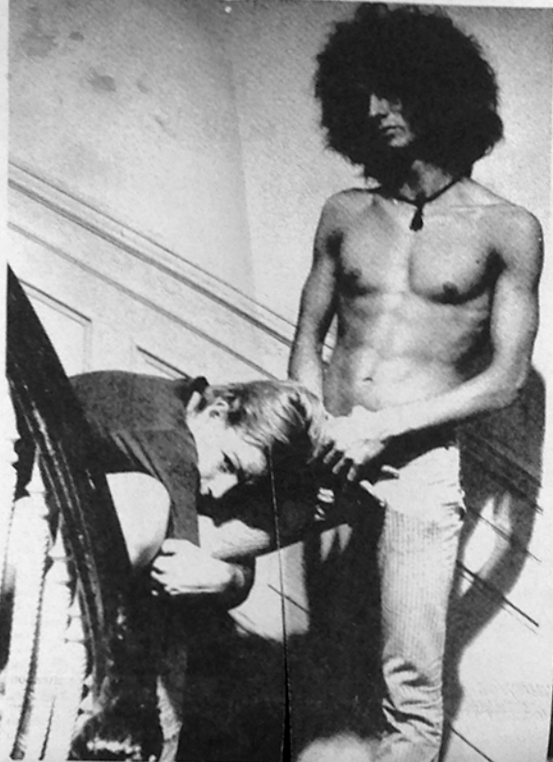


SEE

Jackie Curtis: The victory isn't vain

"My contribution to medicine and science is my personality"

by Raymond Macrino



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Jackie's appearance is quite different now, with crewcut hair, almost no makeup and clothes that do not reflect one gender more than another. But the special mentality that he possesses is still very evident. It is a mentality that constantly strives to innovate and to create, to non-chalantly shock and disarm, and then conquer through brilliant inventiveness, a staggering knowledge of the history of Hollywood films and their stars, and an extremely facile command of words.

Of course there are other underground superstars who seem to be both male and female, and most of them become trapped in their roles in order to keep attention focused on them. Jackie, however, has and is constantly changing, seemingly nonplussed by physical image. He does not rely on external appearance to achieve fame and recognition, but instead, depends on his intellect and large creative output. Still, when makeup is applied, it is brushed on with as much skill and care as the most glamorous of stars.

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famous names as Bette Davis, Maria Callas and Angela Lansbury. According to Jackie, there are many people who don't recognize the women who have posed for the actual ad, but he quickly adds that his self-made version disappeared from the streets of the City in two or three days and are now considered collectors items.

Jackie's most recent venture is a play in three acts, *Vain Victory*, presented at the La Mama Experimental Theatre on the lower East Side. Written and directed by Jackie, he considers it his best play to date. There have been others, five others, to be exact, all of which have been produced. His third play, *Heaven Grand in Amber Orbit*, is still in production, having been brought to Europe by John Vaccaro and his Theatre of the Ridiculous. At the moment it is being presented in Paris, after a run in Edinburgh, and is next scheduled to open in Edinburgh in the near future. Up until now, *Heaven Grand in Amber Orbit* has probably received more attention than any other of Jackie's plays, with *Femme Fatale*, *The Three Faces of Gloria* following at a close second. *Vain Victory*, however, promises to surpass any of the others. It is a surrealistic story of spies and secret identities, taking place mostly on a sinking ship, the S.S. Vain Victory. Underneath this format is a stunning essay on the various levels and aspects of reality and illusion. Although many of the scenes and lines are decidedly comic, this work is quite serious, and unless one listens carefully to all of what is being said by the players, the immense depth and beauty of the play can become lost in the laughter. That *Vain Victory* is ultimately concerned with making a deeply penetrating statement on life, immortality and illusion can readily be discerned by the following soliloquy from the first act, delivered by Jackie himself.

"The soul does not exist. The Pyramids in Egypt harbor skin and bones which would be more useful to earth's fertility. Man DOES yearn to be immortal. Even to the extent of preserving his dust. Is immortality so cherishable? The desire for immortality in the nature of things. A stone thrown into the air yearns to fly on forever and struggles against the wind that hinders its speed. Against the earth which pulls it back to its bosom. Once the wheel turns, it must complete its dizzying career to the end of time. The voice breaks out into echoes that it may not vanish and become part of the silent air. Petals of a flower battle against the cold hands of Winter. Nothing willingly relinquishes its form and condition. Man is like the stone. The wheel and the voice and the flower. His ingenuity and fear however, have created a shadow which lives on forever. His soul."

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Top Center: Andy Warhol, Jackie Curtis
Left: Jackie Curtis, Dusty Springs
Center: Dorlan Gray, Candy Darling
Top Right: Candy Darling
Bottom right: Clarice Rivers
Bottom center, l to r: Paul Ambrose, Candy Darling, Clarice Rivers, Augusto Machado, Mario Montez, Larry Question-Mark



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One of Jackie's favorite activities is watching old movies on TV. Along with his careful observations of people and happenings, vintage movies provide inspiration for many of his creations. Making people more aware of their environment, and especially the American culture which surrounds us, seems to be one of Jackie's aims. Old movies are a record of attitudes, and scenes or dialogues from them may sometimes be found in Jackie's plays. Most likely because he feels they are significant and should be noted. It is a concept very much akin to Andy Warhol's painting of a Campbell's Soup can. Through artists like Jackie, Andy, and others, people are beginning to take their Twentieth Century Manufactured Plastic Culture a bit more seriously, or at least they are becoming more aware of it. These so-called 'pop' images represent the level of American civilization with unerring accuracy.

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And, as if that isn't enough, Jackie will soon be seen in a new film, *Andy Warhol's Sex*, with, among others, Candy Darling, Holly Woodlawn, Dusty Springs, Prindleville, Ohio and Ritta Redd. According to Jackie, the movie is about three individual spirits, about heart, soul, good, bad, money, no money - about everything. Originally titled *Andy Warhol's LIB*, the movie is based on the Women's LIB Movement. Jackie feels that it will be one of the biggest movies ever made.

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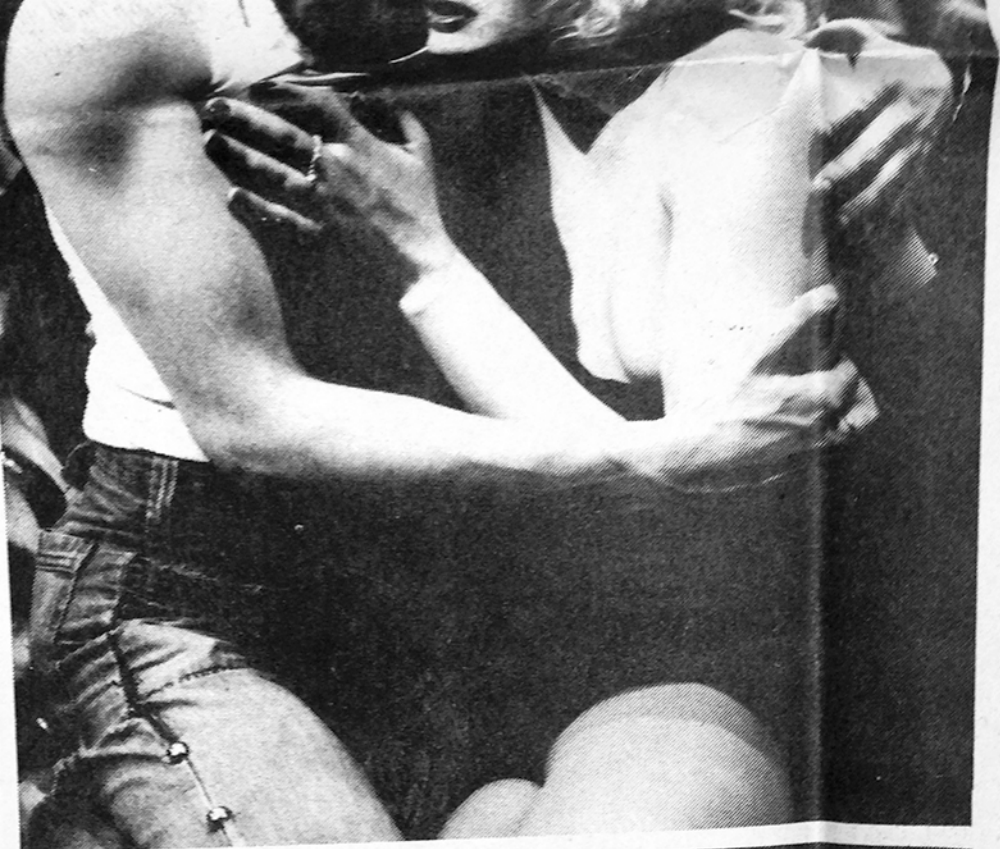
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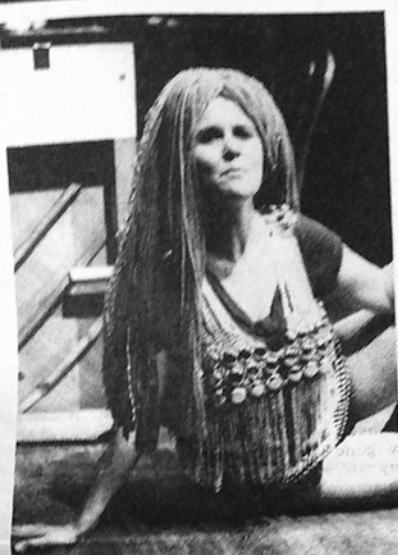


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Despite such an outrageously hectic schedule, somehow amidst so much work, Jackie has managed to write a book, to be published by Doubleday & Co. It will be called (hold on!) *Storm Of Kisses, the Glamorous Amorous Memoirs of Jackie Curtis at Age 21, Photographed as they Happened by Ritta Redd*. Jackie is still working on the third and final section of the book and hopes that it will be out by early next year.

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