

~~SECRET~~ 7

Three projects suggested for Amsterdam

1. "Argument". A one act play by John Latham - developed from an episode that was enacted at the Mercury Theatre London during the DIAS programme, Sept. 1966, and implemented by Jeffrey Shaw, pneumatica, this production.

Time - about one hour

2 performers, a film, and two technical off-scene operators.

Material: Newspaper, books, balloons, polythene and inflating equipment, sound amplifier.

Action: The film is shown on a screen that touches stage, and lasts about 10 minutes - during which two figures come to stand in front of it, becoming part of the screen. The figures are totally covered in paper. They are like abstract sculptures, one, skin coloured blue-black (male) is neat, formal, hard-edged, while the other, red, female, loose, Dionysiac. Each wears a belt which secures a multiple pipeline leading offstage and connected up to a number of polythene envelopes hidden in their paper cover. Ready-inflated balloons covered in paper are loosely tied to the paraphernalia, and large polystyrene structures fit over the head, resting on the shoulders.

The basic instructions are:- conduct a mute argument by physical disposal of opponents cover, adopting the convention of dialogue, and respecting the opponents headgear until there is nothing more to attack.

During the action the polythene envelopes secreted on the figures is inflated in various ways to indicate the context, the tempo is very varied and many dramatic devices are available to exploit.

When one of the performers loses the head he is "killed" and the lights are dimmed. The film is restarted for 15 - 20 seconds while the performers clear off.

2. "Word-Zoo"X An area similar to a flowerbed in a park, say 150 sq. metres, is filled with waste newsprint and surrounded by a transparent wall (?glass, or plastic if available, # 1 1/2 m. high.) Inside the bed are sunk in the paper as wide a variety of electrical tools and other suitable machinery that is available but has become unfit for the original purpose, while remaining in some respect mobile. Leads to each machine are taken from mains through the wall and time switches fitted, these being set to operate with respect for the cooling requirements of the machines. They are to agitate, chop, shred, blow, convey the paper about in the bed, and a keeper will tend them. A roof protection against rain will be necessary.