

## **FOCO VIETNAM ENVIRONMENT**

NEXT SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 7pm.

We in Australia have thought about Vietnam now in a manner in which we examine few of our attitudes.

Those of us who have reached a commitment to a belief that our involvement in Vietnam is a wrong one, have reached a stalemate. How do we act to convince others, to strengthen this belief so that the Australian people as a whole may eventually reject the commitment of our forces and resources to a morally wrong war?

FOCO Vietnam Environment is an attempt to clarify our own stand, and to produce from this, something which may reach across to others, to strengthen the views of those who already share our views, and to win new supporters.

FOCO has given over on Oct. 6th, its whole resources to an environment. By this we mean a combination of elements — Film, Theatre, Music, Painting, Architectural Structures — anything which can be used to explore the central theme.

The evening we hope, will have the feeling of a huge fun chamber, but a fun chamber with the serious intent of evoking a horror of the atrocities in Vietnam.

As the centre of our activities, the Tribe have staged a theatrical statement of our theme — a script on Vietnam Atrocities first performed by the Guerilla Theatre in New York. This will be surrounded by a number of free-flowing activities, which you will be invited to participate in. We ask you not to come as spectators, but to come prepared to involve yourself in an experience.....and for FOCO, somewhat of an experiment.

We add the warning that we do not intend to hesitate to point out the true nature of the obscenity underlying the events of Vietnam.

We have recently been accused in the press of irresponsibility in our attitudes towards our young members. We invite you to come and participate, and to judge for yourself whether our intentions as a group are responsible, or responsible in a manner which our press either cannot comprehend, or has chosen to ignore.

The theatre, by its involvement in this crisi(s) has re-discovered a real function.....it has become the instrument of change seeking ways to express aspects of the common dilemma. Many different groups have created new theatrical forms.....as diverse and violent as the nature of their re-actions.

The new theatre often wants:

- a) to help us recognise what's really happening.
- b) to expose the assumed myths which we mistake as reality.
- c) to explore man's newly discovered or long forgotten potentials.
- d) to probe into the future.

The spectator/participator's response is considered as important as any predetermined action. The event will change according to his re-action. Either everyone present is an artist, or no-one is.

Next Sunday FOCO will present this kind of dynamic event. The whole space will be involved in various ways in an event on the theme of American atrocities in Viet Nam.

We want to deal with the Viet Nam situation because we are all participants in it.

Viet Nam is about the present scene inside the USA. It was necessary for the United States to externalise and play out in a foreign field her own crisis which was exploding in various forms of violence at home. USA wanted to prove that the democratic system was true, real, and right because many people at home were beginning to doubt it.

It is also about the potential of simple men to be extraordinarily creative when inventing tortures to try out on his fellow man.

Guilt, reaction, rejection have produced in all of us various forms of violence. Through this event we want to explore the nature of the world, and to become aware of our most sacred reactions to it.