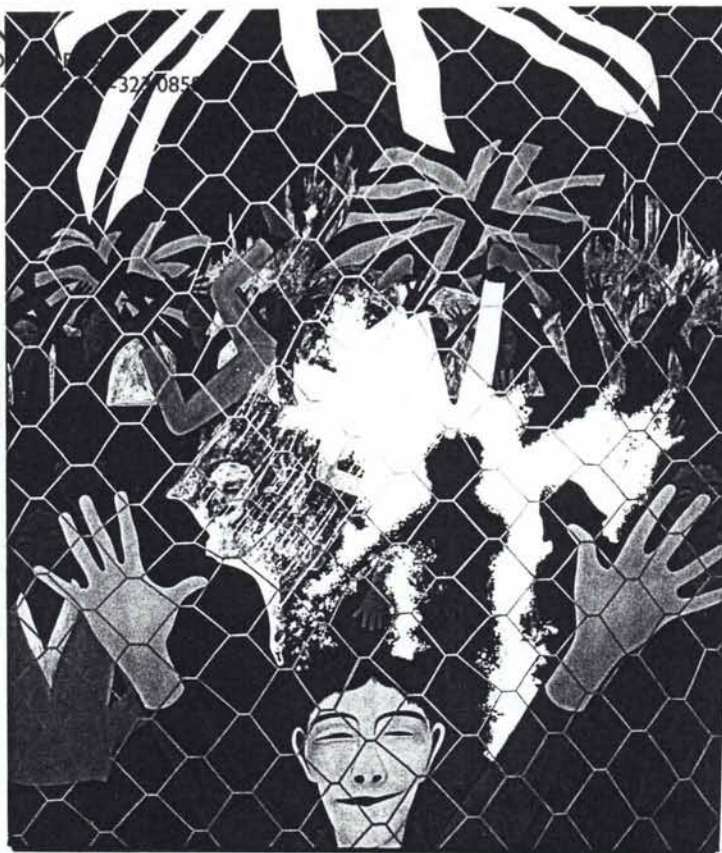


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PUBLIC FACE PRIVATE EYE

Monday 18 - Friday 22 March

Public Face Private Eye is a narrative in five acts on the interplay between the rational, public world of surface appearance and the private role of the imagination, as seen through the eyes of the narrator British painter and writer, IAN BREAKWELL, (whose unique diary was serialised on Channel 4 several years ago). The five acts portray formative events in Ian's life, providing insights into his concerns as an artist.

In Buried Alive, the young Ian (played by STEVEN OLDHAM) is taught the secrets of conjuring and illusion by his Uncle. Twenty-five years later, chance brings the adult Ian back to the same high-security mental hospital where he performed as a boy in a charity variety troupe, and he is confronted by harrowing scenes of the inmates in their private worlds.

The Fence at Forbes explores young Ian's other childhood obsession - fishing; a private world of reverie and daydream in which strange ghosts haunt the Derbyshire lakes and lurk beneath the water.

Keep Things as They Are recreates the time in the early 1980s when Ian painted his now-famous series of large, imaginary portraits while Artist in Residence at Kings College, Cambridge, and observed the comic rituals of academia's cloistered world.

The House of the Deaf Man. Two years later the Cambridge portraits are exhibited in Madrid, and Ian pays homage to Goya, the artist epitomising the combination of public face and private eye.

Finally, Mask to Mask draws together all these threads, whose scenes and characters reappear in a dense montage of visual imagery, narrative voice and evocative music. Using layers of make-up similar to the build-up of paint in his portraits, Ian gradually ages on screen into a white-haired, fragile old man as the series comes full circle, from birth to approaching death.

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