

TITLE: ACTION SPACE, 86'

DIRECTOR: Huw Wahl

PRODUCERS: Huw Wahl, Amanda Ravetz

KEY CAST: Ken Turner, Mary Turner, Caroline Bagnall, Rick Harper, Theo Tanser, Jason Turner, Johan Siebers, Alan Nisbet, Ken Worpole

SOUND DESIGN: Simon Connor

MUSIC: AMM (eddie Prevost and John Tilbury), Phil Minton, Action Space Archive

OVERVIEW: Founded by my father Ken Turner and his wife Mary Turner in 1968, Action Space used large interactive inflatable structures to create interventions into public spaces. By bringing together artists, performers, dancers, painters and musicians, the movement sought to produce cultural democratic spaces for art, education and creative play outside of the restrictive gallery system elite. This film looks at the years between '68 and '78, exploring contemporary and pertinent issues around public/private space, individual/collective creativity, community and responsibility, emancipation and play. Featuring archive footage alongside discussions with key members of the movement, present-day writers and theorists, it uses the construction of a new inflatable to bring these arguments into the contemporary realm. This is the story of an emancipatory art movement told through a personal lens.

"Huw Wahl's new documentary is a meditative, visually rich portrait of this band of dreamers (...) It conjures up the possibility of a national canon of inflatable culture"

Sukhdev Sandhu, Sight and Sound magazine, September 2016

"Wahl uses astonishing archival footage in a subtle and inventive way, combining it with a personal narrative and contemporary commentary to raise pertinent and awkward questions about art as play and its claims to empower communities (...) At a time when art is being coopted for instrumentalist agendas, Action Space is a timely reminder of the potency of art behaving badly."

Bryan Biggs, Artistic Director of the Bluecoat, Liverpool

DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY: Huw Wahl's recent projects include To Hell with Culture (2014) an Arts Council funded film about the life, work and politics of art critic, poet and anarchist Herbert Read; Negotiating Representation in Israel and Palestine (2012) a Royal Photographic Society funded audiovisual piece on how local photographers deal with issues of representing victim-hood and oppression in the occupied territories; and Helpyourself Manchester (2012) a collaborative documentary about the DIY music scene in Manchester.

LANGUAGE: English

MANCHESTER, UK, 2016

["How Giant Inflatables Blew Up the Art World" - Amuse | iD Magazine](#)