

Micro-cinema in Tiny Topanga



© CURTISS STAGE VERGE DIGITAL

The gunfight at the OK corral is re-enacted in a video screened July 20 at the Topanga Canyon Gallery's first "micro-cinema" event.

By Hadiya Finley

The Topanga Canyon Gallery had its first evening of video screenings on July 20, with a diverse program of works by graduate art students from Claremont Graduate University and Cal Arts, as well as work by professional video and film artists Curtis Stage and Robert Drummond.

Shoshana Brand's piece, "Parental Discretion Is Advised," portrays a critical attitude toward television, war and domestic violence. By interspersing scenes of a husband and wife quarreling over a bucket and mop, their son playing the piano and watching TV in a zombie-like fashion and clips from television news and "Jerry Springer," she creates a confused sense that art either imitates life, or life, art.

Curtis Stage's piece was a hilarious reinterpretation of the "gunfight at the

OK corral." Drummond's was a series of beautiful and lyrical images. Ted Fisher and Douglas McCulloh presented five humorous one-minute videos from their "Faces" project. Lauren Hartman's "Theresa" was a surreal and reflective work. The evening was rounded out with clips from last year's performances at Side Street Projects downtown location.

Hadiya Finley curated the program. She says that micro-cinema is a way to bring community and artists together to share in a unique experience. It also gives both artists and professional cinematographers an opportunity to share personal and experimental work with an informal audience.

Another video screening night is being planned this fall. To have a video considered for screening call Hadiya at (310) 455-1763. At this point they will be accepted without a fee. ■