



# DUCKDIALECTICS



by Valie Dee and Chrissie Kay



Max

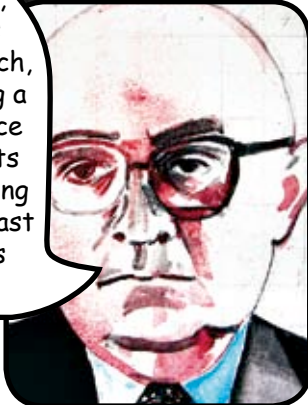
In order to hide the awkward distance between individuals, they call one another "Bob" and "Harry," as interchangeable team members.

Chrissie

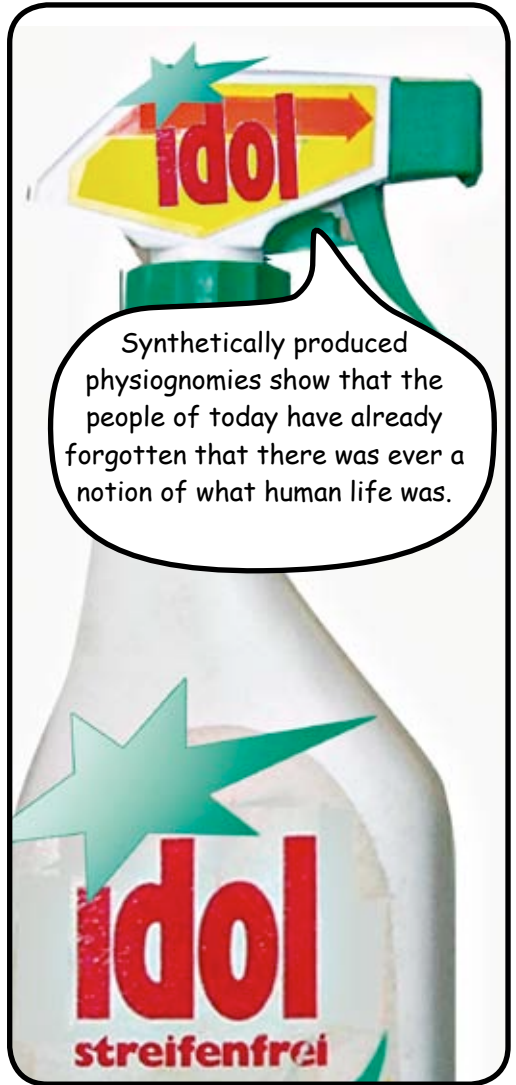


Valie

In comparison, the bourgeois family name which, instead of being a trade-mark, once individualised its bearer by relating him to his own past history, seems antiquated.



Teddy



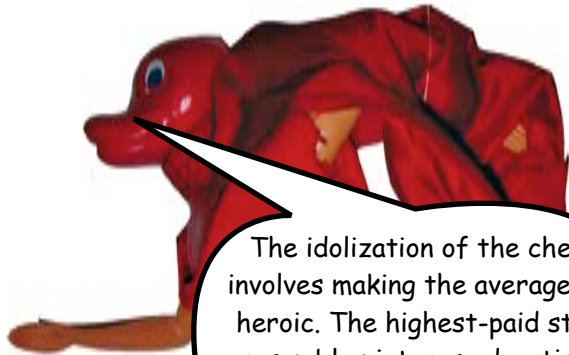
Synthetically produced physiognomies show that the people of today have already forgotten that there was ever a notion of what human life was.

Billie Idol is the object of desire. She causes the perfect team to split up.

Left side: authors Theodor W. Adorno (below) and Max Horkheimer (above). In 1944 they published the essay: The Culture Industry. Enlightenment as Mass Deception. Valie Djordjevic and Christine Kriegerowski (center) fit some of their quotes delicately into speech balloons.

The actors:

Superheroes Duck Woman and Dita Bolen represent different principles: woman with duck's head fights against duck with woman's head.



The idolization of the cheap involves making the average the heroic. The highest-paid stars resemble pictures advertising unspecified proprietary articles.

Personality scarcely signifies anything more than shining white teeth and freedom from body odour and emotions.



Because of his ubiquity, the film star with whom one is meant to fall in love is from the outset a copy of himself.



... and the "natural" faces of Texas girls are like the successful models by whom Hollywood has type-cast them.



Klaus Meister and Barbel Doll, yang and yin, tight professional relationship versus pursuit of individual happiness



The huge gleaming towers that shoot up everywhere are outward signs of the ingenious planning of international concerns, toward which the unleashed entrepreneurial system (whose monuments are a mass of gloomy houses and business premises in grimy, spiritless cities) was already hastening.

Stop lying around, time for workout, everybody start climbing immediately!



The culture industry does retain a trace of something better in those features which bring it close to the circus, in the self-justifying and nonsensical skill of riders, acrobats and clowns, in the "defense and justification of physical as against intellectual art."

Help!  
I am falling!



Life in  
the late capitalist era  
is a constant  
initiation rite.



Increasing emphasis is laid not on the path per aspera ad astra  
(which presupposes hardship and effort), but on winning a prize.

We made it  
to the top,  
nobody fell down.

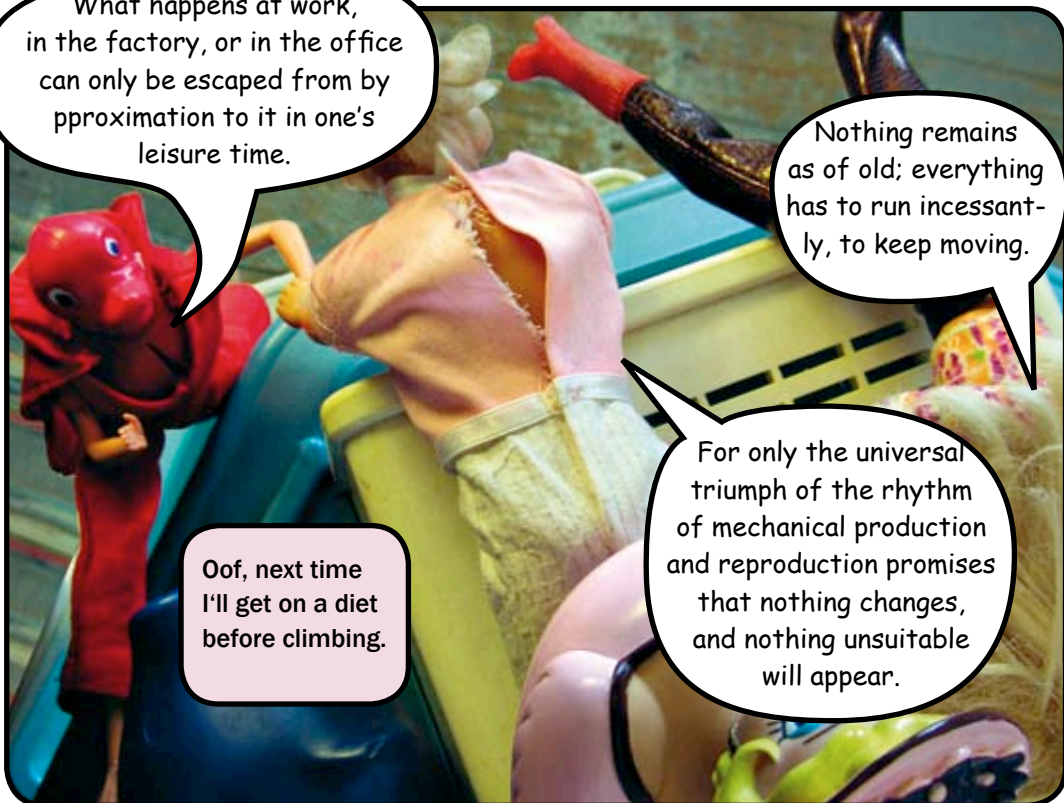


What happens at work,  
in the factory, or in the office  
can only be escaped from by  
pproximation to it in one's  
leisure time.

Nothing remains  
as of old; everything  
has to run incessant-  
ly, to keep moving.

Oof, next time  
I'll get on a diet  
before climbing.

For only the universal  
triumph of the rhythm  
of mechanical production  
and reproduction promises  
that nothing changes,  
and nothing unsuitable  
will appear.








Folks, here's your next task, you will provide money for the whole new wardrobe we need.



Automobiles, bombs, and movies keep the whole thing together until their leveling element shows its strength in the very wrong which it furthered.



Wicked, I have always dreamed of holding up a teller machine.



The culture industry  
is corrupt; not because it  
is a sinful Babylon but because  
it is a cathedral dedicated  
to elevated pleasure.

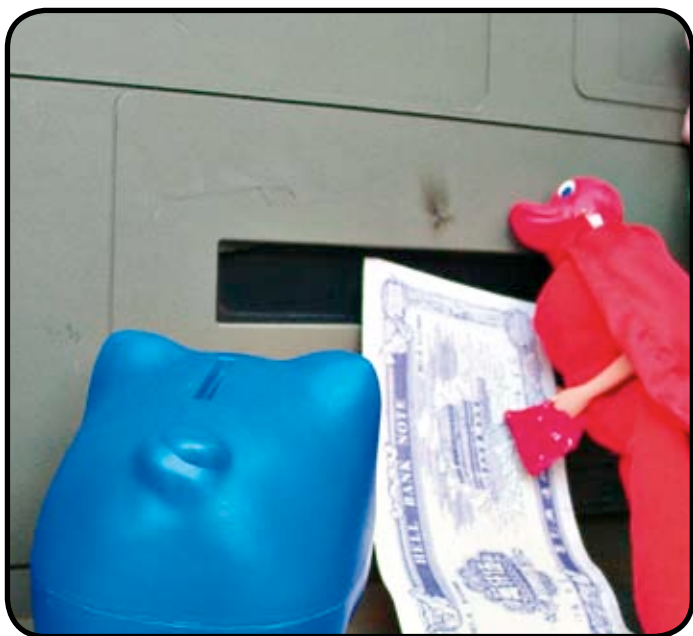
Gimme that money,  
Spit it out, don't mess  
with me!

Quick, I see  
someone coming  
down the road!

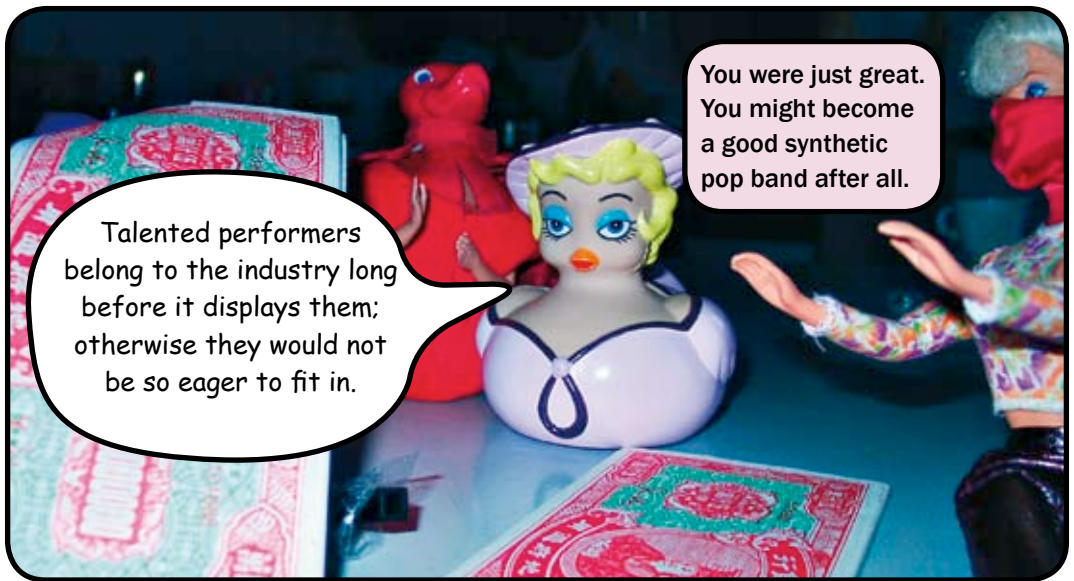




Come on!



Attaboy! Eat piggy!  
And let's get away as  
fast as we can.



Talented performers belong to the industry long before it displays them; otherwise they would not be so eager to fit in.

You were just great. You might become a good synthetic pop band after all.



Klaus, Duck and Barbel take part in Superstar TV.

Any logical connection calling for mental effort is painstakingly avoided.



The rare capacity minutely to fulfill the obligations of the natural idiom in all branches of the culture industry becomes the criterion of efficiency.

The truth that they are just business is made into an ideology in order to justify the rubbish they deliberately produce.









The narcotic works just fine, he doesn't defend himself at all.

Donald Duck in the cartoons and the unfortunate in real life get their thrashing so that the audience can learn to take their own punishment.



I'm looking forward to that grinding sound!



The enjoyment of the violence suffered by the movie character turns into violence against the spectator, and distraction into exertion.





This hurts badly, but maybe that gives me a chance to get into the last round.



In contrast to the liberal era, industrialized as well as popular culture may wax indignant at capitalism, but it cannot renounce the threat of castration. This is fundamental.



Have a break and enjoy a cold beer!



**Fun is a  
medicinal  
bath.**



**The pleasure industry never  
fails to prescribe it. It makes  
laughter the instrument of the  
fraud practised on happiness.**



Precisely because it  
must never take place,  
everything centers  
upon copulation.



I am not a  
man anymore



I love you

Klaus M. will have to  
remain in the hospi-  
tal for the next few  
weeks. His future,  
however, seems  
bright: A musical  
producer has offered  
him a contract.

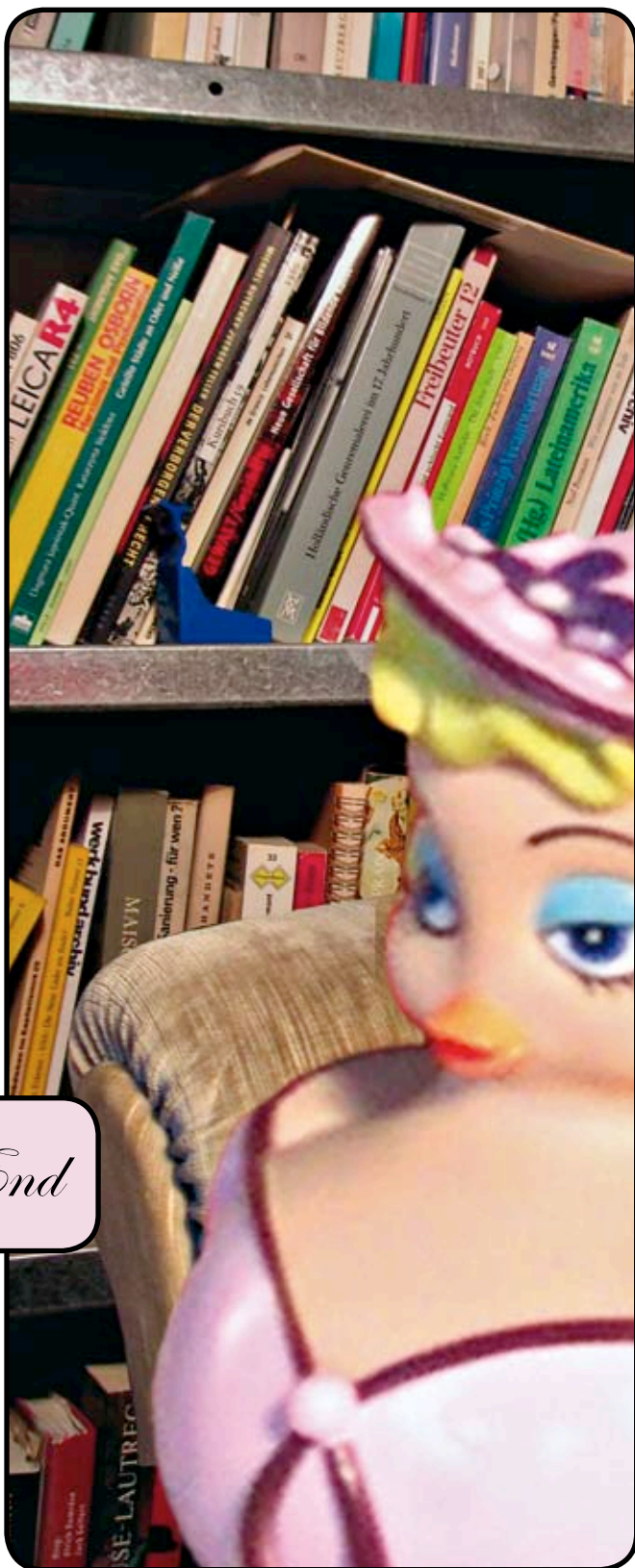
# SHREWS CAPTURED



Foto: CK

Former Superstars and wanted criminals Duck W. and Barbel D. were arrested yesterday in their shabby container kitchen after brutally abusing their accomplice Klaus M. „We were the perfect team and he selfishly started messing around with that individual“. They showed no sense of wrongdoing. Read the unsparing report by group manager Dita Bolén about the steady descent of the violent couple exclusively in our magazine.

*The End*





**CONSUMERS NOW  
FIND NOTHING  
EXPENSIVE.  
NEVERTHELESS,  
THEY SUSPECT  
THAT THE LESS  
ANYTHING COSTS,  
THE LESS IT IS  
BEING GIVEN  
THEM.**



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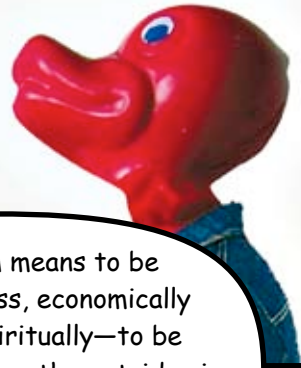
Idea, photographs, design and layout:  
© Valie Djordjevic and  
Christine Kriegerowski, 2005

The quotes in the bubbles and on the  
advertisements page 13 and 16 (above)  
are taken from "Culture Industry. Enlight-  
enment as Mass Deception" by Max  
Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno. From  
Dialectic of Enlightenment, New York: Con-  
tinuum, 1993. Quoted from <http://grace.evergreen.edu/~arunc/texts/frankfurt/hork/hork.pdf>

also read **Splatterchristl**  
<http://www.duckwoman.de/splatterchristl/>  
contact: [ck@duckwoman.de](mailto:ck@duckwoman.de)







Not to conform means to be rendered powerless, economically and therefore spiritually—to be "self-employed." When the outsider is excluded from the concern, he can only too easily be accused of incompetence.



A soap-opera about life at the edge of circulation of commodities, about the effort to attain it's centre and the victims it claims. In the attempt to realize the capitalist dream a true story about wealth, honor and passion evolves. It ends in desperation, betrayal and loneliness—in the logic of global capitalism the sought-after redemption cannot occur.















