



RAY RICHMOND

On TV

'Buzz'

"Buzz" (Sunday from 9 to 9:30 p.m. on MTV) has nothing to do with ex-astronaut and Laguna Beach resident Buzz Aldrin. It may instead be the weirdest single show I have ever seen, one that makes "Twin Peaks" look like "General Hospital."

Trying to describe "Buzz" is darn close to futile. But here goes.

Produced in England — with an obvious assist from the planet Jupiter — "Buzz" is more or less a half-hour of whizzing graphic images, none of which remains on screen

longer than five seconds and most of which last a mere second or two. It's television for those who have the attention span of an infant.

This isn't to say, however, that "Buzz" is uninteresting. It's merely unintelligible.

Allow me to explain.

The half-hour splices together brief — and I do mean brief — snippets from television shows, rock videos, TV commercials, documentaries, films and news events from both the US and numerous foreign countries. All of it has some central theme, though the theme may last only a minute or so.

"Buzz" moves in Sunday's premiere (yes, it's a series) from a theme of prejudice to one discussing the memory of Elvis Presley and another that tackles the sexist image of women in popular culture.

We're blasted by a series of visual and audio messages, each of which is supposed to contribute to some larger, often unclear statement about society and human behavior. It's dense with disembodied voices and fractured images, kind of a televised acid trip.

Like I said, "Buzz" is as bizarre as entertainment gets. It offers viewpoints aplenty, and the frenetic pacing makes it tough on remote control zappers from finding a tidy spot to tune out.

But what does it all mean? I give up.

Ray Richmond is the Register's TV writer. His column appears regularly in Show.