Soviet Characters
7pm • Saturday • 3 December 2016 • The Robin Theatre, REO Town

The Robin Theatre is located at 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing, MI 48910.

This month’s installment explores underground Soviet video art. Much was contradictory about Soviet life, but the position of the underground artist was among its most paradoxical facets. Working from the margins, underground artists managed to say a lot with very little. This program pairs the first work of Soviet video art, Andrei Monastyrski and Sabine Hänsgen’s Conversation with a Lamp (1985), with Pirate Television (1989-1992), an exuberant and varied collective undertaking by several Leningrad-based artists and musicians and featuring the gender-bending, larger-than-life artist Vladislav Mamyshev-Monroe. The Soviet characters that emerge from these videos are not necessarily representative of the larger social body, but they point to the ways that artistic identity, gender, and sexuality flickered, materialized, and shifted in the last Soviet and first post-Soviet years. Programmed by Dr Yelena Kalinsky.