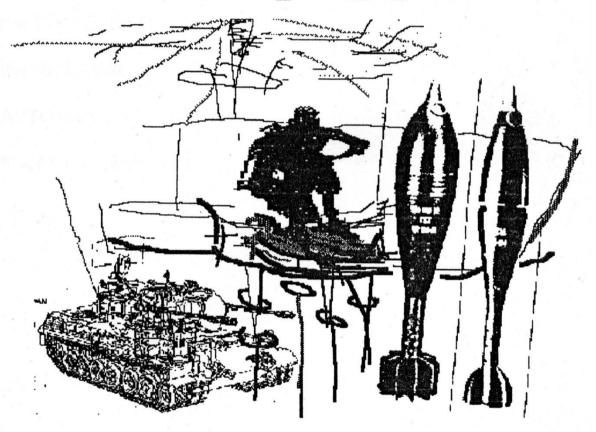
A PERFORMANCE SCRIPT by ARTHUR WICKS

"the TRILOGY"



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EPISODE 4



For this section, the audience returns only through the second entrance. This has been set up with a bridge that each member of the audience has to cross over one by one. The bridge gives out a hollow sound as they cross. Some members of the audience will have already used this entrance on earlier occasions but this time this entrance is different. On each side it is in darkness though the bridge itself is lit by a weak spot not unlike a torch beam.

Sound:

There is a sound in the darkness: is it a slow steady heart-beat?

Lighting:

Inside the theatre space, the lighting is very dim; a low purple light reveals very little. One can sense the presence of a figure inside and dominating; there may be an occasional shuffle. The **Presiding Judge** is there. He is wearing a very large mask which is a puppet head.

In addition there is something on the floor. People have been stepping over it, but in the dim light it is not clearly visible. It is in fact a large net spread across the centre of the floor of the Theatre. This net will ultimately capture and hold the Solstice Voyeur.

#B

All of a sudden, there is a blast of sound; it is processional, music!

accompanied by a heavy gavel thumping

Now the sound of everyone getting to their feet; a blinding glare of intense light (from the follow spots) and the JUDGES ENTER IN A FORMAL TRAIN

Now the figure of the **Presiding Judge** is obvious. He is sitting very high on top of the scaffolding used to change the lights. He is not going to move from there in a hurry!

There is a sharp spotlight on him.

The **Presiding Judge** speaks: THIS COURT IS NOW IN SESSION PLEASE BE UPSTANDING

Please be seated. I would like to welcome everyone - fellow judges, remnants of the Red Army, remnants of other surviving military groups and insurrectionists, Post-Activists, ladies and gentlemen (I use the word generically) who have survived the preceding two hours and are sufficiently conscious to respond to the remainder of the evening's proceedings. I welcome you all to an extraordinary session of this special court set up to make sense of the events that we have all witnessed in recent history. I use this word also in a generic sense.

You are about to participate, perhaps not directly but certainly by your presence, a historic sequence of events that will introduce a NEW AGE OF HOPE. Think of it as the dawning of a new day.

We have several formalities to deal with first and it is in dealing with these that you may be of particular help. Please feel free to assist wherever you can.

After a 2 second pause

My task is now to advise you the members of this Court and the good jury over there. This is a Jury which consists of five generals who have both survived and who in turn have sacrificed their comfort to each take on the role of both Jury and Assisting Judge. On the finer points of the law and its precedents, I will be guiding you through the course of Justice. The task of gathering together the threads of the evidence and my wisdom in so far as it applies, is yours. You may recall as I can, however dimly, the old adage that justice should not only be done but also be seen to be done.

Applause, as Mr Crown stands and acknowledges with a bow.

To facilitate this we have Mr Crown. To members of the Jury who are unfamiliar with the role of the Prosecution; these members should remember that Mr Crown represents the common humanity who have been most threatened and barbarised by recent events.

So members of the Jury, and members of the public gallery, I would like, as the **Presiding Judge**, and having called this Court together to examine the evidence of recent times, and taking into account the presence of the accused, the so-called Solstice Voyeur. Having heard that the so-called Solstice Voyeur is calumniated or imputed to have abjured in our hand. and even of having been given a salutary penance for this; and inquiries having been made as to the truth we say that the said Solstice Voyeur has not abjured any opinion or doctrine of his or our hand nor in that of anyone else at Insomnia, much less anywhere else, to our knowledge; nor has he received penance of any sort but that he has only been told the decision made by his holiness and published by the holy congregation of the index squared, in which it is declared that the doctrine attributed to the forerunner, that the earth moves around the sun and that the sun is fixed in the centre of the universe without moving from west to east, is contrary to the holy words, and therefore cannot be defended or held. And in witness of this, I have written and signed this with my own hand.

This information is accompanied by the clatter of computers, faxes etc.

Then slides are screened:

- 1 "Pope frees Galileo"
- 2. "New arrest about to be made"
- 3. "Watch bulletin board for developments second by second"

There is the hum of communication equipment; fax, computers and other machines.

These sounds will come in bursts over sections C &D.

the Presiding Judge drawls on interminably

throughout this section there will be the occasional thump of the gavel From time to time a planted member jumps to his/her feet waving for attention. The **Presiding Judge** responds and gives an order to the Court Clerk. Each of these orders produces quite a deal of activity . "Clerks" rush around wit sections of paper that they have torn from teh rolls. This paper moves around the Space; sometimes it is handed to the **Presiding Iudge**. Eventually, all the paper ends up on one of the spikes. NB, the activity within the Theatre comes in bursts and is accompanied by bursts of communication gear..

#C:

Formal charging of the Solstice Voyeur (this is an aside as the Presiding Judge reads the instructions from the form).

throws the papers onto the floor.

#D: the calling of petitions.

THE PRESIDING JUDGE:

This discourse and everything in this column is located on the main master tape unless otherwise indicated.

VARIOUS PETITIONERS LOOPS CONTINUE

Would the accused please stand. You the aforesaid Solstice Voyeur are formally charged with the following breaches of the LAW.

um..... the instruction here is to add these charges to the blank spaces provided. They are not yet completed but I'm sure the charges will become clearer and more precise as the proceedings of this Court unfold. Clerk, would you please complete these forms and return them to me.

To facilitate proceedings I open this court to anyone who would like to come forward and file their own charge. This will be done before the witnesses are called.

THIS REFRAIN IS ON A CLOSED LOOP

"THE EVIDENCE
WHICH YOU SHALL
GIVE TO THE COURT
AND THE JURY
SWORN BETWEEN
OUR SOVEREIGN
LADY OUR QUEEN
AND THE ACCUSED
SHALL BE THE
TRUTH, THE WHOLE
TRUTH AND NOTHING
BUT THE TRUTH
PLEASE SAY, 'SO
HELP ME GOD' "

VARIOUS LOOPS
PETITIONERS: CONTINUE

Someone leaps to his/her feet with a pre-taped question.

The length of the tape is 1

minute and will contain

several versions of this

Oath. This loop will be

through #D. Sections of

the oath become audible

playing continuously

only occasionally.

NB interjector tape 1. SO HELP ME GOD Yes, I have an issue. How is it that we are forced to sit on such bloody uncomfortable seats.

the **Presiding Judge** continues

Sound:

The computer sounds are louder but still only come in waves.

THE PRESIDING JUDGE:

Slide 3(b):

"Distant Thunder"

another on their feet with a pre-taped question.

You think that you have cause for complaint there? Here I am, like a kookaburra perched on a long stick. That's a sharp point there. Clerk, make a note of that.

I would like to remind you that during the course of tonight we must ensure that justice not only be done; but also be seen to be done. NB interjector tape 2.
SO HELP ME GOD
Yes, I've got something
I want to say. How is it
that we've spent
thousands of years
building up our culture
and this individual in the
brief space of an hour or
two can destroy it IN
THE NAME OF ART!

Slide 4(a): Black

Thank you for that observation. Clerk would you please take a record of it.

NB interjector tape 3. SO HELP ME GOD This person appears to be a respected member of the community - he evens gets public money to do these works of so-called art and then he spends it all in cursing and blaspheming against the values of our society. Does the Accused think that he is GOD **ALMIGHTY?**

Thank you for that observation. Clerk would you please take a record of it.

On second thoughts I don't want any competition around here. Clerk, delete that reference!!

a solitary voice

NB interjector TAPE

1.

SO HELP ME GOD Why can't you leave the poor bastard alone he's doing the best he can

Thank you for that observation. Clerk would you please take a record of it and the name of that witness. We may be able to use that person to assist us further.

THE PRESIDING JUDGE:

VARIOUS PETITIONERS:

Clerk, charge that person with contempt.

There is a scuffle and several of the 'assistants' move towards one of the planted audience.

and another

At this point the voice of the Presiding Judge comes through as a repetitious drone almost independent of whether anyone has spoken or not.

NB interjector TAPE

SO HELP ME GOD We've paid good money to see this. I'm not going to stay here and see my friends abused like this. Can I have a refund?

That's a good point. Clerk make sure you get that one. Make him pay a second time.

NB interjector TAPE

2

SO HELP ME GOD Where is the person responsible for all this? Let's get him or her in here and hear what he or she has to say about it.

a cheeky, querulous voice

Yes indeed. Where is he? COULD THE ACCUSED PLEASE STAND. HOW DO YOU PLEAD TO THESE CHARGES. GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY.

That's a good point. Clerk make sure you get

that handful.

NB interjector TAPE

3.

SO HELP ME GOD He's over here you old fart. He's over there. Why can't we get this started and finished. My haemorrhoids are killing me.

NB interjector TAPE 1.

SO HELP ME GOD
The accused complains
of being watched but
he's been watching me
for months. I'm sick of it
. I want something done
about it. He's admitted
to being a voyeur. I
heard him. We all heard
him - well anyone who
was not asleep, that is.

The **Presiding Judge** again. This time his outburst is accompanied by a flurry of activity by the clerks The **Presiding Judge** has lowered a rope. Bundles of papers are tied onto it and these papers are hauled up.

In the background, the Solstice Voyeur has to this point been driving the armoured car backwards and forwards.
He now gets out of the machine with the help of his assistants.

another disturbed pretaped voice. That's a good point.
Clerk make sure you get that one.
Yes, thank you.
We'll check the script to get the evidence. I am sure that you won't be troubled for much longer.

The script, where's my copy of the script. **GOD ALMIGHTY, how** am I meant to keep any control from this position without a script? How can I control the course of events in the closing minutes of this performance without knowing the next move and who is making it? AS THE OMNIPOTENT **POWER HERE I DEMAND MY COPY!!**

Show respect for this court or join the accused with a contempt of court charge.

NB interjector TAPE

SO HELP ME GOD Where is he? I've heard that he's planning more art events like this one. Isn't it possible to deal with him and prevent this all happening again as a repeat performance?

E:

Entrance of the Solstice Voyeur:

The Solstice Voyeur has

been quite visible in the armoured car during the past 5 minutes. The clerks assistants arrive on the proscenium to take the Solstice Voyeur. They make it clear that they want to handle him roughly, but he seems to be protected by an invisible barrier around him and no-one can penetrate it except the white-clothed assistants from #1 (ie the Escape) help the Solstice Voyeur to get out of the armoured car.

NB These assistants then (off-stage) convert to Jurists or other members of the group in the central space of the Theatre, and later in the audience. The Solstice Voyeur is manoeuvred onto the space of the floor of the Theatre Space occupied by the net.

Shouted; in fact **DEMANDED!** accompanied by several substantial thumps from the gavel.

PRESIDING JUDGE:

Who is acting for the Defence? Would the Defence Counsel please come forward.

Clerk, clerk...!!

VARIOUS COMMENTS FROM PRE-TAPED SPEAKERS:

So that I cannot be contaminated.

So that I cannot be contaminated.

Salt!! You want salt?

Sex? What's sex got to do with it? It's all the same with witches!

Bring in my Malleus Maleficarum !!

NB interjector TAPE

1.

SO HELP ME GOD Why is he being led backwards YOUR HONOUR?

NB interjector TAPE

2.

SO HELP ME GOD Why is his head shaved? Is his or her head shaved YOUR HONOUR?

NB interjector TAPE

3.

SO HELP ME GOD Is this heretic penitent? Does he/she show the tears of the Penitent YOUR HONOUR?

NB interjector TAPE

1.

SO HELP ME GOD What is the sex of the accused **YOUR HONOUR?**

Where are my seven words? Hand me my seven words!

This chant begins, softly at first and recurs over the next few minutes. This chant is on a small closed loop (one minute). It replaces the Court oath and is heard in waves like the oath.

A string of paper is winched up to the Presiding Judge.

At this the members of the group form into the jury; some follow onw another in single file chantingn like monks

This is a momentary flashback to the interrogation of the Solstice Voyeur from Episode 1

AGENT 1 (using the

lapel speaker)

SO HELP ME GOD
So tell me... If the earth

is flat as you insist - and I hasten to assure you that I don't (at least at this stage) disagree with you - is its creator also flat?(Pause)

When did these flat ideas first occur to you? (Pause)

Tell me is your MAKER simply 2 dimensional space, or does he/she have substance or is he/she merely an accident? (Pause)

"Eli, Eli, lama lama sabach-thani. "Eli, Eli, lama lama sabach-thani "Eli, Eli, lama lama sabach-thani "Eli, Eli, lama lama sabach-thani"

Here they are YOUR HONOUR

THE SOLSTICE
VOYEUR
(using the lapel
speaker)
NB This and the
following words of the
Solstice Voyeur are on
a looped cassette and
will be played on and
off through to the end.

If you've got some questions that's OK. If you've got some questions, maybe I should try and answer them.

I like it. That's a lovely question.

Yes, yes.

This dialogue (from Episode 1) ends abruptly

Thank you for the questions.

THE PRESIDING JUDGE: (from the master tape)

What's happening here? We've been through all of this hours ago. We're not starting all this again are we. Your contract was terminated. Clerk would you please remove that person and we can get on with the proceedings.

AGENT 1 is hustled out

more as a distraction.

The Solstice Voyeur continues through the space as if he is still in charge. His monologue reflects this.

While the Solstice Voyeur is delivering his monologue, some of the clerks are checking lengths of rope, wire and nooses against his neck. The Solstice Voyeur is too busy to notice this. This testing becomes quite threatening.

the Solstice Voyeur is constantly moving through the central corridor space of the Theatre. He is always guided back to the area occupies by the net by the clerks and attendants. Mr. Crown do you have your list of witnesses?

THE SOLSTICE VOYEUR: (still using the lapel speaker) NB the following is also on the closed loop cassette.

Yes, yes, are there any more questions? In other instances that has to be qualified. Thank you for giving me the chance to get this of my chest. I'm feeling a little tired now. Thank you for a great evening. (pause)

"I am at the centre of the Universe?" (pause)

"We are all at the Centre of the Universe" (pause)

"We can each of us fly out of our Universe" (pause) Sporadic applause (sounding a bit like a bullfight?) but also some hissing and one or two boos

Addressing the jury. It is difficult to determine exactly where they are and who they are.

The Jury retires into one of the corners near the proscenium and goes through a ritual of attempted communication - occasional grunts and diatribes issue from the corner; always nonsensical; only the gesture of the meaning, never the syntax.

Members of the JURY would you please elect a foreman or forewoman.

Have you elected your FOREPERSON yet?

The foreperson stands on the table; the jury dances around the table pointing to this person. The jury from this point on begins ot shrink in numbers rapidly (over 3 minutes).

Sporadic applause which becomes stronger over about 2 minutes. The sounds area reminiscent of a bull fight. It stops suddenly as the **Presiding Judge** continues.

Members of the jury you have heard the nature of the accusations made of this person. I would ask that you retire and consider the evidence and nature of the evidence presented to you so far.

LOOPS # F: CONTINUE

The **Presiding Judge**

begins to call out the

names of the witnesses. I have here a list of witnesses that are being called

This is on the master

tape.

before this court:

the names are on a one minute closed loop.

Captain Enth Degree, General Sir Bruce Rawbottom. John Lennon Rabelais **Bob Hawke** Jesus Christ Sheik Kamakazee el Sheed

Chief Inquisitor Crump

How many are there? It appears to go on

Nick Greiner **Malthus**

Joan of Arc,

interminably. It is a closed loop of 1

minute which

Simund Freud George Bush

plays on a separate machine.

Joe Tyson **Reg Naulty Paul Crampton** General Bel-ibni The Lion of Judah

It will replace Querelle the "7 words" tape loop

some minutes.

which should have been inaudible for

Sherlock Holmes Q the Soddomite

Bob Smith Harry Sadler

General Shalmaneser

Inquisitor Singh

Saint

van de Heuvel John Heuson

General Tiglath -Pileser

Adolf Hitler

Leonardo da Vinci

Phar Lap

Attila the Hun Houdini

Donald Bradman Margaret Thatcher Count of Anaesthesia

Jim Hackett Ken Osmond

General Ashurbanipal

David Guthrie

General Ashur-uballit peace emmisary from Brain

Death

Geoff Gordon Merodach-baladan

Paul Keating

General Humbanigash

General Marduk-apil-iddina

Sennacherib Alfred Wicks

General Esarhaddon

Mother Inferior

General Ashur-nasir-pal

Rocketeer Blake General Shamsi-adad General Adad-nirari General Shamash-shum-

ukin

LORD OF THE EARTH

Dick Larter Samuel Beckett

Karl Marx **Henry VIII** Beowulf

THE PRESIDING **JUDGE:**

It seems that everyone is a witness.

LOOPS CONTINUE

LOOPS

CONTINUE

This is on the master tape again

I foreshadow that we will soon need an adjournment so that all these witnesses can be called and that any others from the members of the audience who wish to assist in executing Justice can have their say.

On this cue the remaining jurists unify their energies by arrranging a version of Happy Birthday, Jesus which momentarily distracts them from their squabbling. But it only lasts for one minute and disintegrates back into chaos.

One moment please. I see that one of the witnesses is soon having a birthday.

I repeat! I see that one of the witnesses is having a birthday very soon.

The large "X" machine is at this point guided from the stage to the main theatre space.

Sound:

On the master tape there is the explosive sound of the ignition of a fire(eg the 'poompff' of gas igniting) followed by the the low sound of a steady flame. This sound is insistent but not intrusive at this time.

THESE CHANTS ARE ON A CLOSED LOOP

LOOPS CONTINUE

From #G onwards there is the distinct sound of the crackling of flame. At first it is not instrusive. This crackling sound is on a 6 minute closed loop.

At this point these chants begin; at first soft and gradually rising to a wail. The volume comes and goes depending on the volume from the tape listing the names of the witnesses.

There is a commotion and one of the jury is catapulted out of the group and is dragged away by two of the assistant/clerks. Soon afterwards, more commotion and another body is dragged away. And then there were two less!

The manner and gesture by which each of these two jurors exit (and it applies to the exiting of others later) is entirely the choice of that person but it should be dramatic and draw attention to itself.

Remember the entrances and exits are important here!

As these members of the jury move they appear to be spasm driven rather than be controlling their movements.

DA DATTA DA DAYADHVAM DA DAMYATA SHANTIH SHANTIH

And no rock If there were rock And also water And water A spring A pool among the rock If there were the sound of water only Not the cicada And dry grass singing but sound of water over a rock Where the hermitthrush sings in the pine trees Drip drop drip drop drop drop But there is no water

DA DATTA DA DAYADHVAM DA DAMYATA SHANTIH SHANTIH

I remember Those are pearls that were his eyes Are you alive, or not? Is there nothing in your head? But

You know nothing? Do you see nothing? Do you remember 'Nothing?'

DA DATTA DA DAYADHVAM DA DAMYATA SHANTIH SHANTIH

This is the way the world ends This is the way the world ends This is the way the world ends Not with a bang but a whimper.

DA DATTA DA DAYADHVAM DA DAMYATA SHANTIH SHANTIH

Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Pray for us now and at the hour of our death

DA DATTA DA DAYADHVAM DA DAMYATA SHANTIH SHANTIH

Immediately the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lamp stand; and the king saw the hand as it wrote. And this is what was written: you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; your property is divided and given away to others, and on this very night you will be SLAIN.

O king live forever! Don't let these thoughts alarm you or make you feel pale and weak in the knees!

When they exit so noticeably, they can reenter just as unobtrusively. The members of the Jury appear to shrink and swell.

This behaviour is basically tribal.

During the next section the number of Jury members will decrease and increase. Jurists who exit can then return into the Theatre and either join the Jury again or locate themselves among the audience. In # J the number of Jurists must decrease systematically until there is only one left. The role of the Jurists in the audience is described in #K and #L.

The Solstice Voyeur continues to wander through the Space:

NOTE:

The closed loop of the Solstice Voyeur's tape can occasionally be heard. He has no mike and depends solely on the pocket amplifier. He has yo face sections of the audience before they can hear what he is saying.

GENERAL NOTES ON DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE SPACE In the Space:

The heat from the heaters is starting to be felt.

The fans are blowing the heat across the audience.
Slight discomfort.

Sound:

The furnace sound is starting to build up in volume.
Occasional crackling sounds remind the audience that there is the illusion of real flames!

The Solstice Voyeur is confined more and more to the area occupied by the netting on the floor. There is the sense that he is being cornered. In fact he is mentally preparing to be hoisted up in the net Four members from the Jury will locate themselves at each of the pulley ropes to lift the **Solstice Voyeur** up.

#I: LOOPS CONTINUE

Appearance of the machine:

The Solstice Voyeur is rapidly hoisted up - more for his own safety as anything else, but it may not appear to be the case.

The machine is accompanied by a shepherd who will keep track of its length of run and direction. This person stays with the machine ALL THE TIME FOR SAFETY REASONS.

The Jury continues to deliberate in the corner but their numbers are diminishing (see #G).

#J:

From this point on, the number of Jury members decrease rapidly and are re-locating themselves in the audience. These players in the audience will respond on behalf of the other members of the audience who I am sure will be grateful for these surrogates. This continues until there is only one Jurist left.

#K Role of the planted members in the

audience

LOOPS CONTINUE

In addition these plants in the audience gradually, one be one, reveal themselves as wearing the same latex mask as the Solstice Voyeur is wearing.

A spotlight will focus in each in turn.

Gradually the audience will be illuminated and this will contribute to the heat which is definitely noticeable now.

Now there is only one member of the Jury left. He spends the last minutes as surviving member of the Jury in mimicking the other members of the Jury and the **Presiding Judge** this time with the aid of the lapel speaker and pocket transformer.

The Solstice Voyeur is still in the net and is still denying his innocence.

The remaining Jurist is dancing around the now empty table reciting various conversations to him/herself; finally spied the Solstice Voyeur in the netting and slowing dances and circles towards the Solstice Voyeur.

The following monologue is on a **1 minute closed tape**. It is played by the sole remaining Jurist while he/she dances around.

Rabbit with Herbs, you will need for 6 servings: 1 good sized rabbit, 4 of butter, 1 dessertspoon wine, 1/2 pint white wine, salt and pepper, bunch parsley, few sprigs tarragon, few spring onions, chopped, pinch thyme, 2 teaspoons lemon juice. 1. Joint rabbit, keeping the liver aside, fry joints in 1/4 the butter, sprinkle with flour, 2..add wine and seasoning; bring to the boil. 3. Mix remaining butter, parsley, tarragon and spring onions. Add the rabbit with thyme and marjoram. Simmer for 1 hour. 4. Cook liver in stew for 3 minutes, remove, crush and return to stew, continue to cook for a further 5 minutes, stirring gently. 5. Place rabbit and sauce on a warm dish, squeeze over lemon juice and serve.

The pre-taped conversations continue and now there is established a duel of words between the two. The Jurist keeps circling around .. Now there is just one sentence spoken by each.

This continues ad nauseam until the Theatre Space is emptied.
The heat and the blowers are helping to do this.

#L closing moments of the TRILOGY

The Presiding Judge adds to this, with a closed loop tape that keeps repeating. But there is no-one left to do anything. Torn paper is left on the floor but at this stage hopefully it has been cleared onto the paper spikes on the floor.

The sound of the furnace is getting stronger and stronger.

The lights:

are getting more intensely yellow in one area and (fire) red in another. Slow intensification of this effect as the work rapidly closes. There are too many witnesses. Clerk, the names of these witnesses is not in alphabetical order. Clerk, they aren't in any order!! Clerk, I can't even tell whether the witnesses have been called by the Defence or the Prosecution.

Adjourn this court until this matter is clarified.

Remove the prisoner. Adjourn the court!. Remove the prisoner. Adjourn the court! Remove the prisoner. Adjourn the court!

Clerk, clear the court Clerk, clerk, clerk, clear the court.

In addition to add to the sense of HELL and HELLFIRE a small pellet of iron sulphide is dropped back stage into a small quantity of hydrochloric acid. The hydrogen sulphide from this will help clear the space.

NB ONLY A VERY SMALL QUANTITY OF ALL OF THIS, THIS GAS IS POISONOUS IS QUANTITY.

The exit area across the bridge has been changing its nature. It now appears as a threatening space through which to make an exit but it has to be done.

To the relief of most it is not as bad as it may appear. It's all an illusion.
There is a sound in the space. The original steady heart-beat has been replaced by a racin g, palpitating beat.

The 'natural' area located in the exiting passageway to the street will come as a welcome alternative to the earlier heat.