

On the way out POP scene with
MICHAEL SYMONS . . .

Back from the Birth of Space

That intrepid space-craft SMH-11, piloted by astronaut Symons, has just returned from witnessing creation.

Billed as Sydney's first multi-media event, "The Birth of Space," was seen on July 31, 1969, in the old Wentworth ballroom at the University of Sydney.

No SMH craft had been so far out before.

Clem and Sandy Gorman, publicists for Ceremony Productions, had predicted SMH-11 would witness among other things:

- The Fight to the Beginning between Superspace and Ego-Age for the Control of Space . . .
- The Sacrifice of the Lovely Aerial . . .
- The Frightening Chase in the Dark, and . . .
- The Happy Laughing



SYMONS

Orgy that You will Want to Join.

SMH-11 landed in a long black ballroom along with several other viewing bodies seated in a ring about a central, dimly lit space.

On one side astronaut

Symons was able to recognise the Foreday Rider Blues Band. Opposite them were shadowy figures operating spotlights and eerie sounds.

"All is quiet," the astronaut reported, his pulse rate reaching the customary 156. A few seconds later, he relayed back: "No, I can detect a primitive incantation out of the darkness."

The 12 black bodies making up the Australian Free Theatre Troupe spread themselves silently about the central space to chilling noises from the band.

For the next 30 minutes, Symons watched the bodies rise and then writhe in a cluster on the floor. The Foreday Riders became frenetic.

"The sensual movements are almost imperceptible," said the astronaut, who has been specially trained in close observation.

One of the bodies dropped out of the heap and groped its way to a cone of flashing Christmas tree lights.

When this primitive intelligence entered the cone, he was instantly transformed into a living, breathing, dancing person.

The person guided a second body to the metamorphosis tree, and they dragged another, and another, until all bodies danced in a happy ring to the electric pounding of the band.

PAPER WRAPS, TINY TOYS

For the rest of the "Birth," the 12 black bodies kept alternately writhing and dancing together.

At 2150 hours, the black bodies radiated in the darkness to all parts of the ballroom.

Screaming together, they dashed among the audience, who were trembling in the black shrill.

The bodies wrapped members of the audience in paper and then joyfully distributed tiny toys from the metamorphosis tree.

Not until then did astronaut Symons leave the safety of SMH-11. Mission control urged caution.

Crude TV pictures from the spaceship, showed the