

12 May - 16 June 1984 and touring

# VIDEO Times

**Full second-by-second  
programme guide to  
the video cassette**

**INSIDE**  
Everything you need  
to complete your  
viewing pleasure

**IKON GALLERY**

**Kevin Atherton**

**IKON  
GALLERY**

Exhibition organised by

58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham B1 1BN

Tel: 021 643 0708 Open: Tues-Sat 10-6

and touring to other venues during 1984 and 1985

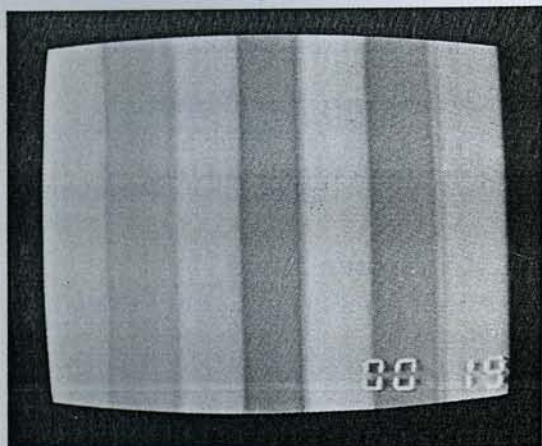
# VIDEO Times

## 00·00 Colour Bar

Featuring from left to right - white, yellow, pale blue, green, purple, red and dark blue. *Visual but somewhat devoid of action.*

## 00·05 Colour Bar *continued*

This is essentially a technical device used to gauge the correct colour balance on the video receiver. *Adjust if necessary.*



Colour bar, starring a host of colours in this silent classic at 00.05 - 00.20

## 00·10 Colour Bar *continued*

After this long on our screen we begin to notice the crucial detail in the form of the time clock in the bottom right hand corner. *There is a certain mesmeric charm to the luminescent numerals.*

## 00·15 Colour Bar *continued*

More of the same. *Regular video art viewers might be prepared to watch hours of this but enough is enough.*

## 00·20 Turn On

A seated figure in the comfort of his own home decides after consulting his programme guide to turn on. *All action.*

## 00·25 Blackness

Our screen is black as if just turned on and warming up which is confirmed by the gradual increase in volume. *Clever illusion.*

## 00·30 Title

'Video Times' - a play on the 'T.V. Times' and the 'Radio Times,' and also a comment on the proliferation of home video equipment.

## 00·35 Returns to Settee

Having turned on the television our male figure returns to his seat and crosses his legs. *One identifies with the character's role.*

## 00·40 Hands Behind Head

We have time to realise that it is we who are being watched and that he is the viewer. *An illusion that needs more time to establish itself.*



Relaxing viewing at 00.40 - 00.45

## 00·45 Settling In

A somewhat fidgety performance by 'our viewer' but understandable in his excited state - *very promising.*

# VIDEO Times

## **00 · 50 Getting Into The Groove**

Vintage stuff, getting into the part whilst the music transports us to the land of daytime television. *The folding of the arms shows a resignation to T.V. viewing that can only be described as exemplary.*

## **00 · 55 Going For The Polos**

Right hand into right pocket and in one movement the polos are out. *Not once do his eyes abandon their vigilant watch of the screen.*

## **01 · 00 Polo In Mouth**

Right hand takes the polo and swiftly places in mouth and then taking the packet from the left hand returns to trouser pocket. *Smooth action.*

## **01 · 05 Left Foot On Knee**

Having tucked polos into pocket crosses left leg onto right knee and then interlacing fingers folds hands on stomach.



All action as our man goes for the tissue at 01.25 - 01.30

## **01 · 10 Fidgeting**

Rubs leg, then nose, and folds arms. *Unsettling.*

## **01.15 Legs**

Uncrosses and then re-crosses legs.



Wiping nose, don't miss it at 01.35 - 01.40

## **01.20 Going For Tissue**

Searches in left hand trouser pocket. *Watch for dramatic edit to a closer shot.*

## **01.25 Blows Nose**

A well practised manoeuvre using both hands.

## **01.30 Blowing Nose**

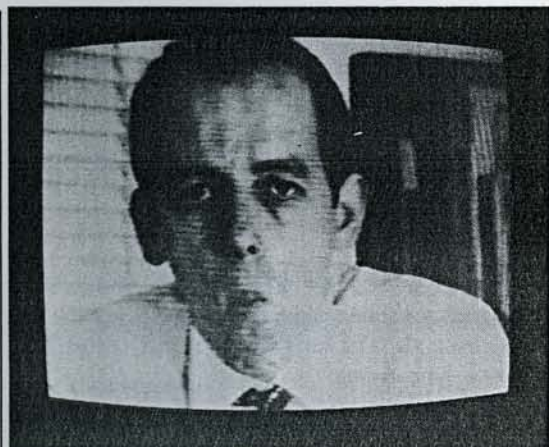
Although obviously occupied by the act of blowing his nose he nevertheless maintains his eye contact with the screen. *There is a subtle edit to a head shot that could be missed - superb continuity.*

## **01.35 Wiping Nose**

Stretching it out a bit but what a nice clean shirt he's wearing. *What about that tie.*

## **01.40 Tissue Returned To Pocket**

Never mind the tissue just watch the light changes on his shirt. *What can he see from his side of the screen?*



Painterly performance, a study in light at 02.15 - 02.20

### 01.45 Checks Wrist Watch

Surely he's not worried about the time. *These edits are getting a bit frequent.*

### 01.50 Fiddling About

Its as if he can't settle to the serious commitment necessary for sustained viewing.

### 01.55 The Interior

The absence of action allows us time to view the living room although the distant camera shot does not permit scrutiny of the books on the shelves.

### 02.00 The Head

A close up of his well cropped head sucking a polo mint.

### 02.05 The Head *continued*

What a serious person this is. *Those staring blue eyes will have you transfixed to the screen.*

### 02.10 The Head *continued*

He is forced to cough to prevent choking to death on the polo mint caught in his wind pipe. *Tense.*

### 02.15 The Head *continued*

The light changes on his face and shirt animate a still portrait which framed by the video monitor could almost be a painting.

### 02.20 Cut To Mid Shot

He rubs his nose and is leaning forward resting his elbows on his knees.

### 02.25 Mid Shot

Absolutely motionless. *The most fantastic light change yet, his shirt is electric and his face at one stage almost demonic.*

### 02.30 Leans Back

Interlacing his fingers, settles back onto comfortable looking cushions.

### 02.35 Maintains Position

Seems content to suck polo.

### 02.40 Strokes Tie

Although beginning to relax he is still concerned with his appearance.

### 02.45 Hand Over Mouth

Rubs nose and leans head on left hand. Finally leans back.



Electric effects at 02.25 - 02.30

# VIDEO Times

## **02.50 Both Hands Behind Head**

Left foot up on right knee with body leaning to his left. *The music begins to grow on you.*

## **02.55 Both Hands Behind Head continued**

Quietly sucks polo mint and then turns it over on his tongue.

## **03.00 Both Hands Behind Head continued**

Sustained viewing, absorbed in polo.

## **03.05 Both Hands Behind Head continued**

Completely still. *At peace with the world.*

## **03.10 Breaks Hands**

Suddenly shifts position of head and scratches cheek with right hand.

## **03.15 Leans Forward**

After rubbing nose with left hand and shifting left foot off right knee moves forward aggressively and looks down to his right.

## **03.20 Picks Up T.V. Times**

Reviews the 'T.V. Times' whilst the last few notes of the musical segment fade away. *Haunting musical experience.*

## **03.25 Scrutinizes T.V. Times**

With the eye of a seasoned viewer he checks to see 'whats on' remembering to glance up now and again so as not to miss what is going on. *New musical segment not as good as the last.*

## **03.30 Cut**

Just as the music is warming up we cut to a close shot of him still looking at the T.V. Times. *Threatening.*

## **03.35 Switches Over**

Glancing for a last check at the T.V. Times our viewer launches himself forward at our screens and then has the cheek to switchover. *Manipulative.*



Just checking at 03.25 - 03.30

## **03.40 An Instance Of Black**

The screen goes black, the music drastically changes and the world seems in a spin as we are jolted from one channel to another. *Insensitive.*

## **03.45 Back Where We Started**

As if nothing had happened, as calm as you like, he's back on the settee.

### 03.50 Rearranges Cushions

Turns around displaying premature bald patch, puffs up cushions and leans back during which we cut to a mid shot of the same action. *Notable for the expertise of the video tape editor otherwise nothing to write home about.*

### 03.55 More Of The Same

Smug if not pompous performance. *It's those interlaced fingers that give one the feeling that he's looking down on one.*

### 04.00 Rubs Nose

Having rubbed his nose he rejoins his hands. *A sudden edit treats us to an even closer study of his physiognomy.*

### 04.05 Right Hand Goes For The Throat

We cut from a close up of his face to witness his right hand wrestling with that 'loud' tie. *Is it getting too much for him?*

### 04.10 Undoes Top Button

Manages to loosen collar accompanied by melodramatic music.



Blackness, apocalyptic stuff at 03.40 - 03.45

### 04.15 Head On Hand

A sad expression takes residence on his face. *Motionless and melancholic, lighting effects dramatic.*



The price of a pint is in the balance at 04.40 - 04.45

### 04.20 Checks Tie

Touches tie, rubs chin and then joins both hands under chin.

### 04.25 Sighs

Holding the same position he takes a deep breath which results in a rise of the shoulders. *Moody.*

### 04.30 Nothing Doing

Until the last moment when he leans back.

### 04.35 Rooting In Pocket

Eyes never leaving the screen right hand exploring the contents of right hand trouser pocket.

### 04.40 Checks His Change

Ascertaines as to whether he has the price of a pint, resignedly sees that he hasn't and returns money to his pocket.

### 04.45 Double Checks

Having returned money to his pocket gets it out again to make sure that it hasn't gained interest whilst momentarily repositied.

# VIDEO Times

## **04.50 Goes For Polos Repeat**

Viewers will remember this action from only four minutes ago.

## **04.55 Struggles With Wrapping**

Unhurried he succeeds in extracting a singular mint from the company of its cylindrical packet.

## **05.00 Puts Polo In Mouth**

Swiftly pops the polo in his mouth but then plays about with it. *Sloppy.*

## **05.05 Sucks**

Contentedly crosses left leg so that left foot rests on right knee.

## **05.10 Puts Entire Packet In Mouth**

Oh my God, he's not going to swallow the lot. *Oral.*

## **05.15 Taps Packet Nervously On His Teeth**

Better than seeing them go down his throat.

## **05.20 Fiddles About Repeat**

Its as if he can't settle to the serious commitment necessary for sustained viewing.

## **05.25 Plays With Sweet Packet**

Smoothing out the silver foil in a sensuously tactile manner.

## **05.30 Rubs Nose**

The above title says all there is to say.

## **05.35 Motionless**

I take it all back the previous five seconds were lively by comparison.

## **05.40 Motionless continued**

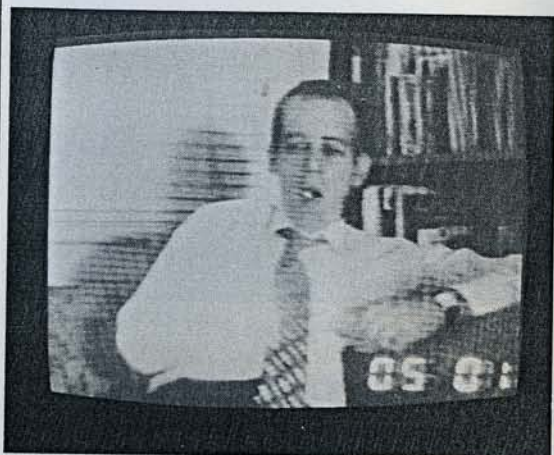
Rigor mortis perhaps?

## **05.45 Changes Position**

Clutching polos in right hand leans head on the same hand.

There's so much  
of it ...

# VIDEO Times



The polos add to the scenario at 05.00 - 05.05





Will he swallow the packet? See at 05.15 - 05.20

### **05.50 Puts Away Polos**

Exchanges the packet from one hand to the other and smoothly slips polos into trouser pocket.

### **05.55 Hand Covers Mouth**

Other hand scratches head.

### **06.00 Rubs Hair**

Right hand rubs the back of his head and left hand checks tie.

### **06.05 Music Ends**

He rubs his nose.

### **06.10 New Music Begins**

He remains still until the music actually starts.

### **06.15 Coughs**

He moves forward, coughs and covers his mouth with his right hand. *Music gets into its stride.*

### **06.20 Rejoins Hands**

Savours Polo.

### **06.25 Staring**

Now this is what's called serious viewing.

### **06.30 Close Up**

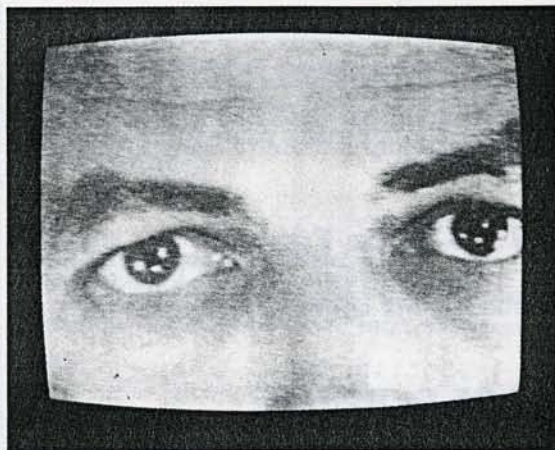
A drastic edit to a close up of his eyes that fills the screen, viewers with a nervous disposition are advised not to watch. *'Big Brother' stuff.*

### **06.35 Close Up continued**

The chilling presence of the two eyes remains on our screen a little longer and then we cut to a mid shot. *The illusion of being watched is forcedly driven home. One almost feels released when the edit is made back to the torso shot.*

### **06.40 Scratches Head**

Having scratched his head he places his head in both hands.



Big Brother and all its implications at 06.35 - 06.40

### **06.45 Head In Hands**

His head sandwiched between both hands he glumly stares out.

### **06.50 Head In Hands continued**

More glum stuff but noteworthy for good light flickers.

# VIDEO Times



Depressing viewing at 06.50 - 06.55

## **06.55 Leans Back**

Breaking his hold of his own head he leans back into a more relaxed position.

## **07.00 Rubs Foot**

Right foot resting on left knee is gently rubbed before left hand goes up to his face.

## **07.05 In Repose**

Apart from a slight movement of the little finger of the right hand he remains very still.

## **07.10 In Repose continued**

He maintains his position until late in the segment when without warning he rubs his left shoulder.

## **07.15 Rubs Shoulder**

Seems to be in pain. *Tense.*

## **07.20 Rubs Shoulder continued**

Changing from a rub into more of a gentle massage. *Heroically he maintains his eye contact with the screen.*

## **07.25 Stops Rubbing**

The pain over, his condition seems normal again.

## **07.30 Leans Forward**

Rubs nose and uncrosses leg, leans forward and joins hands.

## **07.35 Staring Repeat**

Fingers interlaced, shoulders haunched, and casting the 'evil eye'.



Scratch my back at 07.15 - 07.20

## **07.40 Scratches Head**

Takes on a melancholic air. *He certainly knows how to make a polo last.*

## **07.45 Head At Forty Five Degrees**

Unremarkable except for moderately exciting light changes towards the end of the segment.

**07.50 Angle Of Head Alters**

As if in a bid to ascertain the vertical the head goes from side to side.

**07.55 Head Attains The Vertical**

Head moves from side to side until both hands come to the rescue and clamp the cranium into the vertical position.

**08.00 Elbows**

He rests his elbows on the bottom of the screen and then as if realising this he lifts them up. *Displays a formal awareness of the media.*

**08.05 Hands Down**

Hands down off face. *Interesting adjacency between his wrist watch and the digital counter on the screen.*

**08.10 Hands Down *continued***

Nothing much doing visually, but as if on cue, the music ends at the end of this segment.

**08.15 Silent**

Bereft of musical accompaniment begins to express his isolation through his hand gestures. New tune begins.



The mouth at 08.20 - 08.25



Watch for the marauding tongue at 08.35 - 08.40

**08.20 Cut**

We cut to a close shot of his face.

**08.25 Tongue**

His tongue momentarily surfaces only to return to the privacy of his mouth when his hand touches his lips.

**08.30 Tongue *continued***

Regaining confidence his tongue is blatantly to be seen marauding his lower and upper lips.

**08.35 Hand Moves In**

As if to grab the tongue the right hand moves in but is hopelessly late. *The timing is useless.*

**08.40 Edit**

Edit out to a longer shot including the torso.

**08.45 Scratches Head *Repeat***

A repeated action done with no more vitality than the first time.

**08.50 Holding Head**

Completely still.

# VIDEO Times

## **08.55 Scratches Head Repeat**

These repeats of repeats are getting us nowhere.

## **09.00 Both Hands Holding Head**

Leaning forward doing the old elbows on the bottom of the screen trick again.

## **09.05 The Elbow Trick Part Two Repeat**

Raises the elbows. *Predictable second time around.*

## **09.10 Joins Hands**

Simple but well co-ordinated action.

## **09.15 Gazing**

Hard to decide whether he is in fact gazing or whether he's glazing over.

## **09.20 Twisting Hands**

Interlaced fingers and thumbs pressing against one another both wrists oscillate backwards and forwards in unison.

## **09.25 Checks Watch**

Continues hand movement from last segment then checks the time on his watch and gleefully rubs his hands.

## **09.30 Hands Under Chin**

Pinches nose and then tucks both hands under chin.

## **09.35 Begins To Rock**

Both hands holding his head he begins to rock backwards and forwards.

## **09.40 Keeps On Rocking**

Childlike he rocks his body in tune with the music.

## **09.45 Keeps On Rocking continued**

More of the same. *What started off as childlike could end up as childish.*

## **09.50 Keeps On Rocking continued**

Now that he's into it there's no stopping him.

## **09.55 Stops Rocking**

Clasps hands together under his nose and then rubs nose. Stops rocking momentarily only to start again.

## **10.00 Stops Rocking Final Version**

Resting head in right hand stops rocking for good. *A relief.*



Rocking good stuff at 09.45 - 09.50

**10.05 Motionless**

Perfectly still until the end of the segment when he begins to rub his lips.

**10.10 Rubs Lips**

Rubbing lips then coughs and covers his mouth. Leans back.

**10.15 Edit**

A bit of a dodgy edit to a long shot of most of his figure on the settee.



Premature baldness in full view at 10.25 - 10.30

**10.20 Puffs Up Cushions**

He turns around and begins to rearrange the cushions.

**10.25 Puffs Up Cushions  
continued**

Adjusts the back two cushions and then the settee cushion that he's sitting on. *Fussy.*

**10.30 Crosses Legs**

Crosses legs and clasps both hands around his right knee only to then uncross his legs break his hand position and begin to come forward. *He's got ants in his pants.*

**10.35 Fidgets About**

His hands can't keep still.

**10.40 Edit**

As if to redeem himself for the last edit the videotape editor has produced a 'beaute' in this one. He scratches his head.

**10.45 Close Up Of Head**

Scratches right eye brow with right hand. *Moody.*

**10.50 Edit**

Continues to rub eye brow, cut to mid shot.

**10.55 Moves Lips**

*He can't still be sucking the same polo.*

**11.00 Head In Hands**

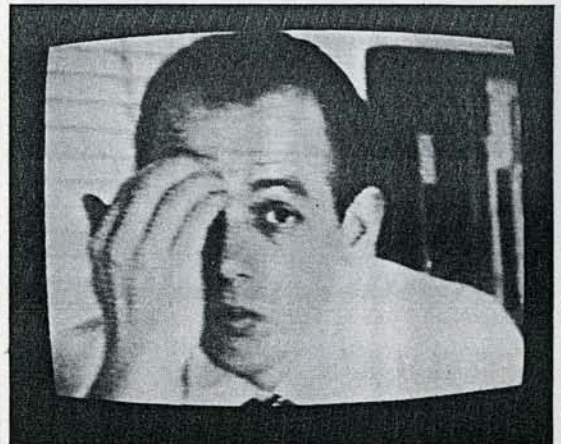
Despairingly puts head in hands.

**11.05 Head In Hands  
continued**

When he opens his mouth you can see that there doesn't seem to be a polo in there.

**11.10 Hands Off Face**

The full frontal stare. *Mean.*



Itchy eyebrow at 10.50 - 10.55

# VIDEO Times

## **11.15 Sigh**

A monumental sigh featuring the open mouth is rudely cut short by an insensitive edit. *Don't miss the instant when his eyes leave the top of the screen.*

## **11.20 Close Up Of Head**

There is just the suspicion of a polo in his mouth movements, coughs.

## **11.25 Rubs Head**

Using both hands rubs his close cropped skull then scratches his forehead before beginning to poke his right ear.

## **11.30 Poking Right Ear**

Continues to twist his finger in his ear and then rubs his nostrils. *Primitive performance.*



At full stretch at 11.55 - 12.00

## **11.35 Head In Hands**

Head in hands until head rises and hands are then neatly intertwined under the chin.

## **11.40 Checks The Time**

Looks down and off screen at his wrist watch and then adjusts his vision to gaze out at us again.

## **11.45 Edit**

Hands move out of picture and we cut to a mid shot when he begins to scratch his back.

## **11.50 Scratches Back**

Continuing from the last segment he scratches his back, first with one hand, and then with two hands. Finally we graduate to a fully matured stretch. *His eyes leave the screen for a full second.*

## **11.55 Stretch**

Making a meal of it. Music fades to a merciful end.

## **12.00 Yawns**

At the prospect of more music he yawns and covers his mouth.

## **12.05 Edit**

We edit to a head shot as he completes the yawn and rubs his nostrils. *Good continuity of action in the edit.*

## **12.10 Moves Head**

Having moved head, touches tie and folds arms which are out of picture. *What the hell is this music.*

## **12.15 Stares**

As the music gathers momentum his stare seems to intensify.

## **12.20 Hand On Face**

Beginning above his left eye his right hand with a rubbing action journeys down the length of his face.

**12.25 Touches Lips**

His tongue ventures onto his bottom lip until he rubs his lips with his finger. *The music is still going nowhere.*

**12.30 Glances Down**

Looks downwards once.

**12.35 Glancing Down**

Maintains his stare but by the way he furtively looks downwards now and again there would seem to be something going on on his lap. *Suggestive.*



Some ace editing on a polo mint at 12.40 - 12.45

**12.40 Going For The Polos Third Version**

As the polo is about to enter his mouth we cut to a long shot of the same action. *So thats what was going on on his lap.*

**12.45 Returns Polos**

Puts polos in pocket where his hand takes up residence.

**12.50 Leaning Back**

Nothing doing except the music seems at last to have got out of first gear.

**12.55 Leaning Back continued**

Left hand scratches forehead.

**13.00 Leaning Back continued**

Resting forehead on hand.

**13.05 Leaning Back continued**

Nothing happening. *Stunningly dull, these 'four parters' always seem to overrun themselves.*

**13.10 Moves**

As if finding something going on on the ceiling he contorts his neck in the act of moving his position.

**13.15 Leaning Forward**

Settles into new position.

**13.20 Leaning Forward continued**

Quietly sucks polo. *Some good light changes.*

**13.25 Hand To Mouth**

Right hand moves up to rub nose and then covers mouth.

**13.30 Hand Moves**

Hand moves under chin.



Reach for the sky at 13.10 - 13.15

# VIDEO Times

## **13.35 Peering**

Squatting down and thrusting his head forward he seems to have seen something particularly interesting.

## **13.40 Hand In Pocket**

Leaning back his left hand goes into his pocket. *Not more polos.*

## **13.45 Produces Tissue**

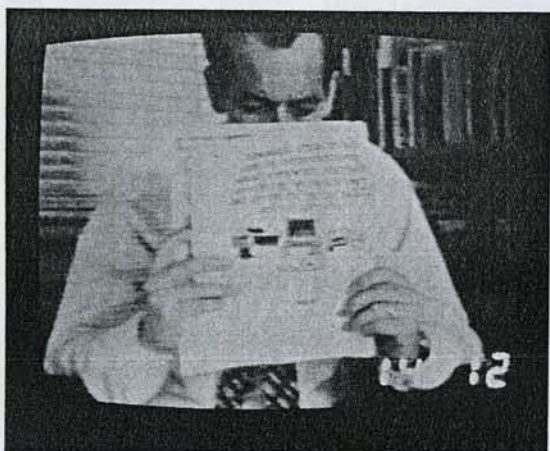
Pulls out a tissue and begins to blow his nose.

## **13.50 Blows Nose**

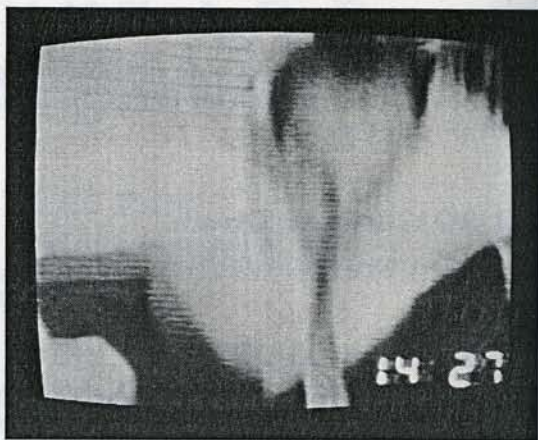
*Must have a cold.*

## **13.55 Finishes Blowing Nose**

Returns tissue to his pocket and looks down to his right.



Reading between the lines, something is about to happen at 14.10 - 14.15



I'm off says Kevin Atherton at 14.25 - 14.30

## **14.00 Picks Up T.V. Times**

Checks programme details in the T.V. Times. *His gaze leaves the screen for seconds at a time - unforgiveable.*

## **14.05 Checks Programmes**

Alternating his attention from the T.V. Times to the screen fitfully maintains his watch on us.

## **14.10 Checks Programmes *continued***

Having thoroughly studied his options goes to put the T.V. Times down.

## **14.15 Hesitates**

At the last moment he takes another look at the T.V. Times and then he puts it down.

## **14.20 Hand On Chin**

Movement of tongue in mouth indicates decision making in progress.

## **14.25 Leaves The Screen**

In advance of the first half ending checks screen and exits right of picture. Music fades out.

**END OF PART ONE**



The programme you are watching was produced by London Video Arts. For information about other LVA productions available contact:



79 Wardour Street  
London W1V 3TH  
Tel: 01 734 7410

SOUND ON  
VISION ON  
AUDIO ARTS

Audio Arts magazine on cassette  
6 Briarwood Road London SW4 9PX  
Tel (01) 720 9129

**TRUST** PUBLIC ART DEVELOPMENT TRUST IS A UNIQUE SERVICE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED TO FILL A MUCH NEEDED GAP IN THE ORGANISATION OF PUBLIC ART PROJECTS.

**DEVELOPMENT** THE TRUST WORKS FOR BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR AND CAN ADVISE ON HOW TO SELECT ARTISTS, AND WHICH ARTISTS WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR THE PROJECT YOU HAVE IN MIND.

IN ADDITION, THE TRUST WILL MANAGE THE PROJECT FOR YOU, LIAISE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS CONTRACTORS, OR ORGANISE THE OFTEN COMPLEX NEGOTIATIONS OR CONSULTATIONS, MANY OF A COMMUNITY NATURE, REQUIRED TO BRING A PROJECT TO FRUITION.

**ART** THE TRUST ALSO PROVIDES CONTRACTUAL AND LEGAL EXPERTISE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

**PUBLIC** THE DIRECTOR LESLEY GREENE  
PUBLIC ART DEVELOPMENT TRUST  
6+8 ROSEBERY AVENUE LONDON  
EC1R 4TD TEL (01) 837 6070

**NOW APPEARING IN CITY ARCADE**

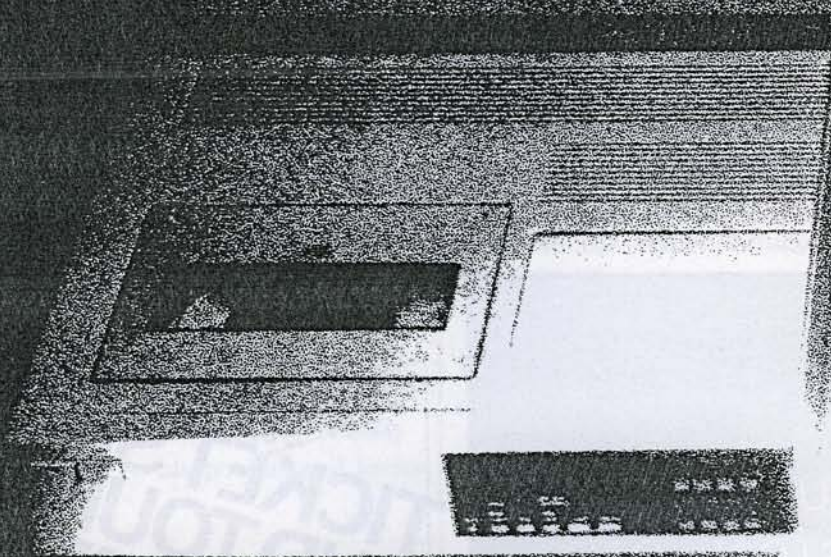
# TICKET SHOP AND TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

The new Ticket Shop in City Arcade provides a bookings service for all major Midland theatres. You can also get any information you're likely to need about The Big Heart of England. So come and see us soon!

**OR BOOK YOUR THEATRE TICKETS BY PHONE** - FAST SERVICE -  
021-643 2514  
021-643 2514  
021-643 2514  
021-643 2514

BIRMINGHAM CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAU  
TICKET SHOP (UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT)

Central—  
there's so much  
on it





**CENTRAL**

## **CENTRAL INDEPENDENT TELEVISION**

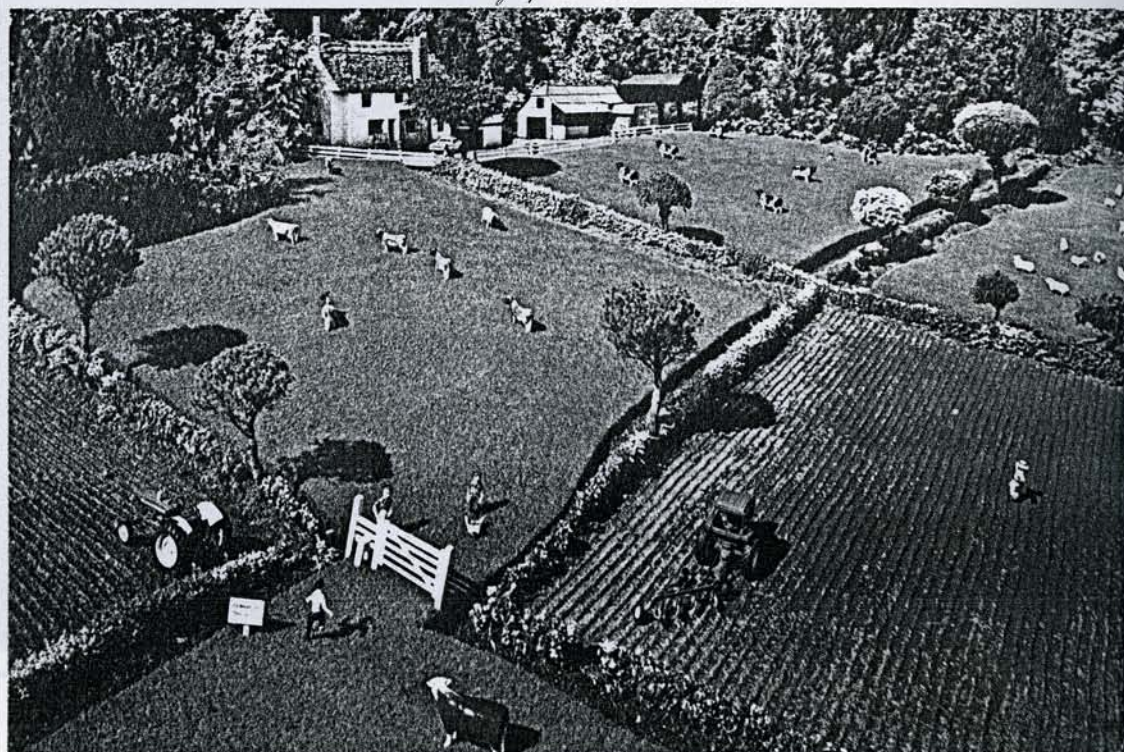
Central House, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2JP. Telephone: 021-643 9898 (Telex 338966)  
East Midlands Television Centre, Nottingham NG7 2NA. Telephone: 0602 863322 (Telex 377696)  
35-38 Portman Square, London W1A 2HZ. Telephone: 01-486 6688 (Telex 24337)

ART  
WORKS  
FOR  
BIRMINGHAM

**IKON  
GALLERY**

58-72 John Bright Street, Birmingham B1 1BN  
Tel: 021 643 0708 Open: Tues-Sat 10-6

*The Glory of our Back Garden*



*Send for new Seed Catalogue*

*Coracle Press Books 233 Camberwell New Road London SE5*

# VIDEO Times

## PART TWO

### 16.40 End Of Commercials

Our man returns to the screen.

### 16.45 Sits Down

Loaded with a cup of tea in one hand and a cake in the other he sits down. *Good coordination.*

### 16.50 Sips Tea

Takes first sip of tea and puts cup down. Good light change. *Stirring music.*

### 16.55 Looks Down

Looks to his right and down at sofa. *Presumably checking programme guide.*

### 17.00 Adjusting The Finer Points

Moving table etc, getting things just right. *Warm and cosy.*



Holding it all in the balance at 16.45 - 16.50

### 17.05 Sips Tea repeat

Sips tea for the second time. *Practised and well mannered.*

### 17.10 Sips Tea continued

Sips tea a couple of times and then puts cup down.

### 17.15 Gets Up

Gets up and goes for the monitor, changes channel, black, change of music, hesitates. *Too much.*



High tea, a touch of class at 17.05 - 17.10

### 17.20 Still Standing

Changes channel back, music changes, we are now on a long shot as he sits down. *Enough's enough.*

### 17.25 Sips Tea repeat

Calming after all of the action.

### 17.30 Going For The Eclair

Puts tea cup down and picks up chocolate éclair on plate.

### 17.35 First Bite

Puts it in his mouth.

# VIDEO Times

## **17.40 Chews**

Masticates and wipes corner of lips.

## **17.45 Edit**

Cut to a mid shot of cake about to enter mouth. Cream goes everywhere except into his mouth. *Messy.*

## **17.50 Fingers**

Wipes cream off lips and sucks fingers whilst continuing to masticate.



Let him eat cake at 17.45 - 17.50

## **17.55 Scratches Face**

But keeps chewing.

## **18.00 Leans Back**

Still chewing, leans back with cake plate in left hand, rubs nose and crosses legs. *Displays a masterly grasp of the social graces.*

## **18.05 Leans Forward**

Continues to chew then leans forward and places plate on table.



Stirring it up at 18.20 - 18.25

## **18.10 Picks Up Tea**

In one smooth movement gathers up cup and saucer.

## **18.15 Sips Tea repeat**

Sips tea, wipes tea leaf from lips and stirs tea.

## **18.20 Stirring Tea**

Continues to stir his tea. *Subtle light changes.*

## **18.25 Still**

Remains still, holding cup and saucer through some all action light changes. Finally, in his own time, he takes another sip of tea.

## **18.30 Edit**

We cut to a close shot of face and cup.

## **18.35 Close Face**

Chews his way through this segment.

## **18.40 Close Face continued**

Carries on chewing and then takes a drink of tea. *His eyes never leave the screen.*

**18.45 Sips Tea repeat**

Takes a sip of tea and wipes his lips with his fingers.

**18.50 Another Bite Of The Cake**

Still chewing he places the chocolate éclair in his mouth.

**18.55 Edit**

Cut to a mid shot of eating cake. Wipes cream from his lips with thumb. *Light changes are 'electric'.*

**19.00 Music Fades**

Continues to eat cake as the music fades and we have a second's silence.

**19.05 Wipes Plate**

He wipes the cream of his plate with the éclair and places it in his mouth. *Messy.*

**19.10 Eats Cake**

Cream on his lips. *Continues to let himself down.*

**19.15 Sighs**

As if having taken too much on sighs mid chew.

**19.20 Tilts Head**

Quizzically alters the angle of his head.

**19.25 Last Bite**

In the very last second of the segment the last piece of éclair enters the cavernous depths of his mouth.

**19.30 Sucks Fingers**

Still holding plate in left hand sucks creamy fingers of right hand.

**19.35 Sucks Fingers continued**

Carries on sucking and at one point actually wipes the plate with his finger.

**19.40 Puts Plate Down**

Cake finished. *Thank God for that.*

**19.45 Going For Tissue**

Holding sticky right hand in front of him goes for tissue in left hand trouser pocket.

**19.50 Leans Forward**

Briefly wipes mouth with tissue and then leans forward.

**19.55 Cleaning Up**

Wipes sticky lips with tissue.

**20.00 Cleaning Up continued**

Holding tissue with both hands wipes the mouth area.



Manners! at 19.30 - 19.35

**20.05 Wipes Lips**

Wets tissue with spit and with one hand carefully wipes his lips. *Effeminate performance reminiscent of the removal of lipstick.*

# VIDEO Times

## **20.10 Wipes Lips *continued***

Continues in the same careful way but unknowingly leaves a shred of white tissue in the right hand corner of his mouth.

## **20.15 Coughs**

Coughs, but even this fails to dislodge the rogue shred of tissue. *The excitement is heightened by the fact that he apparently doesn't know that the tissue is there.*

## **20.20 Wipes Lips *final version***

Gets it, at the last wipe. *The fleck of tissue.*

## **20.25 Returns Tissue**

Puts tissue back in his pocket, adjusts his tie and leans out of frame to reach for unseen cup of tea.

## **20.30 Edit**

Picks up cup and saucer and we cut to a long shot of the same action. He puts his feet on the table.



Feet up, a layed back performance at 20.35 - 20.40



Foreshortening at 20.55 - 21.00

## **20.35 Feet Up**

Legs crossed and feet on table, takes a sip of his tea. *A study in contentment.*

## **20.40 Swift Movement Of Hand**

Right hand arabesquely sweeps under his nose and continuing the same gesture comes to rest on his crotch.

## **20.45 Moves Hand Again**

As if realising the suggestiveness of his hand position he scratches his head.

## **20.50 Smooths Hair**

Rubs head and momentarily returns hand to crotch only to then lift his tea cup to his lips.

## **20.55 Uncrosses Legs**

Takes his left foot off his right foot only to place his right foot on top of his left one. *Note the resulting dramatic foreshortening.*

## **21.00 Uncrosses Legs *action replay***

*You're not going to believe this.* Takes right foot off left foot etc ...



**21.05 Settled**

Seemingly comfortable now, sinks into passivity.



Rubbing his chin at 21.45 - 21.50

**21.10 Flashes**

Throughout a veritable blitz of simulated television lighting effects he calmly sips his tea. *Over-the-top special effects.*

**21.15 Flashes continued**

More overkill from the lighting department.

**21.20 Edit**

Cut to a corresponding mid shot with feet up. *Good continuity of hand action in the edit.*

**21.25 Still**

Clasping the handle of the tea cup throughout he remains still apart from relaxed breathing movement.

**21.30 Sips Tea repeat**

Lifts cup to lips whilst holding saucer underneath in case of spillage. *You could take this man anywhere.*

**21.35 Still repeat**

More relaxed viewing.

**21.40 Still continued**

Remains motionless until his left foot travels across the screen obliterating his face for a split second on its way to the floor.

**21.45 Coughs repeat**

Still holding cup and saucer rubs chin with free hand and coughs very politely.

**21.50 Legs Apart**

With one leg resting on the coffee table and the other on the floor sits quietly. *Uncomfortable performance.*

**21.55 Hand Behind Back**

Adjusts cushions with right hand, rubs nose and crosses right leg over left leg whilst all the while balancing cup and saucer in other hand.

**22.00 Motionless**

Legs crossed with cup and saucer resting on chest.

**22.05 Motionless continued**

Almost zen-like inactivity.

**VIDEO** There's so much of it...  
**Times**



Thoughtful stuff at 22.10 - 22.15

# VIDEO Times

## **22.10 Rubs Nose repeat**

In the act of rubbing his nose with two fingers of his right hand adopts a very toffy-nosed expression on his face almost as if he can smell something. *Mysterious.*

## **22.15 Coughs repeat**

This may be a repeated action but never before has his cough synchronised so well with the music. *Magical - show stopping.*



The enigma of the saucer at 22.55 - 23.00

## **22.20 Silence**

Beginning with silence we are very soon into yet another bracing ditty designed to 'view along to'.

## **22.25 Sips Tea repeat**

Takes a good long sip of tea. Both elbows sticking well out.

## **22.30 Edit**

Cut to close up of face with cup to lips. *How long does this cup of tea last.*

## **22.35 Stirs Tea**

Returns cup to saucer and stirs remaining tea with silver teaspoon. His eyes vigilantly dart from screen to tea cup and back again.

## **22.40 Edit**

As the blue and white willow-patterned china cup touches his lips we cut to a long shot of the same cup leaving his lips for the saucer. *The stuff of good edits.*

## **22.45 Layed Back**

Relaxes, cup and saucer held by both hands.

## **22.50 Layed Back continued**

Nothing doing. *At least this kind of stuff is easy to follow.*

## **22.55 Looks Under Cup**

Looks down at cup and saucer and removing cup stares searchingly at the saucer before putting cup to his lips. *Perhaps he expects to find a tip.*

## **23.00 Sips Tea repeat**

Takes a swallow of tea which results in a tea leaf unpleasantly sticking to his teeth. Shows his teeth and dislodges the tea leaf with his finger before moving forward to place tea cup on the table.

## **23.05 Places Tea Cup On Table**

Leaning forward he adjusts the cup and saucer which are out of shot to our left before leaning back in the corner of the settee.

## **23.10 Knee Moves**

His right knee which is crossed over his left leg moves slightly from the left of the picture towards the centre. *Uneventful.*

**23.15 Rubs Face**

Rubs face with left hand and then dramatically raises right foot towards the screen. *The raising of his foot is very spatial, one almost expects his foot to come through the screen.*



Foot up at 23.20 - 23.25

**23.20 Undoing Shoes**

Foot up centre of screen he undoes his laces and then changing puts his foot down and leans forward. *Note the all leather shoes.*

**23.25 Edit**

We begin with his head down as he continues to undo his shoe and then cut to a long shot of the same action which is when he returns his gaze to the screen. *Good editing.*

**23.30 Right Shoe Off**

Takes his right shoe off and then begins to undo his left shoe. *Only towards the end of the segment does he look away from the screen.*

**23.35 Left Shoe Off**

Again we begin with his head down this time struggling with his left shoe which is just out of shot at the bottom of our screen. He successfully removes the shoe by the end of the five seconds.

**VIDEO** There's so much of it...  
**Times**

**23.40 Adjusts His Position**

Leans back twice and then begins to come forward again.

**23.45 Picks Up Cup And Saucer**

Picks up cup and saucer with his right hand and stretches back into the corner of the settee and rubs head. *He's not going to drink that tea is he - it must be stone cold (that's if there's any left).*

**23.50 Sips Tea repeat**

Casually sips tea. *Rigged.*

**23.55 Finishes Sip**

Places tea cup back on saucer and puts right hand in trouser pocket.

**24.00 Stretched Out**

Fully stretched out centre of our screen still holding cup and saucer. *Nice light flash early on.*

**24.05 Stretched Out continued**

Still.



Refreshed at 24.25 - 24.30

# VIDEO Times

## **24.10 Stretched Out** *continued*

Still, still. *If you ask me the whole damn thing's stretched out.*

## **24.15 Leans Forward repeat**

Breaking his rigid position at last, our viewer leans forward and prepares for another sip of tea.



Itchy feet at 24.35 - 24.40

## **24.20 Sips Tea For The Last Time**

Takes a final sip of tea before placing cup and saucer neatly on top of the side plate already on the table. *Yuk! - cold tea.*

## **24.25 Refreshed**

Having finished the tea he rubs both hands over his head and then rubs them together before looking at his watch.

## **24.30 Winds Up Watch**

Winds up watch, scratches right eyebrow and then leans back with right shoeless foot resting on left knee.

## **24.35 Rubs Foot**

Rubs right stockinged foot with left hand and begins to bend individual toes. *Soothing.*

## **24.40 Bends Toes**

Beginning with the little toe he works his way up the foot from toe to toe bending each one backwards and forwards. Finally grabbing them all and bending them backwards and forwards. Music comes to an end.

## **24.45 Silence**

Continues to bend his toes as if in an attempt to crank up some music from somewhere, succeeds. *An amusing coincidence.*

## **24.50 New Music**

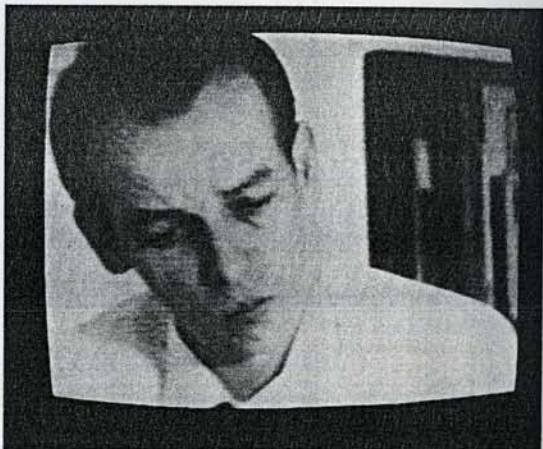
Very racy musical piece prompts a stretch and a yawn from our man in the living room.

## **24.55 Looking Ceilingwards**

Extracting the maximum from this yawn he leans back, head horizontal and elbows at forty-five degrees to his torso. Cut to closer shot of the same action.

## **25.00 Mid Shot**

Elbows still out with hands behind head. *In repose.*



Studying the options at 25.20 - 25.25

**25.05 Mid Shot *continued***

More of the same except his tongue ventures out and takes a tour of his lips.

**25.10 Picks Up Radio Times**

Looks downwards and to his right before picking up the Radio Times which he glances at before exchanging from his right to left hand. *Something's in the air.*

**25.15 Puts Radio Times Down**

As if it were hot the Radio Times is cast aside whilst simultaneously the T.V. Times is picked up. We cut to a close-up of his face behind the T.V. Times which alternates between reading and watching us.



Going ape at 25.50 - 25.55

**25.20 Reads T.V. Times**

Quickly from page to page he scans the T.V. Times. *In search of the perfect programme?*

**25.25 Reads T.V. Times *continued***

More manic searching for that elusive programme. *To read and view simultaneously would put a strain on anyone.*

**25.30 Edit**

We cut to a mid shot just as the T.V. Times is cast down onto the settee. *After a while you have to force yourself to actually see these edits, they're that slippery.*



Stockinged feet at 26.00 - 26.05

**25.35 Glances At Book Shelf**

He stares straight ahead and then in a moment of weakness tantamount to betrayal he looks at the book shelf as if he might sample a bit of literature. *A close one - the ratings were ready to plummet then.*

**25.40 Alarm Over**

Rests back into archetypal slob position. *Reassuring to see it.*

**25.45 Coughs repeat**

Coughs covering mouth, right arm then goes behind his head in Neanderthal fashion.

**25.50 Position Sustained**

Ape-like arm position is kept up. His tongue puts in a fleeting appearance.

**25.55 Crosses Legs repeat**

Left leg attempts an assault on the right leg but then thinks better of it. His entire body then clambers forward awkwardly.

**26.00 Scratches Foot**

The left foot having at the second attempt achieved the summit of the right knee is then scratched and the stocking pulled away from the sole of the foot.

# VIDEO Times

## **26.05 Holds Foot**

Holding the toe of the foot in right hand rests his head on his left hand. Wiggles toes.

## **26.10 Rubs Big Toe**

Rubs big toe and replaces hand on foot. Lips adopt a whistling position.

## **26.15 Rubs Under Nose**

Lifts head away from under nose. Places finger of left hand in mouth.



A few adjustments at 26.30 - 26.35

## **26.20 Bites Finger**

Opens his mouth and slides his finger between his teeth which then appear to chew his finger. *You'd have thought that that éclair would have done the trick.*

## **26.25 Adjusts His Dress**

Leaning backwards he tucks his shirt further into his trousers.

## **26.30 Adjusts His Dress** *continued*

Makes the final adjustments to his shirt inside his trousers. *Don't let the curious title baffle you, he's not wearing a dress.*

## **26.35 Rubs Forehead**

As if under some strain he rubs his forehead.

## **26.40 Leaning Forward** *repeat*

Resignedly leaning forward he strokes his tie before clasping his head between both hands. *A reminder of just how brilliant that shirt is.*

## **26.45 Coughs** *repeat*

Coughs and then begins a fitfull search of the settee which involves lifting up both the T.V. Times and the Radio Times.

## **26.50 Hyperative**

For no visible reason our viewer is now up and down like a yo-yo. *Is there a ferret on the settee?*

## **26.55 Lunges In Pocket**

One half expects him to extract a polecat from his pocket bur regular viewers will recognise our old friend the polo packet. Music stops. *You'd have thought that he'd had enough continuity problems with polo mints in the first half.*

## **27.00 New Music Begins**

Whilst he struggles with the intricateness of the sweet packet Spanish-style music starts up. *The music provides some umph.*

## **27.05 Puts Polo In Mouth**

Having solved the puzzle of the packet he extracts a polo and places it in his mouth. *The music really gets into its stride.*

**27.10 Edit**

Carefully places polos back on the table (off screen) and we cut to a close shot of head and shoulders.



The mint with the hole at 27.05 - 27.10

**27.15 Sucking**

We begin with him sucking his sweet to the music until he coughs and then runs both his hands through his hair. Whilst this happens he dives down eyes way out of picture.

**27.20 Resurfaces**

From the depths beneath our screens he resurfaces, scratches his head and as if to hear the wonderfully brassy music even clearer he wriggles his finger in his right ear.

**27.25 Rubs Nose repeat**

Rubs nose before settling for head between hands position. Chin below the screen.

**27.30 Edit**

Raises head and rests chin on top of interlaced fingers of both hands before a dramatic cut to a close up of both eyes.

**27.35 Eyes**

Just that, those piercing, relentless eyes. The menacing effect of the image evaporates when juxtaposed with such happy-go-lucky music.

**27.40 Edit**

We cut back to the shot immediately preceding the last one. He glances at his watch which is off screen. *Are the pubs still open?*

**27.45 Edit**

We cut from the close shot of head and shoulders to a mid shot. *These edits are coming thick and fast.*

**27.50 Knees Up**

First the right knee goes up quickly followed by the left. *No respect for the furniture.*

**27.55 Hands Off Knees**

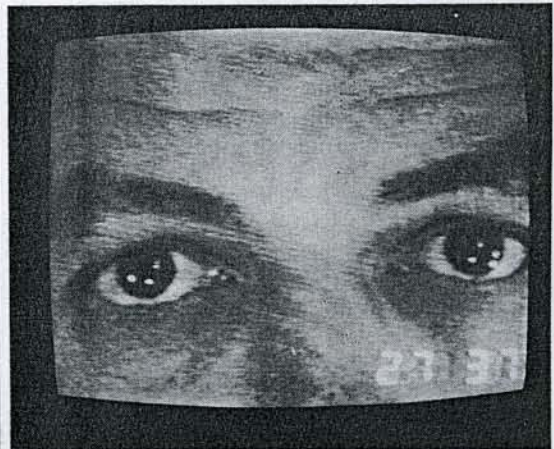
Takes hands off knees and rubs face in a gesture of exhaustion before placing hands between his legs.

**28.00 Scratches Head**

Right hand moves to chin and then covering his mouth he begins to lean forward.

**28.05 Stops Scratching**

Right hand moves to chin and then covering his mouth he begins to lean forward.



Close encounters of the video kind at 27.35 - 27.40

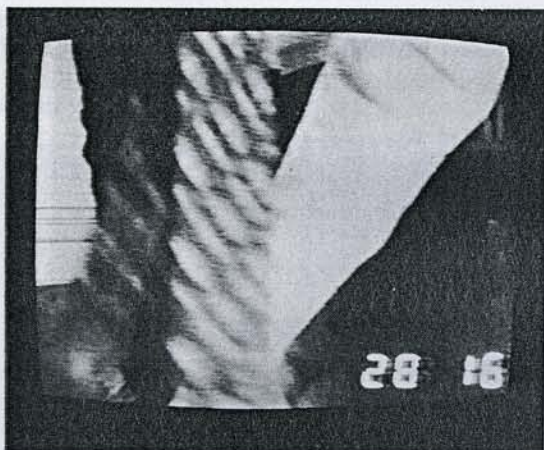
# VIDEO Times

## **28.10 Considers Things**

He seems to be locked in thought and then suddenly out of the blue he begins to get up.

## **28.15 Turns Over**

With no reference to a T.V. guide of any description he plunges us into momentary darkness as he changes channels. *The cheeky sod, I was watching that. The music change is enough to give you a heart attack.*



The switch at 28.15 - 28.20

## **28.20 Glances At T.V. Guide**

Sits back in his seat and checks in the T.V. guide (partly in shot) that he has made the correct channel change. *A retrospective gesture.*

## **28.25 Satisfied**

Satisfied with things he smugly sits back.

**VIDEO  
Times**

There's so much of it...



Stern stuff at 28.45 - 28.50

## **28.30 Pulls Up His Sock**

Leans forward and brings his right knee up and move into the picture as he (off screen) pulls up his sock.

## **28.35 Checks Other Sock**

Finishes pulling up his right sock and checks that his left one is O.K. *Its too late now to pull his socks up.*

## **28.40 Stern Stare**

Some very serious viewing going on.

## **28.45 Peering**

Peering through the glass screen surveying the current goings on.

## **28.50 Peering continued**

He seems to gain much vicarious pleasure from his 'Peeping Tom' activities. *A statement about the inherent voyeurism of television viewing.*

## **28.55 Edit**

The timing of this is brilliant. *Watch for the crossing of the leg (which comes mid-edit) and coincides with the final crescendo of the music as it crashes into silence.*



**29.00 Long Shot**

Right foot resting on left knee he bends his toes with his left hand as the music limbers up.

**29.05 Bends Foot**

Seemingly in an attempt to get the music going tries the old cranking of the foot method. *To little effect.*

**29.10 Rubs Ankle**

He seems full of aches and pains as he rubs his foot and ankle with one hand whilst simultaneously rubbing his right thigh with his right hand.

**29.15 Stretches repeat**

He closes his eyes for a second and then arms behind his head goes for a full stretch with back arched.

**29.20 Yawns repeat**

This stretch predictably matures into a yawn.



The left shoe at 29.35 - 29.40

**29.25 Arms Behind Head repeat**

Breaks arm position behind head and straightens tie. *With all these recent repeats its hard to be enthusiastic.*



Giving it some thought at 29.55 - 29.60

**29.30 Alters Leg Position**

Takes right foot off left knee and places left foot on right knee. *He manages to make such a seemingly complicated series of bodily actions appear so simple, so natural.*

**29.35 Legs Apart**

Takes left foot off right knee and sits with legs apart before beginning to move forward with his right arm stretched out to left of picture.

**29.40 Edit**

Picks up the Radio Times before cutting to a closer mid shot of the same Radio Times landing on his lap. His eyes abandon the screen for seconds at a time whilst he searches for the correct page.

**29.45 The Search continued**

He continues to ignore the screen entirely despite seemingly having found the correct page. *The tension of his stare combined with one's own stare, begins to break down when he fails to return it.*

**29.50 Scans The Radio Times**

Another five seconds of total irresponsibility as he fails to look up. *The Parisian accordion music fails to bring an air of culture to the piece.*

# VIDEO Times

## **29.55 Studies The Radio Times**

He must be reading an article. *Doesn't he know that we are here.*

## **30.00 At Last**

He looks up only to come forward totally unexpectedly and turns off the receiver. *Shocking.*

## **30.05 Silence**

The white dot disappears into a void of blackness.

## **30.10 Black To Blue**

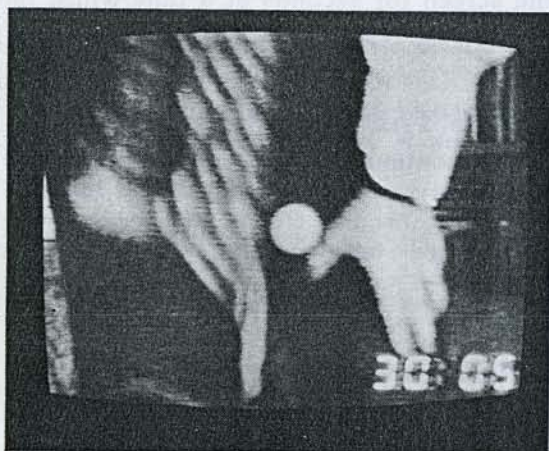
The black fades into a blue and the titles emerge. *Visually pleasing.*

## **30.15 Credits**

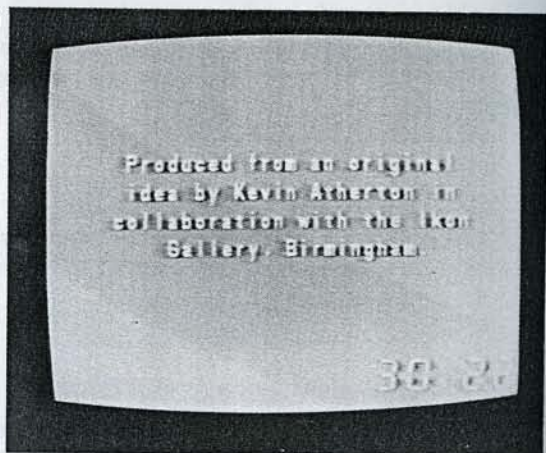
*What idea?*

## **30.20 Credits continued**

They begin to roll. *Kevin who?*



A turn off at 30.05 - 30.10



Full credit at 30.10 - 30.55

## **30.25 Credits continued**

There were others.

## **30.30 Credits continued**

More words.

## **30.35 Credits continued**

Supported by the Arts Council of Great Britain. *Indeed.*

## **30.40 Credit continued**

Copyright. *No trouble there.*

## **30.45 Credits Still**

Rolling credits stop.

## **30.50 Voice Over**

Her voice comes as a surprise.

## **30.55 Voice Over continued**

What she has to say comes as an even bigger surprise. *How much?*

**CLOSEDOWN**

88

19



SUBSIDISED BY THE  
Arts Council  
OF GREAT BRITAIN