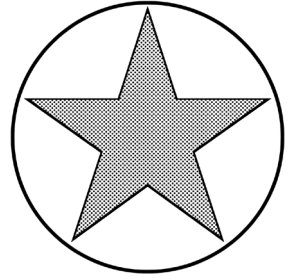


# EARLY DAYS



A screening from the archives of Video Vérité, 1991 – 2003  
Curated by Joanne Lyons



September 14, 2023, 7 pm in the PAVED Arts second-floor event space  
424 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M OX4  
Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis

The Early Days screening celebrates the rich history of independent video production by Saskatchewan-based artists. Selected short works that were produced at Video Vérité examine themes of communication, identity, and anxiety, and question how to be in this world. The videos in this program, each under ten minutes, range from ruminating to raucous.

Reflecting on these videos from many years ago, one may wonder at what has changed and yet how much has remained the same, emphasizing the need to look and learn from the past.

-Joanne Lyons, Curator

## Artists

Terry Billings  
Joanne Bristol  
Neil Collins  
Theo Cuthand  
Edison del Canto  
Brenna George  
Catherine Kmita  
Joanne Lyons  
John Morgan  
Clark Nikolai  
Shirley Spidla  
Sheila Urbanoski  
Lori Weidenhammer  
Gary Young



## Curator Biography

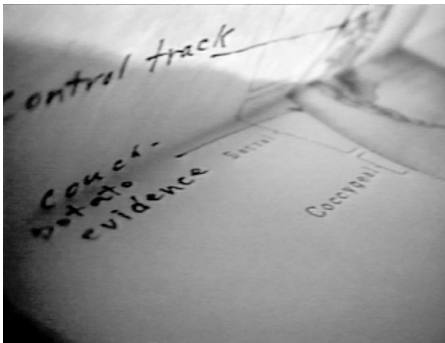
Saskatoon-based artist Joanne Lyons has a diverse practice that includes video, photography, and mixed-media installation. Her love of moving images and projection began as a young child with 8mm home movies. Lyons received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 2008. Her work is held in public and private collections and has been shown nationally in both solo and group exhibitions.



## 1 | Spanghew Decorum

Clark Nikolai, 1983/1991

A man and a woman meet in a restaurant and discuss seemingly trivial matters over supper. The true story though is in the words used and their symbolism of the evolution of a bitter relationship between two very polite people. Originally this was derived from an audio piece. An experiment in words and soundtracks.



## 2 | Videobut

Joanne Bristol, 1995

In this cautionary romance about life in the editing suite, the short monologue reminds us that, in the end, even the most advanced technology is usually handheld.



## 3 | Voice Lessons

Terry Billings, 2001

*Voice Lessons* explores intricate relationships between perspective and voice. The narrative is structured like a language primer. However, the avian images and sounds that illustrate these lessons would be unlikely in any standard textbook. Within this contrast of forms, both image and text are poetically and humorously transformed.



## 4 | Perfume and Tobacco

Edison del Canto, 1991

In this short video, created during an intense workshop setting, Edison del Canto reflects on his personal experience of political imprisonment.



## 5 | in the face of such adversity

Shirley Spidla, 1991

In, *in the face of such adversity*, the external, public agenda is interplayed with the more internal examination of an individual life and the daily decisions which compound the complexities of the human condition. Through the utilization of a specific symbolism the larger narrative is represented.



## 7 | Cultural Capital

Gary Young, 2001

Gary Young's video finds an original and captivating way to simultaneously incorporate and challenge the 2001 cultural policy of the government of Saskatchewan.



## 6 | Silent Shouting

Neil Collins, 1993

This short, fast-paced video, filmed in Saskatoon, looks at graffiti messages of anger, hope, and political statements as a counter to our silence.

## INTERMISSION



## 8 | Sand Wishes

Catherine Kmita, 1992

*Sand Wishes* is a story about Grandad, hermit crabs, "white buzzards", and fried onion sandwiches. It is a tall tale told by a young woman, an engaging storyteller who takes the audience/camera back into her childhood memories which have shifted through time to become subtly bizarre little anecdotes.



## 9 | Sunken Kingdom

John Morgan, 1995

The tape begins as a structurist piece, extended trucking shot focussed on the winter ground a few feet ahead of camera mount, but collapses after a couple of minutes. In that broken space of discontinuity, language briefly emerges.

The second half of the tape is more narrative, the flight of a man running away, leaving across the bleak, frozen Gardiner Dam on the South Saskatchewan River: a youngish middle-aged man who has assumed or become laden with an unanswerable irrationality of doubtful authenticity.



## 10 | Midsummer Overtures

Joanne Lyons, 1995

The baroque images and the structure of this video echo the language and writing style of Angela Carter's story, *Overtures and Incidental Music* which she based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The video is an interpretation of what I

found to be the most compelling elements in this complex story. Our wants and fears are looked at through the search for identity of one who has been defined by the desires of others.



## 11 | Red Riding Hood

Brenna George, 1994

This version of the classic tale is explored through the internal narrative of Red Riding Hood herself. She is consumed with overwhelming anxiety about everything in her personal life and surrounding environment. Instead of being a comfort, Grandma's house becomes the site of her resignation to events when fatigue eventually sets in. Visually playful, the main character changes from finger puppet to paper cut out, to human actor, while her inner self remains constant.



## 12 | Telling Tales

Lori Weidenhammer, 1994

This video was part of Telling Tales: 13 New Versions of Little Red Riding Hood, which was a 1994 initiative of Video Vérité Women's Producer Group. Lori Weidenhammer's take on the tale is quick, unique, and humorous.



## 14 | Drag Queen Trapped in a Woman's Body

Sheila Urbanoski, 1992

It has been said that clothes can make the man: others contend that clothes can make the man a woman. This video asks the burning question, "Why do boys get to wear all the fun stuff?"



## 13 | Lessons in Baby Dyke Theory

Theo Cuthand, 1995

In 1995 when Theo Cuthand was 16 they felt like the only lesbian at their Saskatoon high school. This turned out to be untrue, but the lack of visibility in their school, coupled with the lack of representation of Queer teenagers in the 90's, became material for this video, a comedic short about teenage lesbian loneliness and trying to bribe classmates to come out with the promise of candy.



[www.pavedarts.ca](http://www.pavedarts.ca)  
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