

cried. Everybody cried. I didn't feel that I failed in anyway in my performance. I felt I needed to find a way to get out of it, without us all crying. What I didn't know when I was writing that piece was that incest was going to become kind of fashionable overnight, but unfortunately it did. I feel an obligation to do the piece; the more we talk about it the easier it will be to address it. If you just want an evening where you laugh all night without ever stopping and you never are moved, don't come to my show. That's why I say 'not for the faint of heart.'

OITM: How does being a lesbian influence your work? How does it fit into your concept of yourself and what you're trying to say in your performance?

Janice: I think that being a queer in this world, which is what I really am, in all senses of the word queer, it's my favorite word, it's perfect for me, cause I'm really queer. (laughter) I'm really odd! I love that word. I'm exposed to a sensibility that most strictly heterosexual people aren't, and that influences me. When I tour, I'll go to a town and people will come to my show and after my show, lesbians will wait to talk to me and invite me to do things with them. I get a whole aspect of German culture that most people, most heterosexuals who are just traveling around would never get. I have a community of support and in-

formation, a certain kind of information, radical leftist information.

OITM: Who are your role models, heroines?

Janice: My latest is Carol Burnett. They had her special on and I went, 'holy shit, that's what I do' I come out, I hang around with the audience, I talk about topical events chat with them, then I sing songs do some routines, sing some more, do some more chatting, show's over. She was brilliant. I had forgotten how brilliant she was. Physically her comedy was amazing. Fabulous costumes, really weird, really great faces, she was just totally committed to each moment, she wasn't holding back at all. She was very political, And June Anderson is one of my heroes. She is an opera singer. She is a recent hero. I just can't stop listening to her.

OITM: What does Janice learn from Gal?

Janice: It's funny cause Gal is my nickname so it's hard to separate the two, but when I look at a video then it's really clearly separate. If I read something and it really pisses me off, I can talk about it immediately to 250 people. It's kind of a relief. The person on stage is much more fearless than I am. In my performance it's my duty to push myself. In my personal life it's less clearly my duty.

OITM: What preparations do you make for yourself before a performance?

Janice: Ironing is a really great thing. It really is, because it takes a long time, and all I can do is stand at the ironing board and iron. I'll do that and listen to a tape of a good night to try to get the order, remember little funny weird things. Then I do my makeup. That takes a long time, about a half an hour. I eat pasta at four o'clock. Complex carbohydrates.

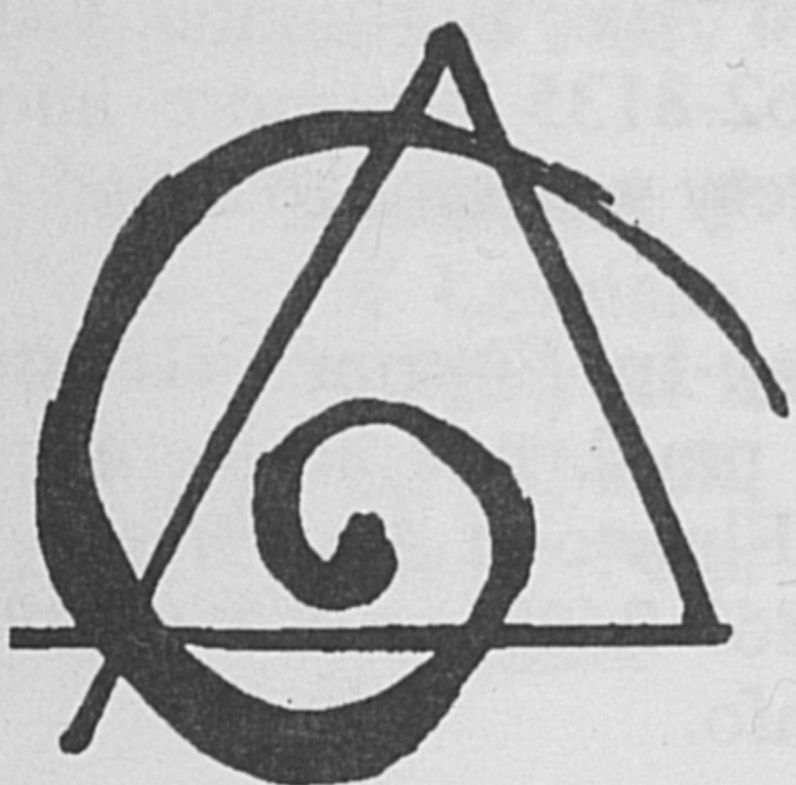
OITM: Any advice for aspiring young feminist comedians?

Janice: Do it! Don't not do it because you're afraid. Just do it!

OITM: Plans for the future?

Janice: I received a grant to finish my collaborations we started last year, with Dana Yetosn. The goal is to finish writing the play. I'm going to Florida for a theater festival, in Orlando. Then I'm going to Switzerland, and to Germany. Then I'm going to do this really fun thing in Denmark, a woman's festival. Then I'm going to come home for ten minutes, do some dishes... ▼

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