

LoO - episode 00:Los oXcars

by

Peter Troxler

www.aworldofopen.cc
Peter Troxler

+31 625 444 606
peter@aworldofopen.cc

INTRODUCTION

PETER

Welcome -- I'm Peter Troxler -- and today I am reporting from Barcelona, from los oXcars.

it's the 28th of October, 2008 -- a rainy day in Barcelona -- I've come to see a show that appears to be the first of its kind -- an Oscar-like celebration of Free Culture, a gala night of film, animation, literature, comedy, music and performance; a show with the best of artistic production with a twist: the first international arts award of the digital era, the oXcars.

CLIP: 00 TRAILER

Of all European countries, Spain seems to have one of the most severe copyright regulations -- whereas elsewhere in Europe copyright protection extends 70 years beyond the passing away of an author, it's 80 years in Spain. The Spanish collecting society SGAE is fiercely pursuing supposed P2P-downloaders. And as elsewhere it is common practice for broadcasters not to pay artists but to rely on royalties that are magically distributed by the system.

Spain hosts numerous Creative Commons-powered projects, including the collaborative Freesound database, netAudio.es and its associated netlabels, and the country has some of the most frequent and permissive license users. Several departments of the Catalan government make use of Creative Commons licenses, and institutions like Universitat de Girona offer dedicated open resources for research and learning.

One of the network of artists-activists promoting free culture in Spain call themselves EXGAE -- those who are outside of SGAE, outwith the reach of the collecting society. Through pamphlets, courses, advice and events, EXGAE promotes the ethos of free culture, of open source, of copyleft. They run regular legal advice clinics for artists who want to free themselves from the limitations of the copyright business. It is them who today hold the first large scale free culture gala, los oXcars, which promises to be not the usual protest event -- there's no discourse, no indoctrination scheduled.

Los oXcars promise to be a demonstration of the strength and relevance of collaborative culture.

Los oXcars undertake to be the one award that will sweep away Oscar, Grammy, Goya, Max; the first award of free culture in the digital era, the first non-competitive award in the history of culture...

NAMES

CLIP: 01 INTRO; FX: OXCARS SPOT (1ST HALF APPROX) V/O

PETER

Los oXcars -- is a 7 hour marathon event, with over 200 artists and cultural practitioners participating in the show -- here is a preview of some of the names.

CLIP 01:ORXATA: ABORIGENS 2207

Orxata Sound System is a band from Valencia who at los oXcars is also representing all the free music available on

Jamendo;

CLIP 01: ... BLENDER THEME 09:38 OR BEGINNING
~00:25 (WITH SNORE)-0:43

the Blender Foundation is here with their most recent
project Big Buck Bunny in the category Animations

CLIP 01: ... MUSIC / TEXT -- BEGINNING, SHORTEN
A BIT ~1:51?

Guillermo Zapata, famous for creating the third-most
viewed You-Tube clip -- which is in actual fact a short
film; Guillermo Zapata will be here with his new short
that came out in April 2008: Y todo va bien

CLIP 01: ... WU MING -- BEGINNING OF LECTURE ~
3:00

In Literature: Wu Ming One from Italy, member of the
writers' collective WuMing, with a jazz improvisation
show of his solo novel „New Thing“;

CLIP 01: ... BRENT X ~ 1:35: VO

In piracy and music -- probably -- New Wave /
Electronica / Pop Punk singer Brent Simon, from Mantua,
Ohio:

CLIP 01: ... 127.ES: VO

The digital art gallery 127.es that -- as an internet
domain -- offers digital artists an online exhibition space

and promotion environment;

The spanish clown Leo Bassi

CLIP 01: BASSI ~22:13 DO YOU BELIEVE IN ANGELS

and concerts and performances by La Màquina de Turing, Griffi, MattBlack and Tantric Billy, K-Sero and Off T.V., and Filastine.

CLIP 01; INTERVIEW: SIMONA -- [00:07:01.00]
WE SAY THAT THE OXCARS ARE AN EVIDENCE: THE
GOOD, REAL ART THAT PPL USE IS IN PHILOSOPHY
OF SHARING -> MAINSTREAM SHOW, WOW, THIS
IS ALL FREE, AS GOOD AS MADONNA;
[00:07:44.15]

FILM

PETER

The oXcars gala kicks off with Blender Foundation and Big Buck Bunny in the category Animations.

CLIP: 02 APPLAUS & ANSAGE ZAPATA -- VO:

And in the category film, there is Guillermo Zapata, director of the world's most-viewed short film – Lo que tu quieras oir. Rather than distribute it through festivals and television, Zapata simply uploaded it to the net with a copyleft license.

Lo que tu quieras oir has been downloaded 74 million times. It has become the third most watched video in the history of YouTube. It has been watched by as many people as an average Oscar-winning film.

Guillermo Zapata is 28 and works as a screenwriter for Hospital Central. The Oxcars present his second short: Y todo va bien -- a short film about a woman and a man having an affair over the Internet.

CLIP: 03 GUILERMOZAPATA

The film is, off course, online on YouTube.

LITERATURE

PETER

In the category literature which other project could be in the spotlight at the oXcars than the Luther Blisset project, or indeed: its sequel -- Wu Ming:

Between 1994 and 1999, the so-called Luther Blissett Project became a rather popular phenomenon. A network of artists -- all using and sharing the "Luther Blissett" identity -- they created a legend, a folk hero: Luther Blisset -- Luther Blisset, critics call him the Robin Hood of the information age -- waged a guerrilla warfare on the cultural industry, ran solidarity campaigns for victims of censorship and repression and played media pranks as a form of art, Luther Blisset always claimed responsibility for the „bugs" he had exploited to plant a fake story.

In 1999, the Luther Blissett Project published the novel Q. Q soon became an international best-seller and was translated into thirteen languages, published in thirty countries. The book had a "copyleft" clause and anticipated Creative Commons licences, as it was freely reproducible and the authors themselves made it downloadable from their website.

The sequel to Luther Blisset is the Wu Ming Project, and we are going to hear the beginning of the novel New Thing in a Free Jazz interpretation with Jazz drummer Francesco Cusa. But first, here is Wu Ming One:

CLIP: 04 WU MING

PAUSE-1

PETER

Apart from shows on stage and screen there are other projects present -- the supporting acts like Jamendo and VodkaMiel. But first, here is Platoniq. Platoniq is a collective based in Barcelona; it's a group of architects, artists-activists, and software programmers. Platoniq is developing community-media projects. Two of them they present at the oXcars: the burn station and S.O.S. -- Here I am by the burn station, with Olivier from Platoniq:

CLIP: 05 PLATONIQ

SPONSORS

PETER

The event is supported by a number of supporters -- GISS.tv, -- Global Independent Streaming Support is a volunteer network with servers that support streaming -- for free.

Free Vodka Miel drinks are served by VodkaMiel from Argentina -- their recipe is free: „Anyone can make it, all you need is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a litre of vodka and $\frac{1}{4}$ of a kilo of honey."

Other supporters are -- the Telekommunisten from Berlin -- Nerdfiles, known for their podcast -- Miro TV, a free, open source Internet TV distribution platform that use P2P technology -- Ladinami, a Madrid based street magazine and cultural initiative -- Mobuzz.tv, a spanish online tv station with a focus on cyberculture -- Publico, a Madrid based daily that is published under a creative commons license -- Traficantes de sueños, another project from Madrid that; I cite from the liner notes „aims to chart the constituent lines of other modes of life and to use people's own words to construct, in theory and practice, the toolbox that can eventually build the cycle of struggles of the coming decades."

And here is Jamendo:

CLIP 06: PIERREJAMENDO (SUPPORT).

CLIP 07: OXATA

PIRATE BAY

CLIP 09: SIMONA STATEMENTS

PETER

Two men are standing on the balcony, just above me, reading to the audience an email exchange between a fierce lawyer of a music label and his witty counterpart of piratebay. Simona Levi comments.

CLIP 10: PIRATEBAY EMAILS

BASSI

PETER

The highlight of the evening, no doubt, is Spanish clown Leo Bassi. Being a Clown, he is at the same time the philosopher of the evening, and the entertainer who connects most directly with the audience. On a massive screen that he's wearing on his back, he shows an open source movie celebrating the crash at the stock exchanges and the supposed end of capitalism. Later he gets naked, showers with four kilos of honey, then steps into a giant, transparent, air-filled, condom-like balloon where he transforms himself with the help of a down pillow he draws open in the figure of a dionisos-angel -- mocking the content industry, the banks, and capitalism as a whole ... bank directors, and presidents are merely clowns, like him.

Leo Bassi is coming to the Oxcars Awards Ceremony to collect a debt that is owed him and his family for generations, a huge LED screen on his back he is taking revenge on the cinema owners and film distributors and other intermediaries who separated entertainers and artists from their audience:

CLIP LEO BASSI 12:09

SING-A-LONG

PETER

The later the evening, the more the show turns into a celebration party for free culture. Brent Simon breaks the ice, having the audience -- almost -- sing along his pro-piracy hymn „world wired west“:

CLIP 11: BRENT WWW CROWD SING A LONG-ISH
X-FADE AFTER 1ST CHORUS INTO:

WHY WE ARE HERE

CLIP 12: BRENT

CLIP 12: ... PLATONIC-2NIGHT

CLIP 12: ... JAMENDOON2NIGHT

CLIP 12: ... MAQUINA DE TOURING

CLIP 12: ... ELISA

CLIP 12: ... FILASTINE (MIT ANSAGE)

CLIP 12: ... FILASTINE CONCERT V/O IN MUSIC AT
6:56 WITH:

SIMONA

CLIP: FILASTINE CONCERT CONT. AFTER X SEC.
VO:

PETER

[intro Simona Interview 2nd part: review]

CLIP: 11

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CREDITS

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I'm Peter Troxler, thanks for listening.