



the monitor

a publication of the minneapolis television network

summer 2009

the wall channel mia jennings and the mtm mural



If you haven't noticed the mural that Mia Jennings has been painting on the walls of MTN since last summer, you haven't been to MTN in much too long. The bright colors and images of Jennings' mural line the walls and edit suites, and continue to grow. **The Monitor** asked her a few questions about her work and her life.

What is it that drives you to dedicate so much time and effort to the mural at MTN?

I don't know if I can properly explain what drives me to the work I'm doing at MTN. It's a feeling that can't be easily defined by words. It's a deep, gut-stirring sensation which nags within for me to create this project. Ever since I began the mural last summer, it's all that I think about day and night. I eat, sleep, and breathe the mural. It's always spinning inside my brain. It's as if this project has been programmed inside of me and I'm just the vessel to carry out the commands.

I intensely enjoy what I do. Creating with paints is one of my passionate loves. Time flies when I'm creating. To me, my painting doesn't feel like work. I get lost in the moment - nothing else matters. I'm in the zone.

I must admit, there are times when I'm exhausted and overwhelmed - when my feet ache so bad from

standing all day, and my agonizing wrist and fingers cramp. I do what I can to rest and recharge when I'm not working on the mural, like indulge in hot baths, read a good book, take a walk with my dogs, spend time with my family, visit NYC with my husband. I also take the task of this mural minute by minute when I feel overwhelmed. When I do this, it doesn't seem like so much time and dedication. It just seems like another moment in time.

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program schedule, class schedule, information

mtn will be closed tuesday, june 23 and friday and saturday, july 3 and 4.

voices students do docs

Fifteen new documentaries produced by high school students are showing on MTN this summer, and on mtn.org. They were produced through a twenty year collaboration between MTN and a Minneapolis High School, South. This collaboration brings media literacy and social issue documentary-making to students.

The Video Voices program began in 1989, when two teachers at South High joined forces with MTN and the Humphrey Forum to begin a class that combined English, Social Studies and video production.

The Humphrey Forum, a museum at the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota, dropped out of the program when Museum Director Steve Sandell left the Forum three years ago. But MTN and South have maintained their special relationship, and are only looking to grow the program in the coming year, the twentieth year of Voices.

Chris Nordenson, a 2009 graduate of St. Thomas University, will join the MTN crew of John Akre and Hamil Griffin-Cassidy to work with the Voices students starting in the fall. He is an Americorps Member and will also be working to build MTN's youth training division.

And South High teachers Neil Anderson and Suzanne Kehr will be back to teach the class and help merge MTN's video training with a deep look at society and communication.

The school year is over and that means that students in this year's Voices program have finished their final project documentaries. Those videos will be showing on MTN Channel 17 on Monday nights at 8 p.m. You can also find them all at www.mtn.org.

There are seven half hour shows featuring 15 student-produced documentaries on topics like the all-ages music scene, the drinking age, youth hockey, the 35 W bridge collapse, animal shelters, Facebook, texting, the responsibility of students for their education, and many more topics.

The seventy-five Voices students this year worked in groups to conceive and produce these documentaries. Earlier in the year they learned camera, editing, and storytelling for television and produced Public Service Announcements, and trailers for their documentaries.

The students checked out MTN cameras and used MTN's iMovie and Final Cut Pro systems to create their videos. They were assisted by many other MTN staff-members, including Doug Cain, Fanuel Tsehaye, Art Roy, Ashley Siebels, Beth Peloff, and Jim Derks.

And watch out as this year's Voices graduates meet the world. Voices alumni have been known to achieve greatness.



The 2009 Video Voices class. Photo by Chris Nordenson.

director's corner



MTN Board Member Rashad Hasan appears on the front page of the December 1985 issue of The Northsider newspaper. The Northsider is no longer around, but Hasan and MTN are. Hasan, a long-time MTN producer, recently joined the MTN Board. The article states, "Hasan says he loves producing cable shows but warns, 'I don't want to glamorize the situation...' But despite all the frustration, Hasan admits, 'It gets in your blood.'"

edit suite low down

Regular users of edit systems at MTN have seen some changes recently, and will see some additional changes later this summer.

Nate Mains did an inventory of the MTN deck situation and was able to locate enough decks to make sure that the iMovie systems in the classroom have their own attached decks and monitors. This is to help alleviate some of the frustrations from having to plug a portable deck into the system every time you want to get video on the computer or go back to tape.

The decks for the iMovie systems came

from the Final Cut Pro systems, while the Final Cut Pro systems got Sony 1500 decks that were being used in playback.

In late July and August, an all day youth media workshop will be taking place in the Cyber/classroom area. Some of the edit systems in that room will be temporarily moved to other locations while that class is taking place to allow that room to be devoted to the youth media sessions. If you have any questions or have any requests for how we should do this, please talk to an MTN staff person.

the minneapolis television network

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from midnight to midnight

mtn series

MONDAY

MTN 16

12:00 Somali Mai TV Network
8:00 MTN Community Events
10:00 Wacyi TV
11:00 Regional Somali TV
5:00 Somali TV of MN
6:00 MDTV
7-//
7:30 As Above, So Below
8:00 Community Events
9:30 Philo
11:30 DJ Cooley Show

MTN 17

6:00 Black Focus
7:00 Democracy Now!
8:00 Our World Today
9:30 Holding People Accountable
10:00 Telling People's Stories
10:30 Words of Peace
5:00 Spectator
6:00 Girltalk
6:30 King Henry Show
7:00 Sub Cinema
7:30 Our Turn
8:00 Video Voices
9:30 The Review
10:00 Democracy Now!
11:30 Shape Up with Sheila

MTN 75

8:00 Walking in the Light
8:30 One Day at a Time
10:00 Songs of Praise
5:30 Living Word Church
6:00 Sharing Miracles
6:30 Beyond Today
7:00 Lovepower
8:00 Book of Acts
8:30 Yeshua's Line
9:00 True Love Church Service
11:00 Army Newswatch

TUESDAY

MTN 16

12:00 Somali TV of MN
8:00 MTN Community Events
10:00 Jig Jiga TV
5:00 Somali America Media
6:00 TWVS
7:00 The Leslie Davis Earth
Protector Show
7:30 We the People
8:00 The Messenger
8:30 In the Studio
9:00 The Nancy Boys
10:00 Drinking with Ian
10:30 The Prima-Donnas

MTN 17

7:00 Democracy Now!
8:00 Our World In Depth
9:00 ADHAtv
10:00 Atheists Talk
5:00 WWA
6:00 Republican Roundtable
6:30 Vets Visits On TV
7:00 Kinpride
7:30 Bi Cities!
8:00 Soap Factory Gallery 4
8:30 MTN Access to Art
9:00 Black Economics
10:00 Democracy Now!
11:00 Totally Scrabble Tuesdays

MTN 75

6:30 Beyond Today
7:00 Lovepower
9:00 That Which Is
10:00 Hour of Restoration
10:30 Companion on a Journey
11:00 Second Coming Church
5:00 The Gospel Hour
6:30 God's Word in Depth
7:00 Prophetic Word
8:00 Repentance and Love
Center
9:00 Humanist Views
11:00 The Bible Speaks

WEDNESDAY

MTN 16

12:00 Somali American Media
3:00 The Messenger
7:00 The Leslie Davis Earth
Protector Show
8:30 Philo
6:00 Somaliland America TV
7:00 MTN Community Events
8:00 Let's Learn to Get Along
8:30 Humanist Perspectives
9:00 Judy Corrao Show
9:30 Rainbow Flag
11:00 LaRouche Connection

MTN 17

12:00 Spectator
2:30 Freaky Deaky
6:30 Republican Roundtable
7:00 Democracy Now!
10:00 Bi Cities
10:30 Kinpride
5:00 Variety Show
6:00 Bat of Minerva
7:00 Perils for Pedestrians
7:30 House Call
8:00 The Mary Hanson Show
9:00 Viva and Jerry's
Country Videos
10:00 Democracy Now!
11:00 Living Free

MTN 75

8:00 Repentance and Love
Center
9:30 Living Word Church
10:00 Resurrecting YFB
10:30 Abundant Life
11:30 Come and See Ministries
6:00 Greater Friendship
Missionary Baptist Church
7:00 New Vision
7:30 Holding Forth the
Word of Life
8:00 Hope Community
Presents
9:00 Unleavened Bread

THURSDAY

MTN 16

12:00 Somaliland American TV
7:00 Humanist Perspective
8:00 MTN Community Events
10:00 MDTV
12:00 As Above, So Below
12:30 Baby Blue Arts Presents
5:00 Somali TV of MN
6:30 Finnish Talk and Variety
7:30 Spanish Words of Peace
8:30 Drexel Interview
9:00 MPLS Expression
10:00 MTN Community Events

MTN 17

12:00 WWA
2:30 Totally Scrabble Tuesdays
6:30 Vets Visits on RV
7:00 Democracy Now!
8:30 Heavy Metal
9:00 Viva and Jerry's Country
Music Videos
10:00 Variety Show
5:00 Lemmy O' Live
7:00 The Real America
7:30 The Dog Show
8:00 Street Talk
8:30 T.C. Muzique
9:30 Art Cunningham
10:00 Democracy Now!

MTN 75

1:00 Rhema Word
7:00 Army Newswatch
7:30 Holding Forth the Word
8:00 Hope Community Presents
9:00 Sharing Miracles
10:00 Greater Friendship
Missionary Baptist Church
11:00 Muhammad and Friends
5:00 Cornerstone Prayer
Center
6:00 Bible Based BC
6:30 Tomorrow's World
7:00 Hidden Truth
9:00 Bible Q and A
10:00 Islam in Focus
11:00 United Street Ministry

this schedule is incomplete. click "tv guide" at mtn.org for current and complete schedules

program schedule

FRIDAY

MTN 16

12:00 Somali TV of MN
 1:00 The Prima-Donnas
 8:00 MTN Community Events
 4:00 Islamic View
 5:00 Somali Media
 6:00 SAMA TV
 7:00 Jig Jiga TV
 9:00 Somali Mai TV Network
 10:00 MTN Community Events

MTN 17

12:30 The Review
 2:30 TC Muziaue
 7:00 Democracy Now!
 8:00 Atheists for Human Rights
 6:30 Minneapolis Neighborhood News
 7:00 Metro Property Rights
 7:30 ADHDTV
 8:30 Third Party Forum
 9:00 Twisted TV
 10:00 Democracy Now!
 11:00 Monkey Mugs

MTN 75

9:00 Book of Acts
 10:00 Cornerstone Prayer Center
 11:00 Bible Based Baptist Church
 1:00 The Gospel Hour
 6:00 Redeemed Life Church International
 6:30 Bible Study Ministries
 7:30 Spiritual Men
 8:00 Hour of Restoration
 9:00 Shalom Scripture
 10:00 Come and See Ministries
 11:00 That Which Is

SATURDAY

MTN 16

12:00 Somali Media
 1:30 The Nancy Boys
 2:30 Drinking with Ian
 8:00 MTN Community Events
 12:00 Finnish Talk and Variety
 3:00 Bi Weekly Live
 5:00 Bulsho TV
 6:00 Regional Somali TV
 8:00 MTN Community Events
 11:00 Ogadenia

MTN 17

12:00 Heavy Metal
 12:30 Fab Under
 6:30 Minneapolis Neighborhood News
 7:00 Metro Property Rights
 8:00 Shape Up with Sheila
 8:30 Soap Factory Gallery 4
 9:00 MTN Access to Art
 9:30 The Dog Show
 10:00 Our Turn
 10:30 Video Voices
 11:30 King Henry Show
 5:00 En Familia
 6:00 For Women Only
 6:30 MTN Access to Art
 7:00 Friendship Set to Music
 8:00 Atheists for Human Rights
 8:30 Atheists Talk
 9:00 Our World In Depth
 10:00 Our World Today
 11:00 MN Hip Hop

MTN 75

6:30 Bible Study Ministries
 8:00 Shalom Scripture Studies
 9:00 The Bible Speaks

11:00 Hear What the Lord is Saying
 1:30 United Street Ministry
 4:00 Key to the Kingdom
 4:30 God's Word in Depth
 5:00 Light on the Gospel
 6:00 Imam W. Deen Mohammed and Guest
 7:00 Hour of Power
 8:00 Abundant Life
 8:30 Solid Rock Church
 9:00 Unlock Your Bible
 9:30 Resurrecting YFB
 10:00 Truth of God

SUNDAY

MTN 16

12:00 Bulsho TV
 2:00 DJ Cooley
 7:00 We the People
 7:30 Judy Corrao
 8:00 MTN Community Events
 2:00 Baby Blue Arts Presents
 4:00 Let's Learn to Get Along
 5:00 Minneapolis Neighborhood News
 5:30 Minnesota at Work
 6:00 Wayci TV
 7:00 Oromo TV
 8:00 MTN Community Events

MTN 17

12:00 Third Party Forum
 12:30 Twisted TV
 6:00 House Call
 7:30 Minneapolis Neighborhood News

8:00 Friendship Set to Music
 9:00 For Women Only
 9:30 The Real America
 10:00 The Mary Hanson Show
 10:30 En Familia
 12:00 Bat of Minerva
 3:30 Art Cunningham
 5:00 Black Focus
 6:00 Politically Speaking
 7:00 Telling People's Stories
 7:30 Words of Peace
 9:00 Lemmy O'
 9:30 Holding People Accountable
 10:00 Freaky Deaky

MTN 75

5:30 Unlock Your Bible
 6:00 Imam W. Deen Mohammed and Friend
 8:30 Tomorrow's World
 9:00 Hear What the Lord Is Saying
 10:00 True Love Church
 11:00 Truth of God Broadcast
 12:00 Unleavened Bread
 1:00 Bible Q and A
 2:00 Light on the Gospel
 3:00 Keys to the Kingdom
 3:30 Redeemed Life Church
 4:00 Companion on a Journey
 4:30 Prophetic Word
 5:00 Songs of Praise
 6:00 Walking in the Light
 7:30 Muhammad and Friends
 8:30 One Day at a Time
 9:00 Second Coming

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the wall channel from page 1

I also believe that if I'm going to do something, I'm going to do it well - quality takes time and commitment. This project has been a true labor of love. It's an amazing rush to observe all of the transformations. It's like magic. It makes me feel alive and on purpose. As long as I feel this, my life is bliss.

Please tell me about the work that you do (your art background, other creative pursuits).

Ever since I was very young, I've always had to be creating something. I've never been able to sit still for long. When I was in elementary school, I often wrote, acted, and produced little neighborhood plays and school skits. I loved to dance, sing in the school choir, practice martial arts and gymnastics. I also enjoyed playing with clay and play dough, and completing latch hook rugs. I loved oil paint by number sets. And I loved to write stories and illustrate them with markers that smelled like fruit, which my father would buy me at an art store in Minneapolis, **Art Sign**.

When I was a child, I modeled for Sears. When I was



in my early twenties, I modeled for Cable Value Network, which is now QVC. When I was in my 30's I modeled in several Twin City fashion shows, various photo shoots, and several fashion events in the Twin Cities.

Over the past ten years, I've participated in several fashion events at First Avenue nightclub, Loring Pasta Bar, and Patrick's Cabaret, designing and sewing unique clothing, nightclub and fantasy wear, as well as corsets. I created four Solid Gold Dancer costumes for characters on an MTN show that aired a few years ago, **The Josh and Sandy Show**. I did the hair and make-up, as well as assist with set design for the show.

I've published my poetry in many publications and anthologies.

I've performed burlesque in the Twin Cities for Le Cirque Rouge De Gus, Lili's Burlesque Review, and my own troupe, Dr. Farrago's Burlesque Theatre. I've also performed with several other troupes in New York City, such as Starshine Burlesque, Sweet and Nasty Burlesque, and Surf Reality at the Bowery Poetry Club.

I have a passion for vaudeville and magic. I've performed magic with my stepdaughter, Nicole, in several shows in the Twin Cities, such as the Lowry Live Show hosted by Comedian Scott Jorgenson. I even have a Dove named Emile, which I use in my act.

I have a huge passion for dance. I was a very dedicated, passionate go-go dancer in the Twin Cities for over six years, at a nightclub in NE Minneapolis. I loved to be in the zone - to just let go and let the music choreograph my body to its rhythm.

My art work on canvas has been exhibited at the Carleton Artist lofts, Saint Paul Art Crawl, 3 minute Egg with Matt Peiken, Altered Aesthetics Gallery, Density Studios, Outsiders and Others Gallery, Minneapolis Convention Center, First Avenue Nightclub, and Artrujillo Gallery.

Could you tell me about your creative vision? What inspires you, and what impact do you hope that your work will have on its audience?

My creative vision is to stimulate the minds, the eyes,

and the souls of the viewers and hopefully inspire a great rush of creativity in others. I also wanted to create a tribute to television history. When I first began the mural, I struggled with the decision to keep the mural focused on MTN and public access television or use images from commercial television. I decided to use mostly commercial television shows, both past and present, so that everyone could relate to the mural when they viewed it. It broadens the audience and their ability to relate to my work. I want MTN to have something unique and informative. I want to invoke memories of the past and draw connections to the present time.

What has inspired me is the passion and dedication that many of the MTN employees and members have. I admire the services MTN offers to the community. This inspired me to contribute my art to the MTN campus. The impact I'd like to have is to ignite inspiration and stir imagination in others. I'd like to offer a vibrant, positive energy to the work environment, and demonstrate the ability, the focus, the inner-strength, and the integrity it takes to make our dreams a reality - to exhibit the ability to make anything happen. I want to be a highly successful artist. I believe MTN is one of the stepping stone toward reaching my dreams.

What is coming up next for the MTN mural project?

Once I finish the Mars editing room, which has been my favorite part of this project, I will be starting on the hallway wall across from the mural that's already completed. The theme will still be television history, but there won't be as much extensive, small, detailing as the other wall. My goal is to be done in the fall. One section of this wall will definitely have MTN celebrities like Viva and Jerry, Fancy Ray, Drinking With Ian, etc...

What has it been like for you doing this project at MTN?

It has been an amazing adventure. Since I've began the mural, I have walked down some artistic paths which have worked well and others not so well. I've headed down one path, only to turn around to take another. I have explored and experimented with styles, colors, images. I have read many books about television and its history and have learned so many new things. I have also studied many great artists like Fernand Leger, Picasso, M.C. Escher, Diego Rivera, Hieronymus Bosch, Bruegel, Lichtenstein, and many others. I have thoroughly enjoyed generating a buzz of creative electricity into the MTN atmosphere with vibrant colors and whimsical images. I want to reach into the playful, childhood psyche of my viewers and awaken the spirit.

My favorite thing in life to do is to transform the ordinary into the sublime and extraordinary. I want others to enjoy what they see. I want people's hearts to beat fast and their adrenaline to pump when they see my work. I want to rejuvenate the mind, the heart and the soul.

In the past, I generally created alone in isolation. This is the first time that I've painted with an audience. At first I felt vulnerable because

eyes would see my work in progress. People would notice my flaws, errors, and the ideas that didn't work. People would see my raw work, good or bad, in all stages of the creative process. It's forced me to be content with what I produce at any stage of the game, to not fear what others might think, to remain focused and on purpose, regardless of what obstacles that come my way.

I'd like to thank the MTN staff for being so welcoming and easy to work with. I'd also like to thank Vera Allen for all that she's done to organize this amazing project. And to Keith Porter who's been generous with his time to film this creative piece of work.





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Rick of City Sign and Tim of T L Graphics apply the logo to the MTN van. The van is getting ready for another summer of community events coverage and other remote taping work.