

Yugoslavia Suite



by
Bob Ostertag
with
Richard Board

DESCRIPTION OF THE CONCERT

The piece has two movements: **WAR GAMES** and **THESE HANDS**

* For War Games, I sit on stage and play a fighter-bomber computer game. The game is projected large on a screen. But I have specially programmed the game controllers to manipulate the game in unorthodox ways, and also to mix in footage from actual US Army and Air Force training videos, cartoons, actual bombing videos from Yugoslavia, and more. The piece proceeds from the unaltered bombing "game" through various kinds of collage to total chaos.

* In "These Hands," the entire stage is dark except for a small light on my hands, which are all that is visible. The hands are also projected on a large screen. The work is a sort of "hand opera". The gestures made with the hands manipulate sound and images, all from the civil war in former

Yugoslavia. The work is difficult to describe, as I don't know of anything that has been done like it.

I will try to describe one part in more detail: There are separate video clips of Tudjman, Milosevic, and Karadzic. As they speak, of course they move their hands. On the stage, I make the same gestures with my hands, and the images of my live hands are mixed in with the video clips, so, for example, my hands and Tudjman's appear to be moving together, or almost appear as one. But the gestures I am making with my hands are also manipulating the sound, which is the sound of people applauding Tudjman at a rally.

*** After the concert, audience members will be invited to stand in front of the camera and make comments on the piece or the situation in former Yugoslavia. These clips will become the basis for an eventual third movement, which will be created after the tour. Hopefully the tour will cover enough different locations to get a real cross-section of comments.**

*** Accompanying Mr. Ostertag will be Richard Board, a lighting and video designer.**