



Michael Spahr (VJ Rhaps) is an artist, filmmaker and historian from Switzerland.

Michael Spahr was born in 1973 in Bern (Switzerland). From 1986 until 1993 he went to Gymnasium Bern-Neufeld (middle and high school). In 1989/90 he did a foreign exchange year at the Fort Bragg High School in California, USA. He studied history, philosophy and media science at the University of Bern and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Master of Arts, 1998). During and after his studies he took classes in audio-visual art and filmmaking (Algemeen Cultureel Centrum Amstelveen, film history at the University of Amsterdam, Hardware Hacking Workshop HKB Bern). Since 1998 he works professionally with audio-visual media. He worked as camera man, editor, assistant director, producer and videojournalist for Dutch and Swiss TV stations (Endemol, Kanaal7, RTL5, Telebärn). Since 2003 he is an independent artist and filmmaker.

As an artist he creates interactive film backdrops for theatre, produces live visuals for music acts and makes moving pictures for literary and art performances. He turns his video art ("Moving Stills") into so-called "Frozen Films" (high resolution prints). As filmmaker he directed and produced several documentary films, short fiction, animation movies, experimental web videos and music video clips. As a promoter he worked at Reitschule and PROGR Bern. From 2004 until 2006 he worked at the multimedia agency Optickle, which he co-founded. 2007 he travelled around the world.

At the moment he works on the project "GLOBOCITY", which has been awarded with the KUNSTSCHUB prize by Atelier Worb. He collaborates with the Lebanese composer and musician Mahmoud Turkmani on the audio-visual performance „Ya Sharr Mout“ („Oh, Evil, Die“/“Son of a bitch“) and with Thomas Burkhalter and Simon Grab on the scientific multimedia art performance „Sonic Traces From the Arab World“. He is a member of the international music network *orient* and the space rock multimedia performance group Blues Horror Brigade.

Michael Spahr lives and works in Bern, Switzerland.

Web Michael Spahr: www.rhaps.com
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Art/Performance/VJ Visuals

- 2008 SONIC TRACES FROM THE ARAB WORLD interactive audio-visual scientific performance (Festival des Urbaines, Lausanne, CH)
- 2008 BLUES HORROR BRIGADE (II) sauerkrautrock performance (Festival Sauerkraut Bern, CH)
- 2008 HISTORY DUMPED video art, shortlisted at Skyscraper Festival Manchester (UK)
- 2008 20 JAHRE VELOKURIER BERN video installation Bern (CH)
- 2008 BLUES HORROR BRIGADE (I) rock'n'roll- performance (Bad Bonn Kilbi, Düringen, CH)
- 2008 LES PAUVRES SONT TOUS LES MEMES interactive audio-visual performance for theatre by Cie. Marielle Pinsard (Paris, Nantes, France)
- 2008 SOUNDSCAPES FROM THE EDGES audio-visual literary performance with Thomas Burkhalter/ *norient* (Krakow, Poland)
- 2008 FONDUE-OPER interactive audio-visual installation for theatre by Guy Krneta and Till Löffler (Ursina Greuel, Matterhorn Produktionen, Basel, Zurich, Lucerne, Bern, Aarau, CH)
- 2007-2008 YA SHARR MOUT audio-visuelle performance by Mahmoud Turkmani and Michael Spahr with poems by Nadja Tuéni (Beirut, Lebanon)
- 2008 YA SHARR MOUT animated artwork for documentary movie by Sabine Gisiger (DschointVentschr/SFDRS)
- 2006 ÄNGELRAIN video installation for theatre by Ruedi Häusermann with texts by Guy Krneta, Beat Sterchi and Pedro Lenz (Lenzburg, CH)
- 2006 LA LOI DU PLUS FORT (OUEST-EST FESTIVAL) Audio-visual literary performance with the writer Marielle Pinsard (Bern, CH)
- 2005-2008 DIE VERSUCHUNG, DIE ROMANZA DER ELUVIES VON ALFRED WÄLCHLI ZU SPIELEN interactive audio-visual performance for theatre by Ursina Greuel (Matterhorn Produktionen)
- 2005-2006 OPTICKLE DVJ-TOUR first Swiss DVJ (DJ+VJ=DVJ) tour
- 2005 OPTINGALE QUARTET: EINSTEIN RE-MIXED audio-visual performance, Biennale Bern
- 2005 TÖBI TOBLER & MICHAEL SPAHR audio-visual performance, Bern (CH)
- 2005-2006 TURNHALLE PROGR TANZNACHT club nights (as promoter and VJ, Bern, CH)
- 2004 WINTERSESSION political video art performance Schlachthaus Bern (CH)
- 2004 HET RAPENBURG CONCERT video art performance at the opening of the cultural season of the city Leiden (The Netherlands)
- 2003-2004 MAHATTAAT (KAMILYA JUBRAN) VJ on concert tour (Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, Slovenia, Egypt, France)
- 2003 MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL video installation and VJ
- 2002 EXPO.02 several club visuals (AMJ, Arteplage Biel/Bienne, Cargo-Club Neuchâtel)
- 2001-2003 MANUFACTUR VJ on concert tour (Switzerland, Slovenia, Austria)
- 2000-2006 100 MOUTHWATERING MENUS club visuals (Switzerland, Serbia)
- 1999 AT HOME ABROAD: BABYLON BLUES audio-visual performance (Tabor, CZ)
- 1998 AN ALIEN LOOK AT MOKUM installative performance (Amsterdam, NL)

Movies

- 2008 NO TOILET, BIG SHIT animation film for Helvetas-Campaign (No Toilet, No...)
- 2008 BLUES HORROR BRIGADE: ASTEROÏD FUNK music video clip
- 2008 ABDUCTED BY ALIENS mockumentary about Blues Horror Brigade
- 2008 ALIENS IN SWITZERLAND mockumentary about Blues Horror Brigade
- 2008 JESUS' FLESH AND BLOOD short movie for agent-provocateur.ch
- 2007 NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND short movie for agent-provocateur.ch
- 2006 GRÜSSE VON LAIKA documentary movie series by Optickle
- 2006 1,2,3...ALLEZ HOP! music video clip
- 2005 BÜMPLIZ - EIN TAG IN DER URBANEN SCHWEIZ documentary film
- 2004-2005 VJ-DVD-Mixes MixMash London
- 2004 FILEWILE: CHUMPNRUN music video clip
- 2004 SAT-PROJEKT/TIME-OUT documentary film by Anne-Marie Haller and Michael Spahr
- 2004 MAHMOUD TURKMANI – WORKING ON THE MUSICAL MEMORY concert movie
- 2003 THE SQUARE by Sawsan Darwazeh (Second Unit Production Bern)
- 2002 BUY MORE INCENSE *norient*-documentary film by Thomas Burkhalter and Michael Spahr
- 2002 TRILOGIE: DIE POLIZEI UND IHR ALLTAG animation film trilogy
- 2001 LDEEP: SÄGET U music video clip
- 1999-2000 PIXELS IN 'T ZAND short movies and production of experimental TV shows on SALTO TV, Amsterdam