

Evans, Walker, "The Silent Echo Chamber", Columbus Underground, October 10, 2009.



BY WALKER EVANS

HARRY SHEARER: THE SILENT ECHO CHAMBER

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Wexner Center Galleries

See alarming, amusing, and surprising video clips found and assembled by comedian and satirist Harry Shearer in this lower lobby installation.

Shearer (b. 1943) is almost certainly best known to Wexner Center audiences as one of America's most prominent satirists. A writer and cast member on Saturday Night Live in the 1980s, he achieved comic/musical stardom as Derek Small of Spinal Tap, and voices a variety of characters on the Simpsons. His extensive acting credits run the gamut from the Spinal Tap films, A Mighty Wind, and The Truman Show to The Right Stuff. What viewers might not know is that Shearer has also exhibited video installation projects since the 1990s at venues including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Renaissance Society in Chicago, Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

The Silent Echo Chamber (2008) is culled from the "Found Objects" Shearer has collected and aired on his web site (harryshearer.com).

These video clips show well-known politicians and media personalities captured in the quiet moments before they “go live” in television appearances. You’ll see glassy-eyed stares, fidgety jitters, and other unexpected private expressions, never intended for prime time. The Wexner Center’s presentation, in the lower lobby, involves eight video monitors each showing unexpected and revealing clips from the 2008 presidential campaign.