

The San Francisco Cinematheque and Frameline present

JOE-JOE

Video Artists Leslie Singer and Cecilia Dougherty in person

October 9, 1993

Joe-Joe (1993); Pixelvision on 3/4" tape; b&w, sound, 52 minutes

Cecilia Dougherty and Leslie Singer split the character of English playwright Joe Orton into two Mission District lesbians, partners in playwriting and love. Joe and Joe prosper from their work publicly, but the effects of celebrity hardly reach them.

Do not expect to witness the sharp dialogue of the real-life Orton's plays or the manic cruising that possessed him. *Joe-Joe* provide(s) laconic comments on the vague cultural idioms so familiar to us, with a manner more self-effacing than flamboyant. They attract attention without desiring it, looking typically uncomfortable in Santa Cruz with leather caps as necessary accessories. Posing in wryly humorous scenes with just enough ability to exploit the attention of the camera, they exhibit their outlandishness quietly and self-consciously. Daily events occur which they find intriguing or expressive, but not satisfying. Ultimately, no aspect of *Joe-Joe*'s existence enlivens them but their own shared excitement. Sexual acts display the intense correspondence between the two women that is hidden in other episodes. Though sought after, *Joe-Joe* is (are) publicly inscrutable; but this revealed private life emphasizes the individuality that exists beyond stage and screen assumptions.

The screening will be introduced by Cecilia Dougherty and Leslie Singer, and will be followed by readings of passages from the diaries of Joe Orton and his play *Loot* by Roberto Friedman, Cliff Hengst, and Monique Nobo.

Program notes by Chris Bishop.

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