

PRESS RELEASE

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WNET/THIRTEEN TO PRESENT "GOOD MORNING, MR. ORWELL"--

A LIVE NEW YEAR'S DAY SATELLITE SPECTACULAR

FEATURING PERFORMERS FROM NEW YORK AND PARIS--

To Air Nationally Over PBS Sunday, January 1 at Noon

LIVE from New York and Paris, WNET/THIRTEEN presents Nam June Paik's "Good Morning, Mr. Orwell," a satellite spectacular welcoming the dawn of 1984 with music, dance and poetry. Hosted by George Plimpton, this event will be seen in America over PBS on Sunday, January 1 at 12 Noon,* and will also be seen in Europe via FR3 French National Television. (In New York the program will be seen on THIRTEEN at that time.)

"George Orwell was the first media prophet and philosopher," explains Paik. "However, he emphasized only the negative aspects of the media: TV as Big Brother. 'Good Morning, Mr. Orwell' the first global interactive use of the satellite among international artists, celebrates the positive possibilities of the media by showcasing both established and new young talents from both sides of the Atlantic. This show is symbolic of how television can cross international borders and provide a liberating information/communications service."

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*Please check local PBS listings in your area.

Program host George Plimpton believes in experiencing first-hand the areas of his writing. For his various books Plimpton has played quarterback for the Detroit Lions, pitched against major league baseball players, boxed against Archie Moore and played basketball with the Boston Celtics. Plimpton, author of the recent best-selling "Edie: An American Biography," has also played percussion with the New York Philharmonic, worked as a Playboy magazine photographer, performed stand-up comedy at Caesar's Palace and acted in both "Reds" and "Lawrence of Arabia."

Among the scheduled segments from WNET/THIRTEEN's New York studio comprising this celebration of 1984, a year made famous by George Orwell's chilling novel of the same name, will be rock stars Laurie Anderson and Peter Gabriel singing "Good Morning, Mr. Orwell," which they composed and recorded especially for the broadcast; choreographer-dancer Merce Cunningham and composer-performer John Cage performing to video images being transmitted from Paris; Allen Ginsberg and Peter Orlovsky singing one of their compositions; commentary by artist Robert Rauschenberg; interludes with comedians Leslie Fuller and Mitchell Kriegman, formerly of "Saturday Night Live;" a performance of Paik's "TV Cello" by Charlotte Moorman; and the world television premiere of "Act III," an award-winning video work by Dean Winkler and John Sanborn to music by Philip Glass.

Appearing from the Centre Georges Pompidou during this hour-long variety show will be Joseph Beuys performing a piece for piano in the midst of immense Calder sculptures and 2,000 spectators; pop-star Sapho singing one of her recent hits; performances by Urban Sax, a group of eighty futuristically costumed musicians; a piece by performance artist Ben Vauthier; an extraordinary pair

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of fireworks displays by Pierre-Alain Hubert, who has provided installations for Rolling Stones concerts and the historic summit meeting at Versailles; and a parade of outrageous fashions from Studio Berçot.

Appearing on videotape from Germany are artists Salvador Dali; performance artist Mauricio Kagel; and composer Karlheinz Stockhausen, conducting part of his "Momenta."

"Good Morning, Mr. Orwell" has been officially designated a World Communications Year Event by the United States Council for World Communications Year.

The trans-Atlantic television satellite transmission for this program is courtesy of Bright Star Communications, Ltd. Special thanks to Westar/Western Union, for the U.S. television satellite transmission.

A co-production of the Television Laboratory at WNET/THIRTEEN, FR3 French National TV and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. For WNET: Director: Emile Ardolino; Executive producer: Carol Brandenburg, co-Director of the Television Laboratory; Producer: Sam Paul; Associate producer: Vicki Lynn. Conceived and coordinated by Nam June Paik.

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