

# Video Artist as Video Art: Glimpses of an Alter-Ego Trip

A drag queen named Taiwan is working the phone. His male lover has just proposed marriage, and Taiwan doesn't know what to tell him. He calls his mother, then his grandmother, then a psychic hotline. He weighs church and small-town values against love and commitment. Shrieking and soul searching ensue.

## ART REVIEW

KAREN  
ROSENBERG

This antic, multigenerational conversation is really an elaborate monologue, written, directed and performed by the video artist Kalup Linzy. It's one of many riveting and, yes, topical sequences in Mr. Linzy's current solo show at the Studio Museum in Harlem.

"If It Don't Fit" is the third appearance at the Studio Museum for the 31-year-old Mr. Linzy; his videos were featured in two group shows in 2005, "African

Queen" and "Frequency." Others have been seen in solo exhibitions at his gallery, Taxter & Spengemann. Mr. Linzy also occasionally performs live in character. (He had a sold-out run at the Kitchen in February.)

That's a lot of attention in a short period of time, and the show is also meant to demonstrate that Mr. Linzy can handle it. The conclusion of the program's three hourlong segments is a wicked critique of the art-star system. It arrives via Mr. Linzy's newest persona, the emerging artist Katonya, and it's a hoot.

Organized by the museum's curatorial assistant, Thomas J. Lax, with the assistant curator Naomi Beckwith, "If It Don't Fit" includes 22 videos made since 2002. The three hours of video are shown on a single screen (and are perhaps best viewed in two visits rather than one). Packaged thematically rather than chronologically, it begins with a series of late-night phone calls ("Ramone Calls Julietta") and ends with a set of upbeat musical sequences. In between are longer works like the series "Da Churen," Mr. Linzy's reimagining of the popular soap opera "All My Children."

Mr. Linzy's art has a complex ancestry. A family tree would have to include the Wayans

*Continued on Page 26*



KALUP LINZY/TAXTER & SPENGEMANN

**Kalup Linzy: If It Don't Fit** A solo show of 22 works, including "Sweetberry Sonnet," above, by the video artist at the Studio Museum in Harlem.