2000/2001

PICA
PERFORMANCE SERIES
The German-English ensemble **Gobsquad** met at the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at the Nottingham Trent University in 1994. With a fondness for the glamorous aspects of popular culture and an unshakeable faith in the magic and spectacle of theater, the collaborative group has since created 14 works interrogating urban living, siting events across the city in houses, offices, shops, parks, galleries and railway stations.

Part theatre, part plane crash, part rock concert, SAFE contains a seductively deceptive mixture of both live and recorded images, presented by hopefuls who hold on to the belief that they could have been the greatest rock band of all time... if only they'd learned to play their instruments. SAFE deals with the search for comfort and confidence in the face of uncertainty and examines how despair or hope become dangerously contagious as things break down.

Celebrated for her elegance and exquisiteness as both a dancer and choreographer, **Muna Tseng**'s AMBIGUOUS AMBASSADOR: SLUT FOR ART is an homage to her late brother, the photographer and performance artist, Tseng Kwong Chi, who died of AIDS in 1990. Collaborating with video artist and director, Ping Chong, Muna Tseng has created a solo performance piece that recounts the development of her brother's artistic persona as a Chinese dignitary -- complete with Mao suit, dark glasses and an identity tag stamped "Slut for Art" -- whose self-portraits in front of world famous natural and man-made monuments exemplify his short but brilliant career. Utilizing Tseng Kwong Chi's wry, pristine images as a backdrop, Muna Tseng presents a moving narrative about art, AIDS, love and loss. (Tseng Kwong Chi was one of eleven artists whose work was featured in PICA's first visual exhibition, Pushing Image Paradigms, in June, 1996.)