

# Urban Experience

## Look Back in Anger

A short-film series plumbs a dark cultural data bank

BY TROY SCHULZE

Aurora Picture Show continues its series of screenings at Dean's Credit Clothing with *You Can't Do That on Television*, a video compilation that, according to curator Ed Halter, explores "that new psychedelia that erupts when ADD is your LSD." And while each short film exudes symptoms of raised-in-the-'80s disease, by all means don't expect anything as innocuous as old Nickelodeon footage of a teenage Alanis Morissette getting doused with green slime.

The shorts range from straight-on video art like Paper Rad's *Welcome to My Home Page*, a mishmash of low-tech computerized animation, to *Memorial Day 2000*, Carly Ptak's disturbing 11-minute documentary of a backwoods, redneck camping trip in which



mobs of drunken males mud-wrestle, set fires and kick the shit out of each other.

Hands clap against a changing solid-color background in *Private\_eyez.mid*, Cory Arcangel and Frankie Martin's downright hypnotic music video of the Hall & Oates hit "Private Eyes." The cheesy, Casio-keyboard music elicits feelings of both nostalgia and shame.

But the real diamond here is *Amy Goodrow: Tape 5925*, Eileen Maxson's mock

audition tape for MTV's *The Real World*. Shot from the point of view of the flunky whose job it is to review the tapes, we watch a 21-year-old college senior detailing memories of her first kiss, describing her hobbies (she makes Christmas cards) and confessing her deep feelings of loneliness — all while the tape reviewer fast-forwards through sections and makes evening plans with his friends over the phone. It's funny, touching and infuriating. The shorts screen every Monday in June. 9 p.m. 316 Main. For information, call 713-227-3326. \$5.

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