



Newsletter Sign-up  
 Subscribe our Feed  
 Join us on Youtube  
 Join us on Facebook  
 Follow us on Twitter

## Five alive

23 September 2010 posted by [John Wyver](#)

A new DVD of twenty-three films by artists and animators gives us another chance for a little big up for [Animate Projects](#). [Animate TV: 20 Years of Experimental Animation from the UK](#) (on sale for £17) features a selection from the 100+ films produced during two decades in collaboration with Arts Council England and Channel 4 (including *Rabbit*, 2005, by Run Wrake, above). The DVD package also has a booklet with essays by Adam Pugh and the late Dick Arnall. In the jump, I've chosen my five favourites, and offered online links to four of them (plus a link to an extract). The films feature on Animate Project's [exemplary website](#) along with animation news, essays and their very fine blog [AP Engine](#) (recent posts include Gary Thomas' [reflections on the ferment in film funding](#) and [an interview with Hito Steyerl](#) by Rosemary Heather). Website and blog should be among your regular go-tos.

- **Furniture Poetry**, a film by Paul Bush, 1999

Animation is a mansion with many rooms, as the DVD demonstrates once again, but I'm fairly clear that my tastes tend towards the abstract and conceptual -- too many quasi-figurative films fall victim imho to the fatal affliction of fey-ness. Paul Bush's pixillation avoids all that, with its rapid-fire patterning of domestic objects in everyday settings. It's funny and refreshing and slightly unsettling, and it engagingly tips its hat to Wittgenstein's *On Certainty*. The link from the title will take you to a one-minute extract and a quote from Ludwig. There's also much more about the filmmaker at [his own site](#).

- **Proximity**, a film by Inger Lise Hansen, 2006

The link takes you to the film, which is simple, semi-abstract and mysterious precisely because its on the edge of something very familiar. Explaining that it comprises four upside-down time-lapse tracking shots on a beach does little to capture the film's poetry and beauty. There's also a short video interview with Inge Lise Hansen [here](#). Also online is [a text interview](#) with the artist talking about her most recent film at the International Film Festival Rotterdam.

- **Ferment**, a film by Tim Macmillan, 1999

Tim Macmillan invented the [Time-Slice camera](#) that allows action to be frozen in space as the camera appears to track past or around a subject. It's a technique that you may have seen recently in *Streetdance 3D* and the BBC's graphics for the South Africa World Cup, both projects that [Tim's company](#) contributed to. He pioneered the ideas at the Bath Academy of Art and then at the Slade in the 1980s and '90s, and *Ferment* is one of his most achieved 'art' applications of it. You can get an idea of the company's more commercial work from this 2009 demo reel.

'Both at the first and now...'  
[\[Updated\]](#)  
 Initial previews for *Hamlet*, plus other reactions and blogs

[Blogging the Bard](#)  
 Links to all the *Hamlet* posts

[Blogging the Bard II: Macbeth](#)  
 A round-up of posts from making *Macbeth*

[Let's send Mark Thompson to Exeter](#)  
 Time for a radical approach to classic drama

[Towards 2016: \[3\] the Big Idea](#)  
 The campaign starts here for a quatercentenary Complete Works

[Art and artists on prewar television](#)  
 The visual arts on BBC TV in 1936-39

[Followers' Friday: William the first](#)  
 Your turn again: early memories of Shakespeare, please

[Five alive](#)  
 A DVD celebrating twenty years of AnimateTV

[TV Centre as 'production machine'](#)  
 David Attenborough reflects on BBC TVC at 50

[Something wicked this way comes](#)  
 PBS interviews Sir Patrick

Sunday links

Herzog! Wagner! Semantic movies and drawing



• **Magnetic Movie**, a film by Semiconductor: Ruth Jarman & Joe Gerhardt, 2007  
Poetic visualisations of magnetic fields accompanied by a soundtrack of theoretical reflections from NASA scientists. It's not an obvious recipe for visual delight, but that's exactly what you get here in a dazzling combination of animated photographs, sound-controlled CGA and 3D compositing. There's a [short video interview here](#) with Semiconductor. Professor of Technocultural Studies at the University of California, Davis, Douglas Kahn, contributes a short essay on the film [here](#), including this reflection about Ruth Jarman and Joe Gerhardt's work:

Combining their in-house lab culture experience with formidable artistic instincts in sound, animation and programming, they have created a magnetic magnum opus *in nuce*, a tour de force of a massive invisible force brought down to human scale, and a 'very most beautiful thing'.

• **Rabbit**, a film by Run Wrake, 2005  
Director Run Wrake discovered in a junk shop a 1950s folder of educational images and conjured from them a dark parable of greed and grisliness. For anyone brought up on Ladybird books, this brilliant tale has an added charge. A short intro to the film with Run Wrake is [here](#), but it's not something that needs explication -- all it demands is to be viewed.

[Comments \(1\)](#)

[Social Bookmarking](#)

**Comments**

**Gary Thomas** (24 September 2010 8:30 am)  
I'm blushing! Thank you very much indeed.

**Leave a reply**

Name:\*

Email:\*

Your Comment:\*

Post Comment

