

RADIO WITHOUT BOUNDARIES



Radio Without Boundaries began the following morning, opening with a 9 a.m. workshop entitled "Fogbound: Radio Utopia in a Time of War," led by New York-based writer and radio artist Gregory Whitehead. Whitehead interspersed samples of his recorded work with reflections upon the nature of radio and its relationship to our culture of war. Whitehead compares "Radio Thanatos," typified by talk-radio "shock jocks" who, in Whitehead's words, "convene the community and then put it to waste," with "Radio Eros," which serves to build peace by promoting our sense of shared responsibility for one another and for the planet. The workshop was punctuated by a collective scream, recorded for use in Whitehead's Scream series. Between the screaming and Whitehead's provocative observations, this session worked like a shot of espresso to clear participants' foggy morning brains.

Whitehead's late-night performance was at once sharply clever, playfully absurd, and hilariously entertaining. As he riffed off of everything from Martha Stewart's woes to glossolalia, squid, and naughty tongue twisters, Whitehead's vivid explorations of language drew listeners along at breakneck speed for a wild joyride in his careening verbal rattletrap. The zenith of this night's stellar performance was *Song for a Headless Apache*, a tongue-in-cheek, toy-theatre fable linking George W. Bush to Geronimo across a century of grave-robbing calumny. Part history, part conspiracy theory, and part adults-only fairy tale, *Song for a Headless Apache* incorporates a whacky array of props including an electric train, a stuffed Humpty Dumpty toy, and a plastic cow puppet.