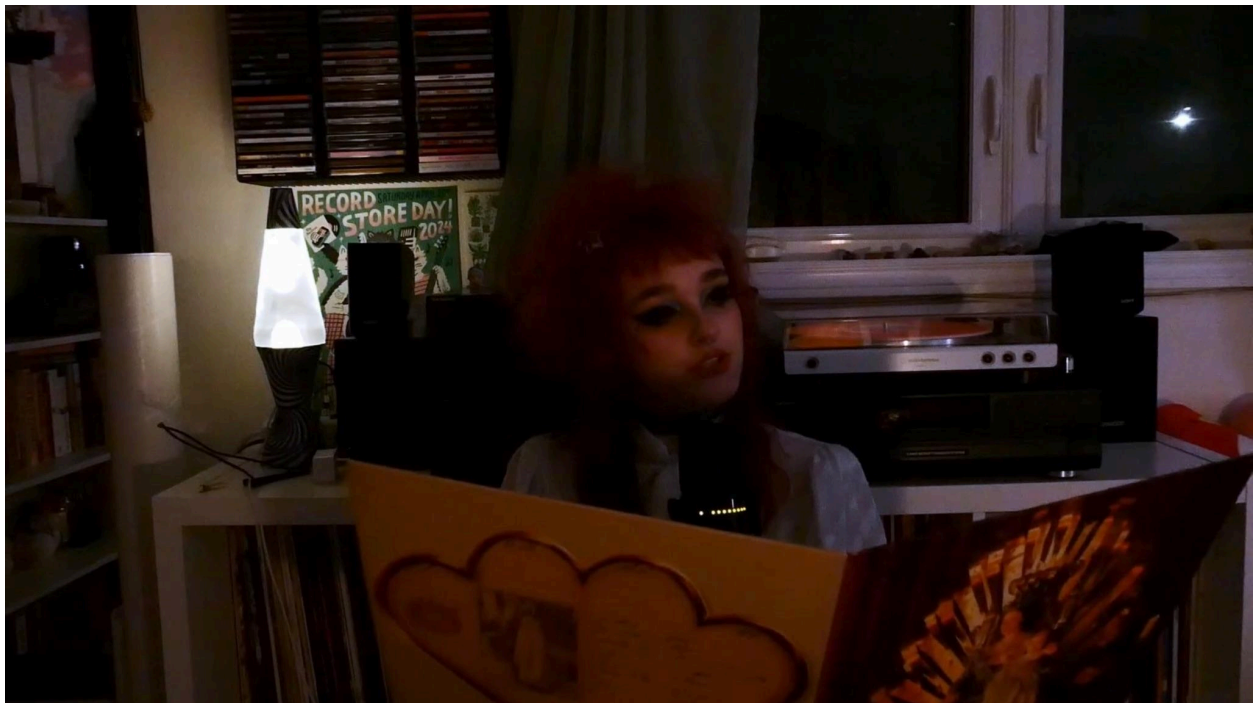
Video Stills:



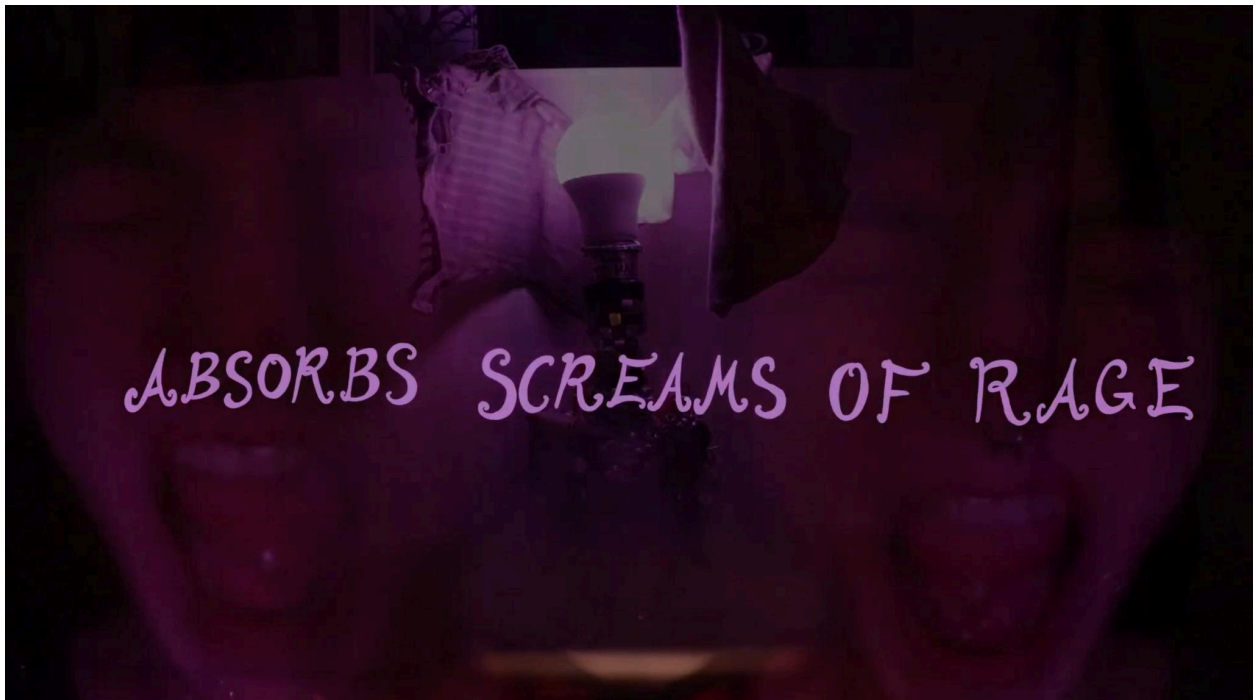
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