



Dane Gould in 'Contortions' by Mike Stubbs

**CONTORTIONS**  
**MIKE STUBBS**

**FILMS**  
FROM WALES

# CONTORTIONS MIKE STUBBS

**CONTORTIONS** 40 minutes Colour 16mm  
Wales 1983  
Director/Producer/Editor: Mike Stubbs  
Camera: Roland Denning  
Written by: Gary Burzack, Caroline Limmer, Mike Stubbs  
Sound: Julian Kelly  
Production Manager: Caroline Limmer  
Cast: Dane Gould, Helen Edwards, Robin Lyons  
Made with support of the Welsh Arts Council

**Contortions** sets out to debunk cliched portrayals of the unemployed. It follows the life of Peter who is young and unemployed but manages to maintain an albeit cynical, sense of hope and humour about his situation.

Two tongue-tied teenage girls outside a Cardiff job centre talk of their unemployment problems, then dry up under the unblinking gaze of the camera. Cardiff film maker Mike Stubbs soon dispels notions that this may be just another worthy documentary. The third job centre interviewee, Pete, (played by Dane Gould) seems both shrewd and jaundiced and sends up his former jobs, in a bottle factory and as a shelf-stacker, by treating us to an almost interminable (ultimately very amusing) recital of his prosaic tasks.

There is a deep cynicism underlying Stubbs's overtly playful 40-minute work, which focuses on Pete's abortive efforts to land a job, his fantasies and attempts to appease his girlfriend. Along the way, Stubbs disconcertingly and deliberately disrupts straightforward narrative to deliver bitter broadsides against smug theorists and the mediemen, who study the unemployed working classes almost as another branch of anthropology.

South Wales Echo 7th July 1983

Details are also available for video works including:  
**COOKING WITH KATIESELF ACCUSATION; CAMERA SICK.**

## MIKE STUBBS

Studied Fine Art Film and Video at: Cardiff College of Art, Royal College of Art  
Member of: Chapter Film Workshop, London Video Arts  
Visiting artist at British Art Colleges  
Film and Video shown throughout U.K.

1st prize: Foreign Section, International Video Festival, London 1982, for Video documentary commissioned by Z. G. Magazine  
Highly Commended: 6th Tyneside Film Festival, for 'Contortions'

*1st Prize Celtic Film Fest*

Available from:

Chapter Film Workshop,  
Market Road,  
Canton  
Cardiff  
Tel. (0222) 396061

or contact  
The Welsh Arts Council,  
Film Department,  
Museum Place,  
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Funded by the Welsh Council

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