

**PUBLIC
ACCESS
AND YOU**

by
Aristedes DuVal



This week's feature artist: Copernicus. In August 1986, we MC'd a rockin' variety show courtesy of gallery owner/TV producer Willoughby Sharp at Charas Teatro. Enter Copernicus. If we didn't have the word "pioneer," you could easily say "COPERNICUS" in its place. Realizing this in 1983, Joseph Smalkowski names himself after the astronomer who altered our vision of the solar system. This "rebaptized" modern-age Copernicus started a weekly Public Access show "Copernicus and the World." He pioneered Public Access for two years at Teleprompter Studios on Amsterdam Ave. with one B&W video camera.

Copernicus now moves in other orbits, yet his connection to Public Access TV continues, via the Public Access Producers Alliance. Video of his June '89 show in Prague, Czechoslovakia, before 9000 people was handed to me for world debut on the Saturday morning MCTV Channel J Show *Interesting People* (October 21, 1989). Later that month, the video appeared on my *AKA Mr. Sexy* show. You must see the breakthrough footage, which includes Copernicus' July 4, 1989 concert performance to 3000 people in Cine Russe, Moscow.

With up to 28 musicians per album, his music is that of a "Copernicus," who has a unique vision and who strives to express.

His CD's are now being licensed in Czechoslovakia and distributed in Germany, Switzerland and Holland by Rough Trade of Germany. Distribution worldwide via Windsong International. Nevermore, Inc., his own record label, is available in the U.S. via Important Record Distributors, among others.

The "Statesman of Rock from the Other Worlds" feels the roots of his evolution are in Public Access TV. "It was the challenge to put on a new show every week and inspire an audience with your own personality and mind," he said.

Copernicus has appeared on the set of *AKA Mr. Sexy*, airing his cryptic winter pop video *I Won't Hurt You*, the *Deeper* album interview, and the riveting Cat Club performance of *Oh God*. He was interviewed on another PAPA member show, *Mary's True Traditional Values!* Look for him in March on my *AKA Mr. Sexy* show,

and on *Rockshop*. PAPA shows will soon be carried by Copernicus on West Berlin Cable TV, thanks in part to PAPA producer Logan One—MSO Show, out-roughing it in East Berlin with any camcorder he can find.

If you're in a public access or have someone in mind for a Public Access and You Salute, you can contact us: PAPA, PO Box 701, Gracie Square Station, NYC 10028 or call (212) 772-7342.

46

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