

Judging by this text Jack seems to be particularly influenced by William Blake, whose poetry TS Eliot described as having the 'peculiarly terrifying' and 'unpleasant' honesty of the self-educated man. Jack talks of how he also 'burns' with the 'Feral-Knowledge' of the autodidact, like the tradition of English radical Dissent that Blake was indebted to, the individual conscience that is set against the University, the State and its Religion. Like the 'Wearside Jack' letters and tape that it echoes (these were sent to the West Yorkshire Police in the 1970s claiming to be from the Yorkshire Ripper), Jack's video is like a bulletin from beyond reason and the polite culture, as if the voice of the poor dissenting conscience of every age has returned to taunt the Moral Law that suppressed it.

Originally commissioned by Morley Literary Festival with funds from Arts Council England.