

TV arts program sings 'Bailout Blues'

By CATHERINE BAUM
Staff Writer



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EASTHAMPTON - "Arts on Art TV" - a new Easthampton Community Access Television series that seeks to gather local artists and bridge them to the community - premieres today with its first show, "Bailout Blues."

The series is an open invitation for videographers, musicians, editors, visual performers, dancers and light and sound technicians to collaborate and create art to be broadcast for the public. Executive producer John Landino said he is not looking for documentation alone, but for material that presents a different way of seeing things.

"We're trying to create new art of our time," Landino said. "We live in a tragic period; and artists have a unique view that can help us dig deeper to understand what's going on in the world and in our lives but also provide us with entertainment and the ability to leave our world for a while."

Landino asks interested artists to email him at lastmanonearth@charter.net.

So far, the only "Arts on Art TV" show lined up is "Bailout Blues." The program is set to air on Channel 5 at 6:48 and 9 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday. It can also be viewed in the archives of the Easthampton Community Access Television Web site, www.ecatchannel5.com.

"Arts on Art TV," funded in part by a \$5,000 grant from the Higgins Foundation in Worcester, will alert the station and post the next showtime in its online guide when the work itself encourages them to, Landino said.

"I'm not interested in filling up a TV program for the sake of having a new one every month," he said.

"Bailout Blues" originated when Landino's band, Lead Parachute, decided to add a visual component to the experimental music track it recorded four months ago. The band recorded 21 minutes of improvised music in Meow Mix, a recording studio in the Eastworks basement. Landino skimmed a New York Times article and randomly read words in various pitches to go along with the band's synthesizer, trumpet, slide trombone and saxophone sounds.

Lead Parachute and Beverly Richey, a Milwaukee-based video artist, collected still and moving visual samples from television newscasts and publications. There are graphs with negative correlations, newspaper headlines, New York Stock Exchange numbers, reactions on Wall Street and money production.

The multiple imagery, color fading and deterioration effects convey various messages, including a "deterioration of ethics," Landino said.

Landino said when he first showed the experimental piece to friends, relatives and colleagues four months ago, some of them laughed. More people have lost their cars, jobs and homes since then, and Landino said he's noticed a change in viewer reactions. "People don't laugh any more," he said.

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