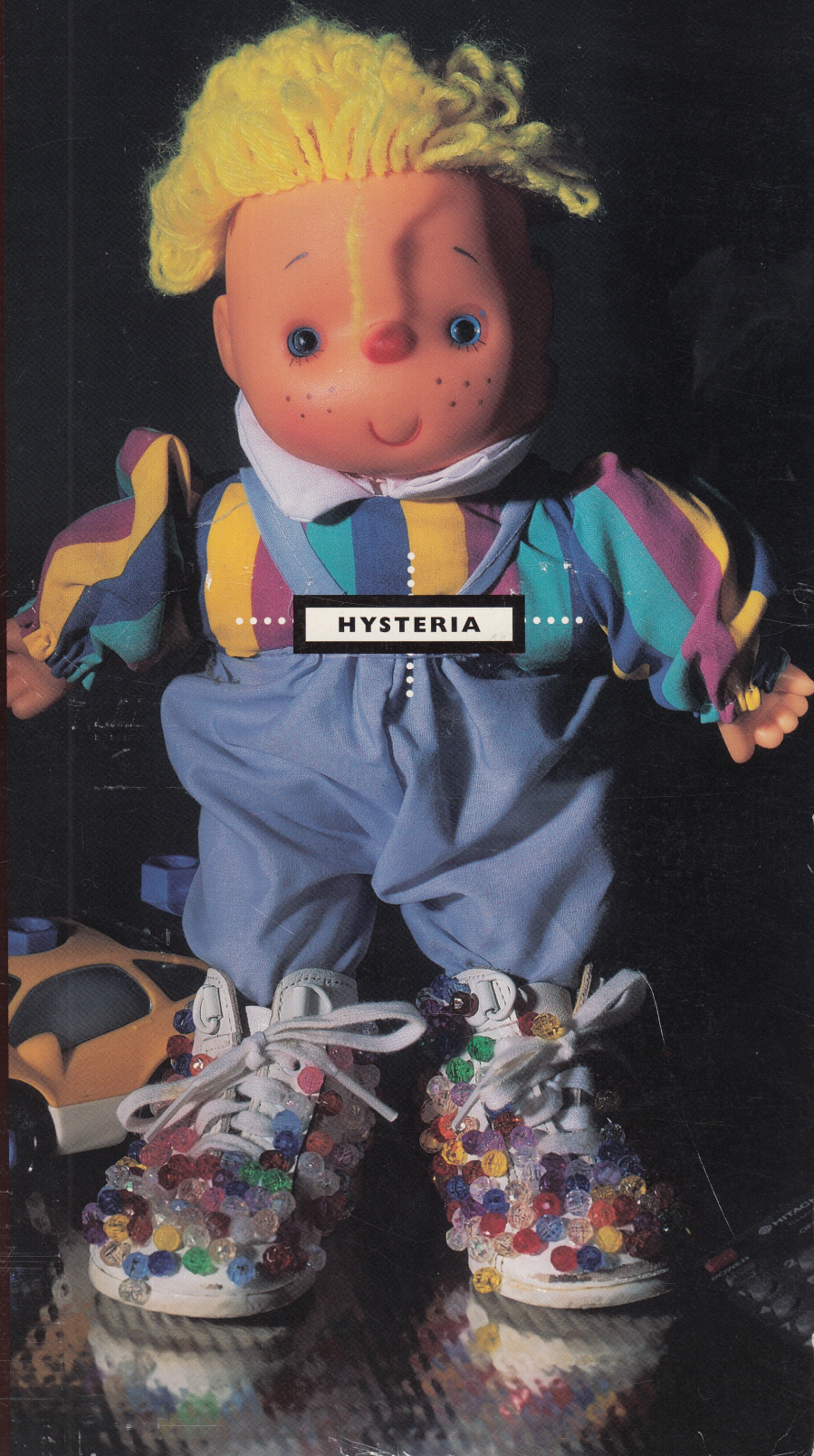




A CRITICAL JOURNAL ON THE ARTS
IN BALTIMORE AND THE WORLD

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HYSTERIA



LINK: A CRITICAL JOURNAL ON THE
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HYSTERIA: SOUND GESTURES

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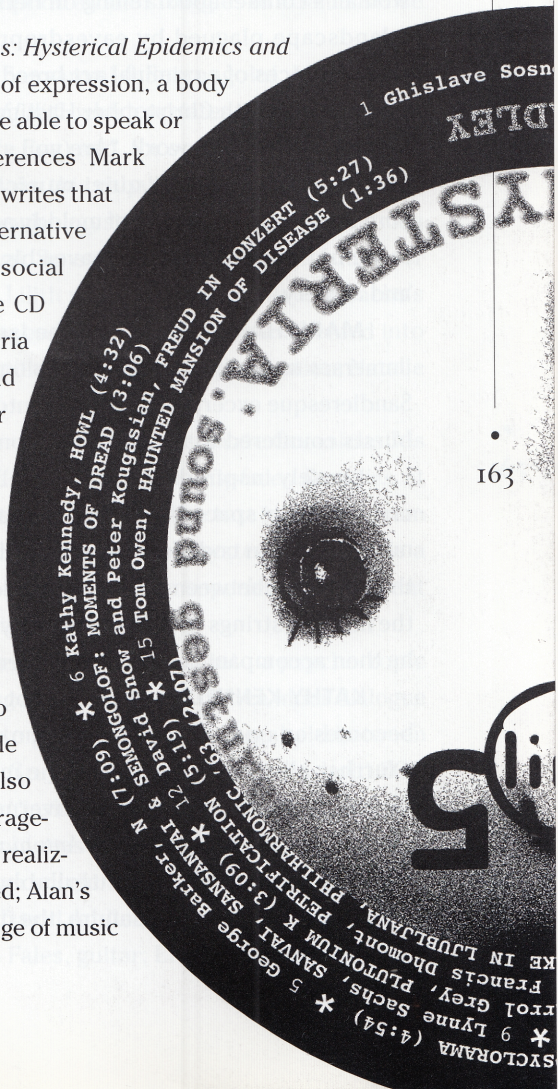


Almost a year ago while having coffee with *Link* editor Kathy O'Dell at a café at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, I mentioned an audio recording I had come across that documents the 1963 earthquake in Slovenia. A children's choir is singing, accompanied by the Ljubljana Philharmonic Orchestra, when suddenly the music becomes skewed and the harmonic singing transmutes into wailing. I told her I thought this would be an excellent piece to include in *Link's* forthcoming issue on hysteria. In fact, why not include a compact disc of hysterical sound art? Kathy immediately expressed her excitement about such a concept, as did the members of the journal's editorial board when she presented them with the idea. I was asked to start curating the project immediately.

NOTES TO THE COMPACT DISC

According to Elaine Showalter in *Hystories: Hysterical Epidemics and Modern Media*, “hysteria has served as a form of expression, a body language for people who otherwise might not be able to speak or even admit what they feel.” Showalter references Mark Micale’s text, *Approaching Hysteria*, in which he writes that hysteria is “not a disease; rather, it is an alternative physical, verbal, gestural language, an iconic social communication.” The artists featured on the CD included with *Link 5* probe the notion of hysteria through an eclectic mix of aural practices and gestures. Each piece forms a counterpoint for the whole. My goal as curator was to choose works that embody hysteria and that create a conversation within the sonic construct of the CD.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the editorial board for its support and collective excitement for the realization of *Hysteria: Sound Gestures*. In particular, I would like to thank Kathy for embracing my vision to include a CD embedded in this issue of *Link*. Thanks also to J.R. Fritsch for his discernment and encouragement and to Alan Rutberg for his guidance in realizing the project and lending an ear when needed; Alan’s perspicacious voice and considerable knowledge of music



DAVID SNOW'S and **PETER KOU GASIAN'S** performative composition, "Freud in Konzert," brings to the couch a comedic insight into Freud's historical lecture style. "It is a little-known fact that Sigmund Freud began his career in show business playing small clubs and *Wursthäuser* along the Tyrolean 'Schnitzel Belt' circuit," the sound artists say. "He would typically bring his most seriously disturbed patients on tour with him, putting their neuroses on display while lecturing the audience in his trademark *totpfanne* (deadpan) style. Although decried as exploitative and barbaric, he defended this practice as an exercise in radical therapy, a claim that raised eyebrows in light of his habit of stuffing patients into oversized hat boxes between engagements and privately addressing them as 'Herr Einfallgehirn' (Sir Freak-Brains). It was during these grueling tours that Freud honed his deadly adroitness with hecklers, often reducing them to a condition of crippling emotional dependency with a single withering exchange, a great boon to his private practice." (Written by Peter Kougasian and David Snow, audio design and production by David Snow.)

BARBARA BUCHHEIT takes an analytical approach with "Proliferation," an excerpt from her CD, *Open to regard of an odd and slender the glass of the black sea*. "It is a question here of a particular form of human ingenuity," she says, "a space for ecological necessity, the loss of reality, the dissolution of the being and the engulfing of personality where a substance of complexible confinement is constructed — that of a schizophrenic."

TOM SWAN follows a unique, matter-of-fact musical style in "Thoughts Without a Character." The ancient, universal perception of the body as locus of the soul or sacred temple gave birth to a lit of postmodern parables and genre playlets. The body becomes symbolic of the locus of Power, which attracts everything that is sacred and sacred.

MARILENA POTRE provided the piece recorded during the 1987 earthquake in Lodi, Sicily. In 1986, when Peter was researching earthquakes in her hometown of Lodi, a friend gave her a copy of this profound recording. The children, accompanied by the Lodi Philharmonic Orchestra, are singing in the earthquake rubble. This recording represents the ultimate natural hysterical moment. We desire to know more about the people who are terrified and shaken by this event. "Was anyone injured? How did this moment affect their lives?"

www.oxfordjournals.org/doi/10.1093/bio/bat017

David Irving (CD track: "David Irving") is a writer, actor, and director. He has written books, plays, and screenplays. He has also directed several films and stage productions. He has been a member of the Royal National Theatre in London and the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has also been a member of the British Film Institute and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has been a member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

John Galsworthy (CD track: "John Galsworthy") is a writer, actor, and director. He has written books, plays, and screenplays. He has also directed several films and stage productions. He has been a member of the Royal National Theatre in London and the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has also been a member of the British Film Institute and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has been a member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

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PETER KOUGASIAN (CD track: "Freud in Konzert") is a lawyer, writer, comedian, and magician, who once read the entire case book for the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders, Third Edition*.

John Galsworthy (CD track: "John Galsworthy") is a writer, actor, and director. He has written books, plays, and screenplays. He has also directed several films and stage productions. He has been a member of the Royal National Theatre in London and the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has also been a member of the British Film Institute and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has been a member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

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exposes the desirous flesh

HEINRICH DUBEL

gets hysterical over helicopters

JOHN MONEY

tracks the lineage of hysteria

BILL SEBRING

presents Charcot Unplugged

STEVE GRIFFITH

performs classroom hysteria

JOANNA RACZYNSKA

climbs aboard relevant cinema

ADAM LERNER

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Fiction by

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