

JOHN SIMON GUGGENHEIM

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

*90 Park Avenue · New York, New York 10016*

November 12, 1976


Dear Mrs. Vasulka:

The attached papers concern an applicant for a Guggenheim Fellowship who has referred us to you. We shall be grateful for your candid and critical appraisal of the candidate and of the proposal submitted to us.

Anything you say will be held in the strictest confidence.

With many thanks for your assistance to the Foundation.

Sincerely yours,

  
Stephen L. Schlesinger  
Secretary

V I D E O B A L L E T

A T E L E V I S I O N P E R F O R M A N C E

performed through

T H E L I V E V I D E O - A U D I O F E E D B A C K  
S Y S T E M

by

Woody V a s u l k a

BOHUSLAV VASULKA  
111 EAST 14 STREET  
N. Y. C. N. Y. 10003

W o o d y V a s u l k a

A graduate of the Motion Picture Academy, Prague, Czechoslovakia.

- ...Director and producer of a series of 7 shorts: Czechoslovakia, Iceland, and North Africa.
- ...Editor in charge of Multi-Screen Environmental exhibition at Expo'67, produced by Woods & Ramirez Architects.
- ...Assistant Film Editor to Francis Thompson, 6-screen film, Expo'67 "We Are Young".  
Film Editor, Francis Thompson's film "US" Hemisfair'68, San Antonio.
- ...Editor, 5-screen environmental film CBS Cinemacenter Film Presentation, National Association of Theatre Owners Convention, San Francisco.
- ...Coauthor of Video Matrix Exhibit Concept/Industrial exhibits by ACC throughout the United States.
- ...Producer-Editor of multi-screen slide show at the Metropolitan Museum entitled "European Collection".
- ...Numerous  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch videotapes and 1-inch Videosexperiments.
- Live** experiments with Video signal and Electronics Musical Instruments (Buchla, Moog).

V I D E O   B A L L E T

Is a

M e d i a oriented instant audiovisual  
composition.

Script: A P i l o t V i d e o t a p e  
experimented and conceptualized through  
rehearsals.

Philosophy:    A n I n s t a n t  
i n t e r a c t i o n between three Media:  
Live Performer, TV System, Sound Synthesi-  
zer.

Demonstrated through    T h e L i v e  
V i d e o - A u d i o F e e d b a c k  
S y s t e m .

The Live Video-Audio Feedback System

...translates live movement performed on stage to a corresponding Audio and Visual spectrum by feeding the video signal (electronic analogue of the visual) into an Electronic Musical Instrument (the Sound Synthesizer).

...begins on stage, where the action taking place is recorded by Television cameras. The black and white Television signal is then processed through a Local Video Feedback Circuit and Coloring box and is finally displayed in color by means of a Video Projector on a large TV Screen.

The Local Video Feedback Circuit provides both a Visual abstraction of the original live performance as witnessed on stage and a radical Voltage change (within the video signal) which then is used to modulate an Electronic Musical Instrument.

...presented to the audience consists of tripartite package: the Live Performer, the televised abstraction of his movement, and electronic sound corresponding to the movement.

The Live Video-Audio Feedback System uses:

VIDEO: Two B/W C A M E R A S (C1,C2) (see diagram on page 6) generating B/W video signals

B/W L I N E M O N I T O R  
feeding back C2 through

S P E C I A L E F F E C T S G E N E R A T O R  
(C1 over C2)

V I D E O A M P L I F I E R

\* C O L O R I N G B O X (Colorizer)  
coloring B/W signals for

C O L O R T V P R O J E C T O R

AUDIO: M O O G or B U C H L A or other voltage controlled electronic sound synthesizer, triggered or modulated by video signal through

I N T E R F A C E (Matching Device)  
while outcoming sound-product is amplified by a conventional

A U D I O A M P L I F I E R  
and played through

S P E A K E R S

cont.:

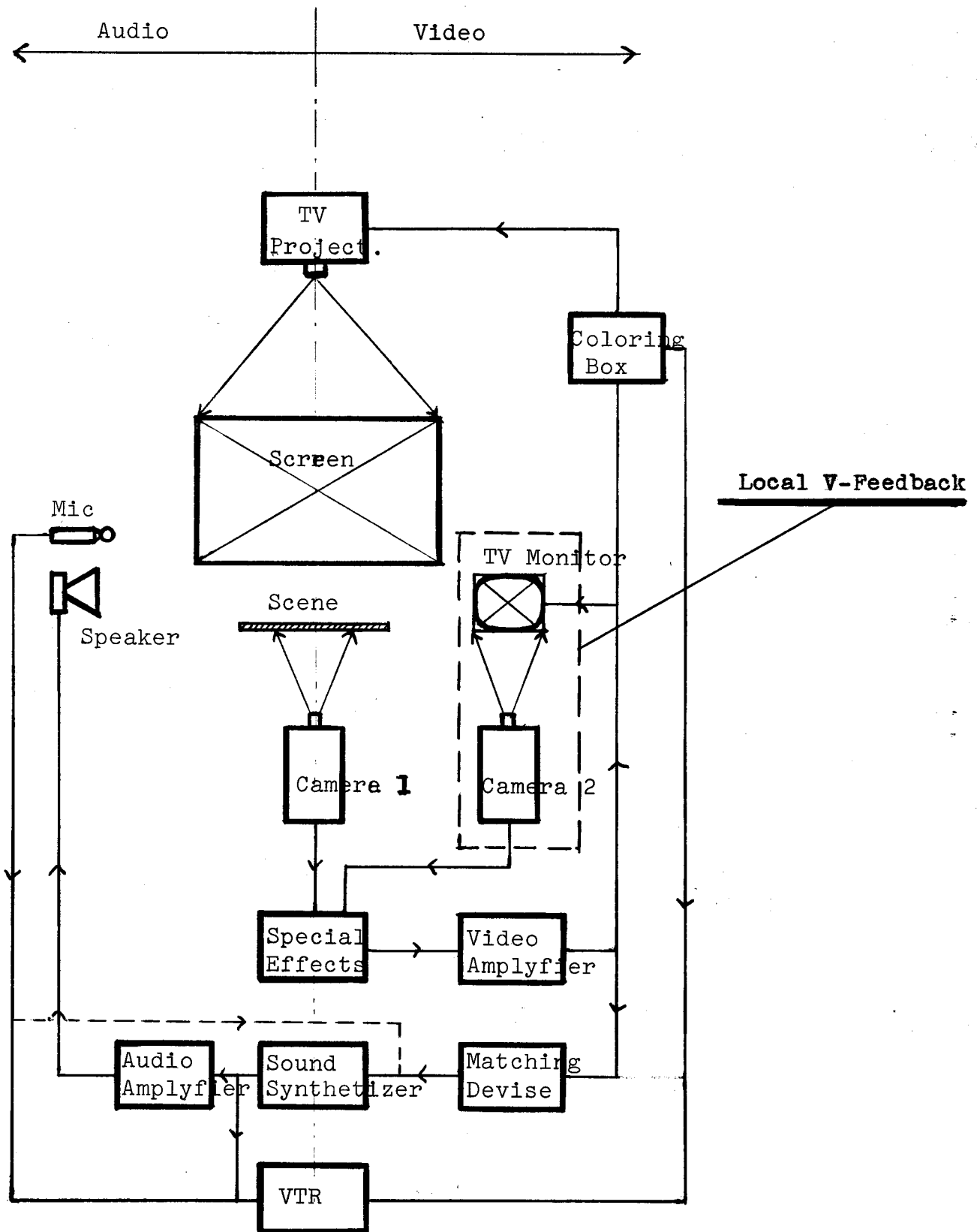
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Audio system also incorporates stage

M I C R O P H O N E S

The V-A FB System can also be used for production of Videotapes by incorporating a

V I D E O R E C O R D E R (VTR)  
into the final stage of video-audio signals.



3/ Live Audio-Video Feedback System :

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Cont.:



CCTV VIDEO FEEDBACK

a Behaviour of an Electronic Organism

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V i d e o F e e d b a c k

S i n g l e : (see diagram on page 9)

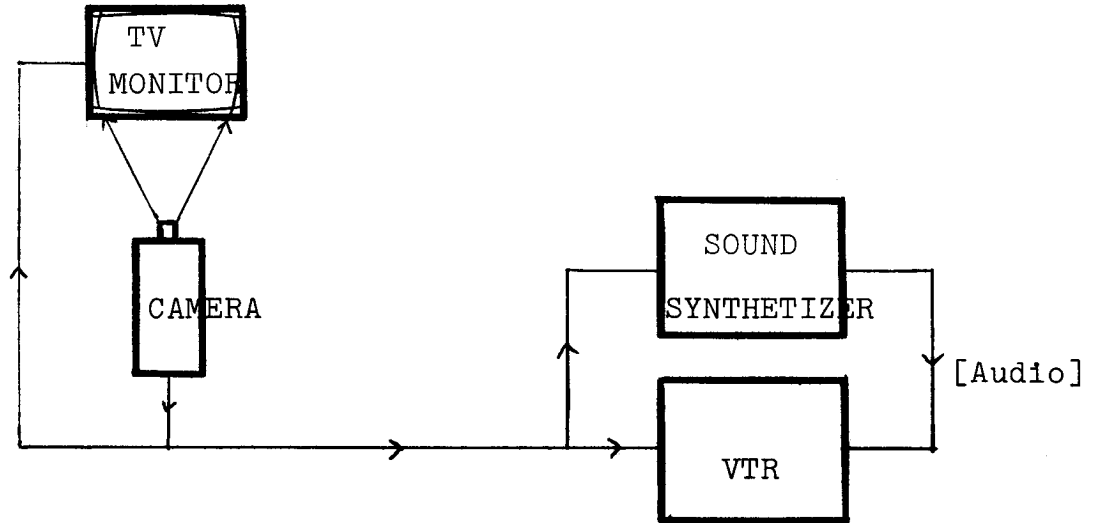
No physical object is used to create an image. Instead the image is generated through a closed circuit composed of a television camera operating into a video monitor.

The image seen on the monitor is fed back into the camera and once again back through the monitor at a rate of sixty times per second comprises its own rhythm and development.

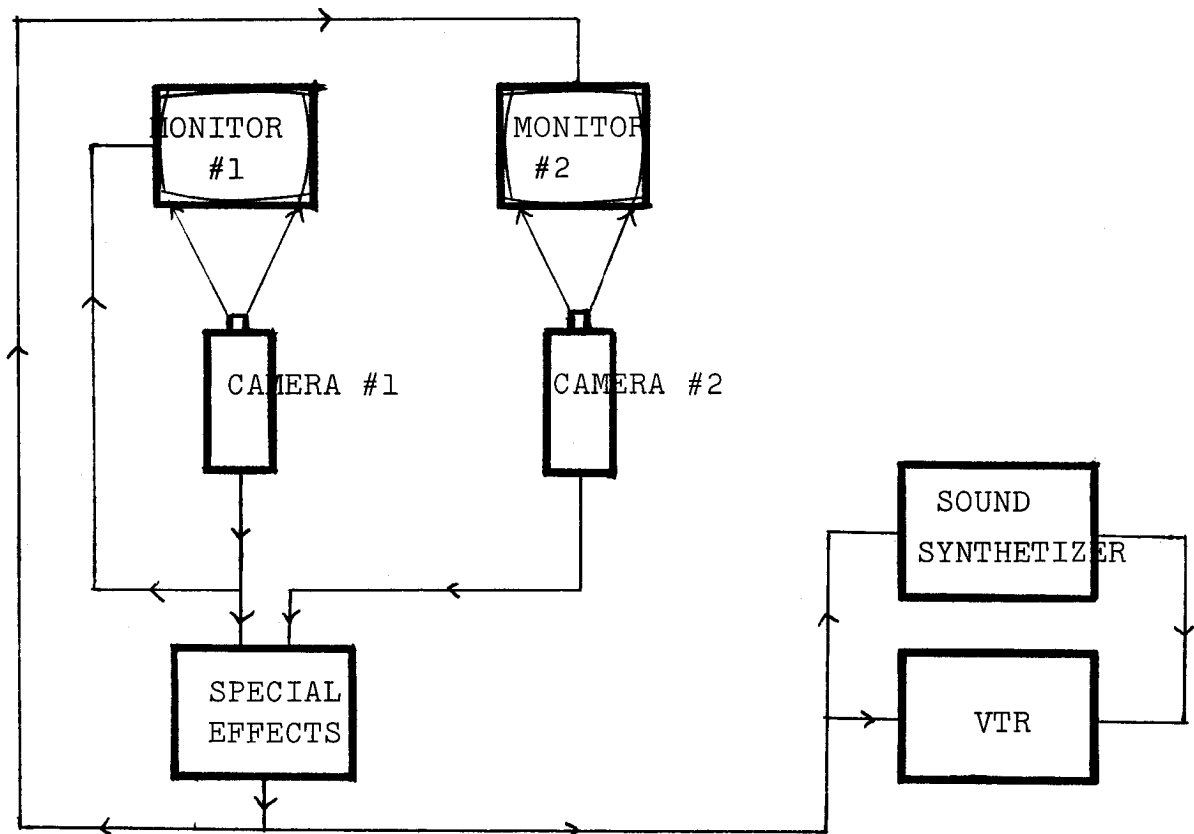
D o u b l e o r C o m b i n e d :

In the Video-Audio Feedback System the above mentioned Single feedback is superimposed upon the actual video representation of the events seen on stage.

1/ Single Audio-Video Feedback System:



2/ Double System:



THE SOUND SYNTHESIZER

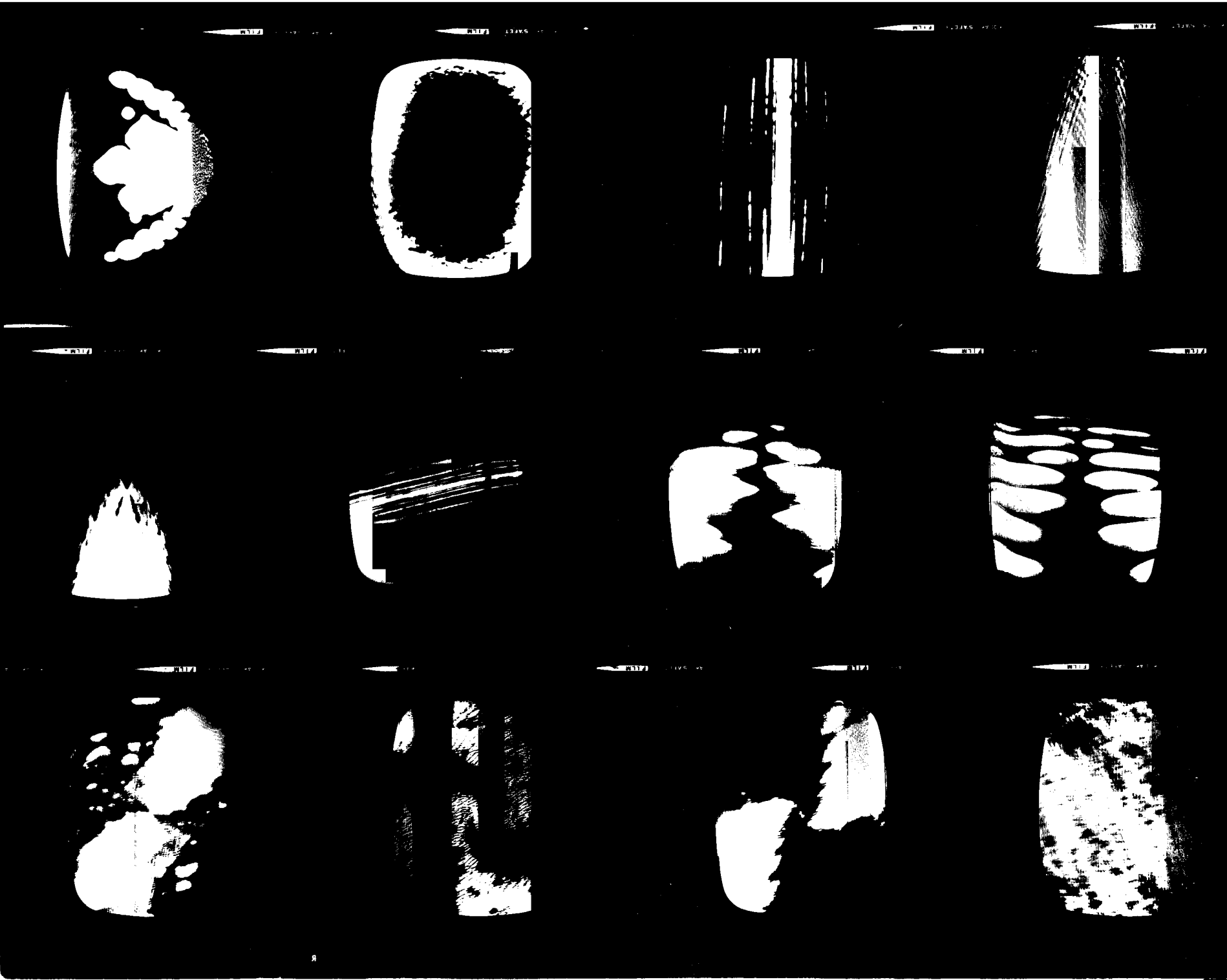
an  
Electronic Musical Instrument

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N. Y. C. N. Y. 10003

S o u n d

in the Video-Audio Feedback System is an instant product of the stage performance. There is no time lag between sound and action.

The Video-Audio I n t e r f a c e or Matching Device can be upgraded to a more complex systems which will produce counterpointed rhythm and variations in pitch and/or intensity.





KODAK SAFETY FILM



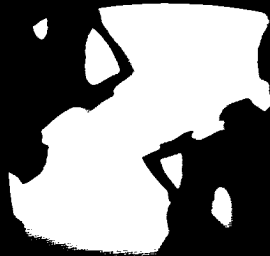
KODAK SAFETY FILM



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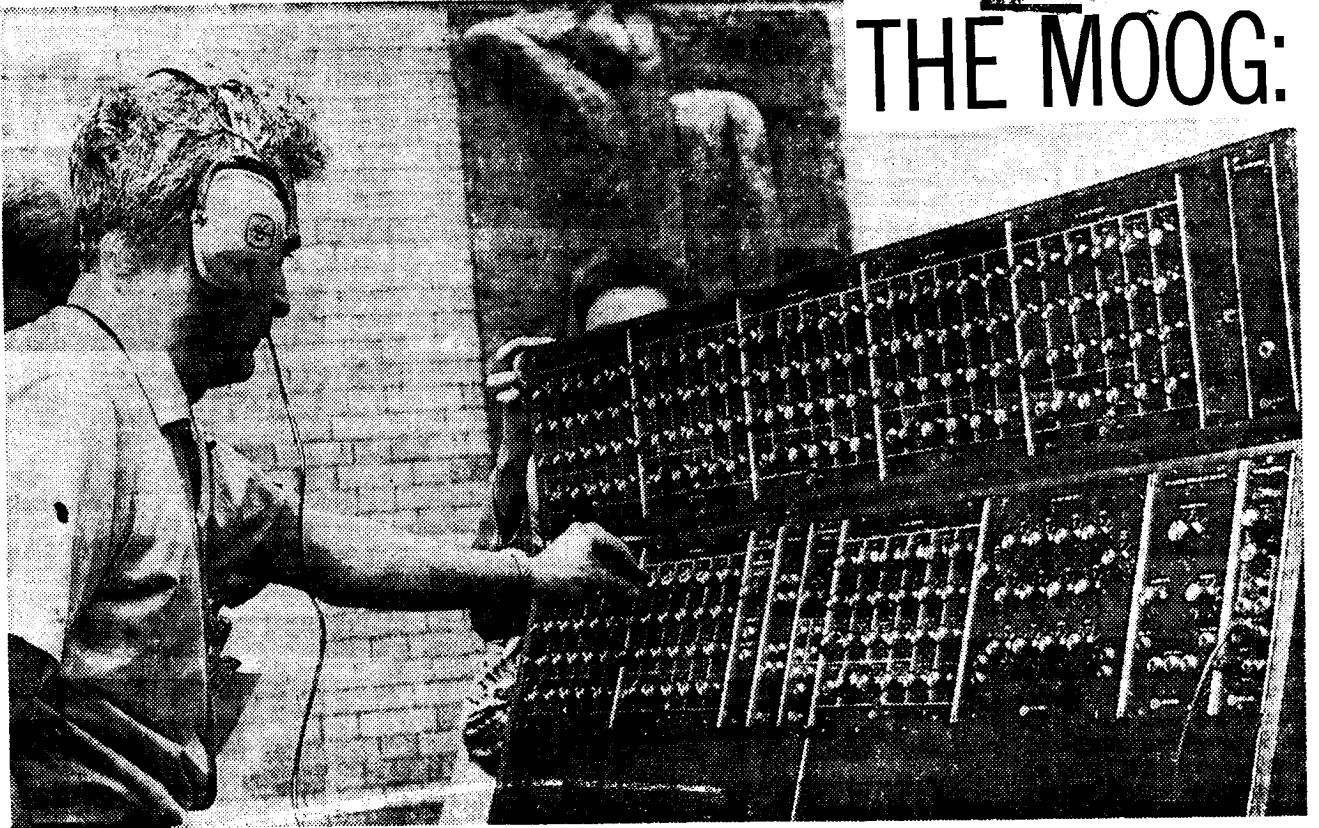


KODAK SAFETY FILM

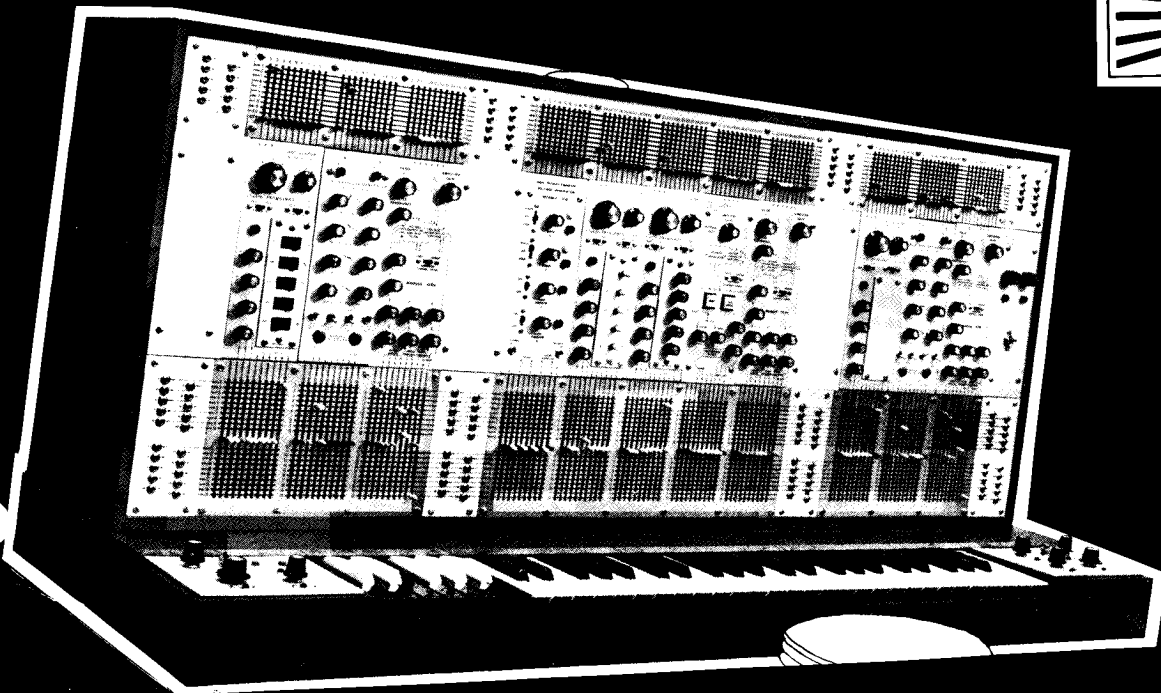


KODAK SAFETY FILM

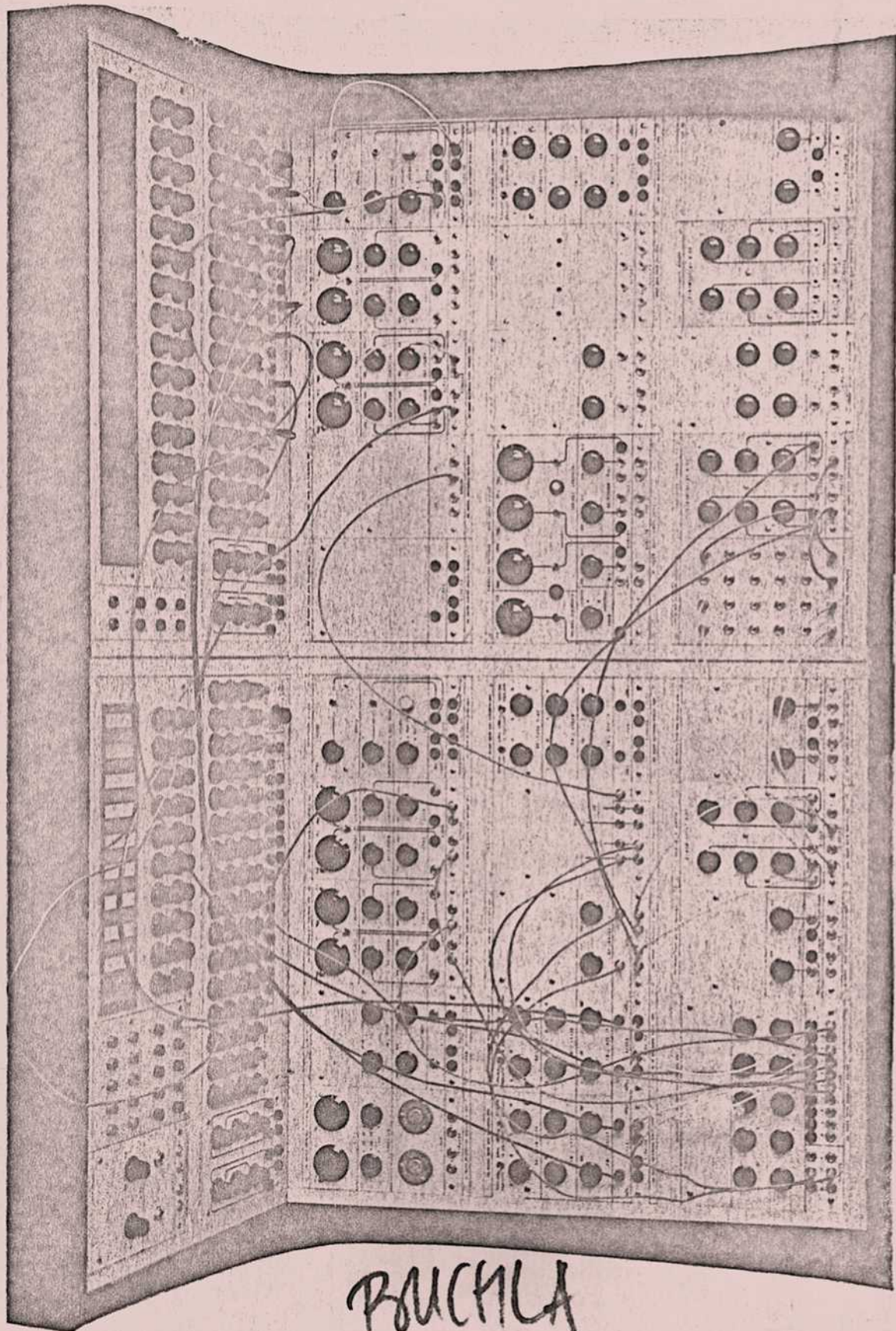
# THE MOOG:



Robert A. Moog of Trumansburg, N.Y., with part of a Synthesizer







BUCHLA