

JOCKEY SLUT

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Doctorin' The House

VIETNAM VETERANS, EXQUISITE BREAKS AND IMAGE MANIPULATION. IT'S ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR THE LIGHT SURGEONS CREW...

Rob Da Bank's Sunday Best is an institution in leftfield circles. It's been a test bed and stimulated many producers, but its contribution to club culture isn't confined solely to music; it also helped audio visual maestros The Light Surgeons make their name. Projecting onto every available surface, in the mid '90s they turned Clapham's Tearooms into a psychedelic panorama akin to the party scene in 'Midnight Cowboy' and won many fans in the process.

Since then, along with image manipulators like Hexstatic and Coldcut, they've become one of the benchmark VJ collectives; they're the resident VJs at Fabric, they've toured with Cornershop and worked with UNKLE. And for the last two years, in conjunction with the Onedotzero Digital Film Festival, they've been developing the 'Electronic Manoeuvres' AV-OP (audiovisual operation), in their words, a 90-minute "exploded, expressionistic widescreen live documentary".

The founder and creative director of The Light Surgeons, Chris Allen, explains: "The Electronic Manoeuvres show revolves around a road trip around America, told through the eyes of a man called Robert Alan Wieser. The subsequent story that unfolds is a social political essay on the state of America."

The Surgeons encountered Wieser, a Vietnam veteran, talking to himself on LA's Venice Beach and the subsequent interviews are the foundation of two short films, 'Thumbnail Express' and 'The City of Hollow Mountains'. Wieser

also provides the basis for '186,000 MPS', the standout cut on the 'Down And Out EP', a collection of three tracks penned by Light Surgeon Jude Greenaway - aka Scanone - lifted from the 'Electronic Manoeuvres' AV-OP.

On '186,000 MPS', Wieser puts forward his theories on space travel and whilst it would be easy to dismiss him as a rambling, low-rent Timothy Leary, he, along with the nameless street people who provide the monologues for the EP's other two tracks, 'Penny In My Pocket' and 'So You Know', offers a telling, if oblique commentary on society.

Unfortunately, The Light Surgeons have since lost contact with Wieser. "We've put adverts in the LA version of The Big Issue and asked around," he says, before adding, pessimistically, "but..."

But the upside is dance music with a conscience. As Chris says, "We try to make our work communicate a strong message and meaning, something I feel is sadly lacking in a lot of club visuals and dance music."

Chris Blue

The 'Down And Out EP' by Scanone is out now on Make It Better. The Light Surgeons are performing at The Big Chill at Lulworth on Sunday August 19