

The Pinky Show
: This Cat World Dismantled
: (26 Things we learned doing The Pinky Show)

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Compiled from notes and visuals by Bunny & Pinky

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for
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in Real Politics*

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THE **PINKY SHOW**
PRESENTS

This cat world dismantled...

It has been six months since Bunny died. I miss her so much; not an hour passes that I don't think about her...

I remember how we met...

Do you live around here? I'm hungry.

There's a dumpster behind the Asian Foods market.

I think we became friends so quickly because we saw the world from the same perspective...

This is... insanity...

Disaster capitalism gone wild. The whole planet is gonna die...

...although we often disagreed on how to address the problems we saw.

Humans... can we really kill them all?

Umm... maybe we can help them instead?

HOLLYWOOD

We spent months trying to create a plan that we would be able to do.

How about if we create an upside-down university where all the smartest cats from around the world teach younger cats revolutionary theory and practice?

I think that's a great idea...

...if we had 50 years and several million dollars. You have that?

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notes.

So for the next several years Bunny and I just started experimenting, trying to counter Epic Planetary Fail in our own tiny way...



26 things we learned while doing The Pinky Show

1

Carefully study anything that has become so naturalized that it's allowed to hide in plain sight – social relations, ideology, History, common sense, and so on.

Fish can't see water.

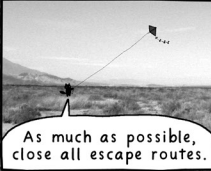


2

Sometimes simple questions (or, "stupid" questions also) are very difficult to answer; other times they're treated as if they're so ridiculous that they needn't be considered at all. But they must all be answered.

3

"Important" topical issues come and go every week. If you stay focused on the underlying concepts and structures that give rise to the issues, the materials you produce will 1) stay relevant much longer; and 2) help people to figure out what's behind new issues as they arise.



As much as possible, close all escape routes.

4

When presenting emotionally challenging material, be compassionate. Use a soft feeling, but never soften the truth.

5

Use clear, non-academic language that ordinary people can easily understand. If you're talking revolution or doing a radical critique, elites and wannabe elites are not your main audience anyway.



6

Dominant perspectives already enjoy a near-monopoly of thought. Don't bother trying to "objectively" cover "both sides" of a story – it's a time-wasting trap!

Live in the margins!
It's so beautiful here!



notes.

7

When approaching someone with a question, be humble and make the question sincere. Assume the person has reasons or knowledge that you don't understand, or possibly can't even see.

Actually I don't think I've ever met someone that really had something wrong with them... maybe they're actually kinda rare...?



8

People might have problems, but people themselves are not problems to be solved.

9

Although it's difficult to cultivate simplicity, the space it creates for reflection makes it worth the effort.

10

Silence and stillness should not be underestimated. Make them present in your daily life and work.

11

Find the thing that you were meant to do with your life.

Stop wasting your life doing someone else's thing.



12

Spend much more time developing content rather than form. Spend much more time practicing instead of executing.

A good ratio for either is something like 10:1.



The more the better. Seriously, it's scientifically proven.

13

Utilize all forms and means of communication available to you. Change often.

Don't fall in love with the rituals of daily work or the satisfaction of developing facility. Stay focused on your objectives and constantly re-analyze your options according to those objectives.

It's not the thing, it's the energy in the thing.



14

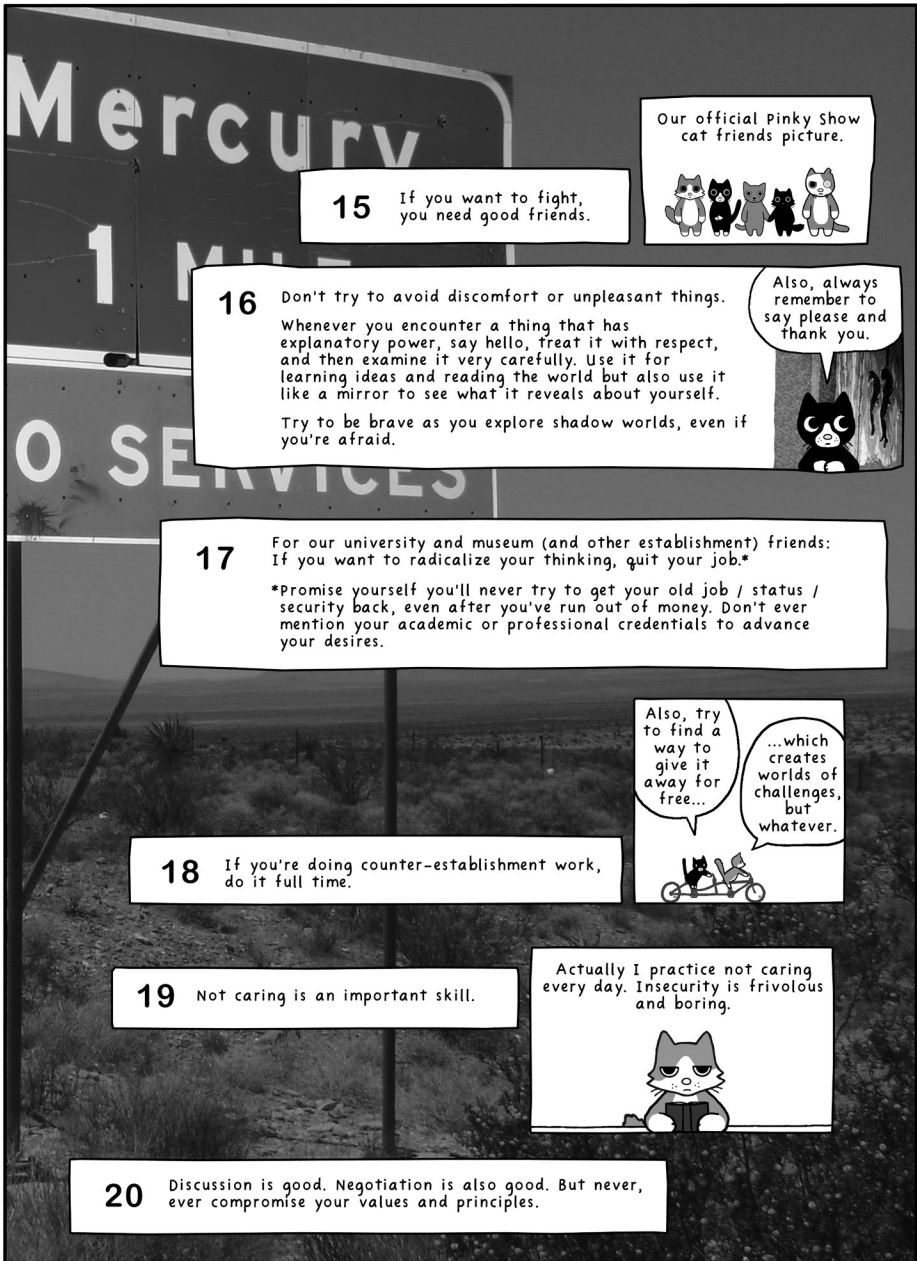
The unseen world is full of motion and guidance, whether we notice it or not.

Is it going to be in your project?



talking rock

notes.



Our official Pinky Show cat friends picture.



15 If you want to fight, you need good friends.

16 Don't try to avoid discomfort or unpleasant things. Whenever you encounter a thing that has explanatory power, say hello, treat it with respect, and then examine it very carefully. Use it for learning ideas and reading the world but also use it like a mirror to see what it reveals about yourself. Try to be brave as you explore shadow worlds, even if you're afraid.

Also, always remember to say please and thank you.



17 For our university and museum (and other establishment) friends: If you want to radicalize your thinking, quit your job.*
*Promise yourself you'll never try to get your old job / status / security back, even after you've run out of money. Don't ever mention your academic or professional credentials to advance your desires.

Also, try to find a way to give it away for free...

...which creates worlds of challenges, but whatever.

18 If you're doing counter-establishment work, do it full time.



19 Not caring is an important skill.

Actually I practice not caring every day. Insecurity is frivolous and boring.



20 Discussion is good. Negotiation is also good. But never, ever compromise your values and principles.

21 Don't just go ahead and base your project wherever you want to be; ask permission first.

A good way to find out is to ask the animals & people who rightfully belong there if they want you there or not.



22 Don't work in a too-nice place!

Don't be seduced!
Fancy furniture
isn't good for you!
Or your work!

come to
me...



23 Try to avoid working in ways that requires lots of equipment...

...and while you're
at it, stop being
so "productive"...



The opposite is dangerous because
we all already perform the logic of
catastrophe on a daily basis...

24 Everything we do in life connects us to specific sets of values. Our actions should grow out of the values we most desire.



20% discount!
I need this!

25 Make your work your life, until there is no divide. Every day immerse yourself in your own creation and let it change you.

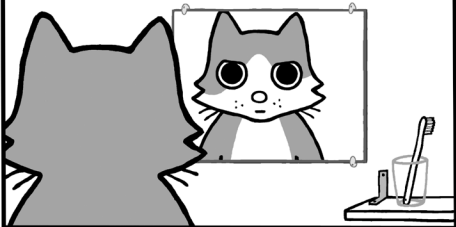
26 Mainstream notions of success and progress won't repair the Earth or give you anything of real value! Go a different way!

Yes!
Never give up!
Please!



notes.

Our project was going pretty well until about two years ago, when Bunny found out she had cancer. The doctors told her she had maybe a couple of months to live.



From that day forward she spent every available moment working on the Pinky Show and preparing herself for death.

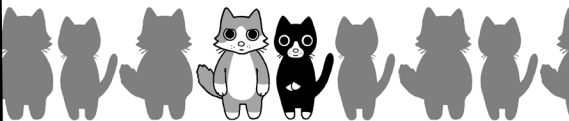


She barely slept, and I don't remember her complaining about the pain even once.

After Bunny died I spent a lot of time crying, feeling depressed and too weak to work. Everything came to a standstill. This is when I realized we had made another error in designing our project...



We shouldn't have allowed ourselves to become indispensable. We should have institutionalized our values and methodologies, rather than build a project around our abilities and friendship. Maybe a monster institution formed out of downside-up values would have had a better chance to outlive us...



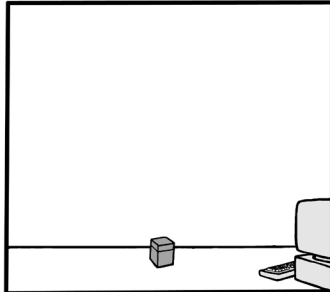
So this is where I am right now. There's so much that we wanted to do... I still believe in our dream, but right now I'm not sure how to continue... I will walk the Earth until I understand.



I found a very nice wood box to put Bunny's ashes in. I thought about bringing her with me, but I think I will leave her here instead.



If I make it back I'm sure the joy of being reunited with my friend will only give me more power to start again.



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