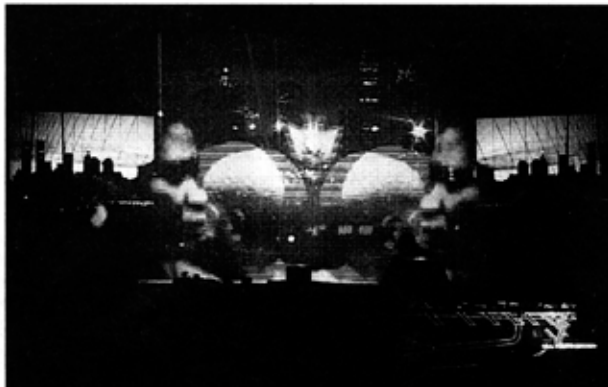
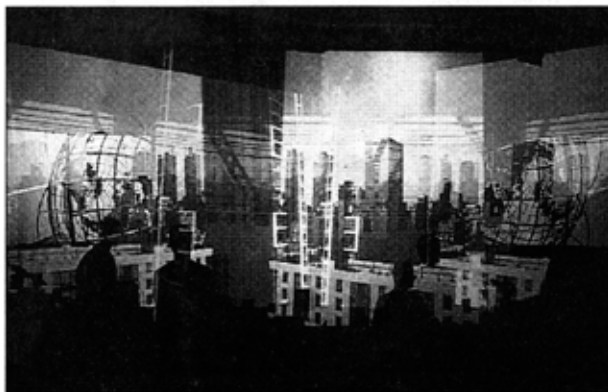




PUBLICATION: METRO
COUNTRY: UK
DATE: FEB 2002

DESCRIPTION: PIECE ON ODZ TYNESIDE FESTIVAL

**“...TLES HAVE BECOME ONE OF THE
WORLD’S PREMIER LIVE AUDIO-VISUAL
ACTS, DRAWING ACCOLADES FROM
ACROSS THE GLOBE.”**



Innovative: A selection of The Light Surgeons' acclaimed audio-visual installations that form part of the region's pioneering onedotzero digital film festival

FACTFILE

The Light Surgeons
– a brief history



The Light Surgeons' current live show, *All Points Between*

■ **Something of a constantly evolving group, The Light Surgeons' current line-up consists of audio-visual directors Chris Allen, James Price and Jude Greenaway, as well as Becky Gates, Rob Rainbow and co-founder Andy Flywheel.**

■ **Started by Chris Allen as 'a bit of fun at parties' during his university days, The Light Surgeons became a limited company in 1997.**

■ **Many of Allen's earlier live shows were performed in collaboration with his brother, The Loop Professor, one half of Ninja Tunes' trip-hop outfit Dynamic Syncopation. Within the world of music they have contributed to countless projects for bands including Propellerheads, Bentley Rhythm Ace, Morcheeba, U.N.K.L.E., Cornershop and Sneaker Pimps.**

■ **The Light Surgeons have also added their distinctive audio-visual touch to corporate campaigns for the likes of Benetton, Channel 4, Levi's, Sony, Budweiser, Bloomberg and the BBC.**

DH

Architects are part of a sound operation

MULTIMEDIA

Visual veterans The Light Surgeons at onedotzero

Describing themselves as 'audio-visual architects', Shoreditch-based multimedia manipulators The Light Surgeons specialise in innovative and exploratory investigations of light and sound.

Seamlessly cutting together news footage and everyday images via looped 16mm film, slide carousels, Macs and Super 8 projectors – giving the overall impression of watching several films at the same time – The Light Surgeons have become one of the world's premier live audio-visual acts, drawing accolades from across the globe.

The show has evolved a lot over the years, having been born from the rapidly developing ways of collaging both moving and still imagery,' explains 27-year-old co-founder and creative director Chris Allen. 'In the early days we used to use crude techniques to allow us to create different environments in the clubs but our work has become more specific rather than being simply wallpaper or a sideshow.'

Still displaying their talents within clubland, most notably at their ongoing monthly residency at London's Fabric, The Light Surgeons are also turning their attentions to being recognised, according to Allen, as 'a form of art', with their current live show, *All Points Between* (APB), a clear indicator of their determination.

In attempting to give their material a more precise focus, they have transformed it into a more narrative-based

piece, with what Allen describes as 'real stories from real people', adding something of a storytelling feel.

'All Points Between could be interpreted solely as a political essay about America but it also picks up on various strands of popular culture and, because of that, is constantly evolving,' reveals Allen. 'Really, it's more of a documentary kaleidoscope

We just want people to look at things and think about them differently

of different cities and different perspectives from across the world that will always continue to develop, no matter what.'

Arriving in the region as part of onedotzero, a pioneering digital film festival, following this Saturday's live performance, The Light Surgeons will further extend their spell in Newcastle as the Tyneside Cinema's visiting artists-in-residence. Pulling together differing abilities, disciplines and formulae, they will collaborate with a range of artists, film-makers and musicians from across the North East, creating a collage of people and

places that will regionalise their ever-evolving land and soundscapes.

'It's going to be similar to the game of Consequences in which each different person contributes a small part until the portrait is finished,' says Allen. 'We'll be working with that principle in mind but applying it to a city rather than a person. It's a very different way to approach film-making as it's more about playfulness, experimentation and freedom. We just want people to look at things and think about them differently to how they would normally.'

Radically transforming cold and barren spaces into ephemeral environments of light, sound and movement, The Light Surgeons seem to be all set to add yet another chapter to their eye-opening audio-visual adventures.

'One of the main points of our work, particularly now, is to be able to communicate and bring something to people that is not just stylistically beautiful to look at, but also puts a message across,' Allen concludes. 'At one of our recent shows a number of people in the audience were actually crying and, for us, that was a great feeling. We want to be able to give something to people that is not just positive but, probably more importantly, inspiring.'

Deane Hodgson

Sat, Tyneside Cinema, 10 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, 9pm to 11pm (after-show party until 2am), £7.50, £6 conc. Tel: 0191 232 8289. Metro: Monument. www.thelightsurgeons.co.uk