

RAW SHACK

by Shawn Feeney 2004

For a large group of improvisers with prompter.

Group of players situate themselves so that there are clear sight lines to the prompter in the middle. The “score” for the piece includes 72 large cards with phrases and symbols written on them. The prompter uses the cards to cue the players. When cued, players may interpret the cards in as literal, figurative, personal or dramatic a way as they wish (as if responding to inkblots in a Rorschach test).

To give a cue, the prompter holds up a card with one hand and, with the other hand, points at any number of players to perform what is indicated on the card. The prompter can then either give a *downbeat* or a *crossfade*. To give a *downbeat*, the prompter swiftly gestures downward with card. All players who were pointed to then immediately begin playing, all other players instantly stop. To cue a *crossfade*, the prompter uses hand holding card to bring in new players and empty hand to fade out or maintain current players (rate of fade determined by speed of gesture). Low hand indicates out/not playing, high hand indicates in/playing. Possible uses of crossfade include:

- **Equal Fade:** Hand with card fades in new players, empty hand fades out original players at an equal rate of speed.
- **Overlap:** Hand with card fades in new players completely before fading out original players with empty hand.
- **Silent Break:** Empty hand fades out original players before fading in new players with card.
- **In & Out:** Hand with card only fades in and out the new players, empty hand stays high to maintain original players.
- **Addition:** Hand with card fades in new players, empty hand stays high and never fades out original players.
- **Mutations:** prompter chooses the original players to also be the new players. Prompter uses the same gesture as in Equal Fade, but the same players must transform what they are playing into what the new card indicates. Rate of mutation is determined by speed of crossfade.

A realization of Raw Shack can be any length of time, using any number of cards in any order. Players can request to perform in an upcoming cue by raising their hands when the prompter is showing the card and selecting players. The prompter can also show the cards to the audience just before or after giving a cue if the group wishes to do so (cards can be double-sided to make this easier). The piece ends when prompter cues the END card with either a downbeat or a crossfade (END is the only card with a pre-determined interpretation).

The cards were originally created on 16x10 inch posterboard. Cards can be randomly selected, scored out in advance, or improvised by the prompter.

This piece is “open source” in that new cards can be created by anyone who wishes to perform it.

RAW SHACK CARDS

500-YEAR OLD SHIPWRECK	A TEMPO CHALLENGED	accidentals	AS FAST AS POSSIBLE	BEATBOX	BEBOP IN B-flat
BROKEN BLUES IN A	BUGS!	CALL & <small>RESPONSE RESPONSE RESPONSE RESPONSE</small>	CATASTROPHE	CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE	DINOSAUR TOOTHACHE
DISCO OUTFREAKEGE	DRONE	DROP THE BASS	DRUNKEN BAR FIGHT	EACH NOTE IS A PUNCH	
FIRE!	F O T F R O N E R O O R	FUNK IN G <small>WITH Choking Iguana</small>	ghosts of roadkill	GREAT MOMENTS IN LITERATURE	hannibal lecter asleep
HOLD IT DOWN	H O R S E H O E C R A B P I E	How low can you go?	hummingbird trapped in ice	←IMITATE→	In C
IN REVERSE	INFINITE SPACE	LOOPING + LOOPING	LOOSE	Lost in the aviary	MAJ7 STACCATO
MECHANICAL CONSTELLATION	mikroskopipic	Mozart's AGE 4	MUSICAL CHAIRS	my cat just died.	New Orleans
NO HANDS	Note to Self	One breath. One tone.	one of you is a communist...	Parabolic Boogie	PARISIAN GHETTO
pebbles in your mouth. BOULDERS IN YOUR HANDS	PERFECTION	PLANET WARS: 500,000 B.C.	Play instrument upside-down	Play well with others	+7
poco a poco	P O L Y RHYTHMIC	PULSE	PURPLE MANEUVERS	RAINING METALLIC PARTICLES	SHRED
SLIDING DOWN	SOLO	SPIRITUAL	THE BEATLES ERASED	the last dream you remember	TIGHT
TIME SLICED LIKE CHOCOLATE CAKE	twisted intestine	UNDERWATER	WALTZ IN E minor	You're actually playing a banjo.	END

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CALL AND RESPONSE
CATASTROPHE
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DISCO OUTFREAKAGE
DRONE
DROP THE BASS
DRUNKEN BAR FIGHT
EACH NOTE IS A PUNCH
fermata
FIRE!
FOUR ON THE FLOOR
Funk in G with Choking Iguana
ghosts of roadkill
GREAT MOMENTS IN LITERATURE
hannibal lecter asleep
HOLD IT DOWN
HORSESHOE CRAB PIE
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one of you is a communist...
Parabolic Boogie
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pebbles in your mouth,
BOULDERS IN YOUR HANDS
PERFECTION
PLANET MARS: 500,000 B.C.
Play instrument upside-down
Play well with others
Plus 7
poco a poco
POLYRHYTHMIC
PULSE
PURPLE MANEUVERS
RAINING METALLIC PARTICLES
SHRED
SLIDING DOWN
SOLO
SPIRITUAL
THE BEATLES ERASED
the last dream you remember
TIGHT
Time Sliced Like Chocolate Cake
twisted intestine
UNDERWATER
WALTZ IN E minor
You're actually playing a banjo.
END