

# LIGHT INDUSTRY

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Monday, November 22, 2010 at 7pm  
Light Industry at PARTICIPANT INC:  
*Standard Gauge + Hellzapoppin'*  
PARTICIPANT INC  
253 East Houston Street  
New York, New York



*Standard Gauge*  
Morgan Fisher, 16mm, 1984, 35 mins

A frame of frames, a piece of pieces, a length of lengths. Standard gauge on substandard; narrower, yes, but longer. An ECU that's an ELS. Disjecta membra; Hollywood anthologised. A kind of autobiography of its maker, a kind of history of the institution from whose shards it is composed, the commercial motion picture industry. A mutual interrogation between 35mm and 16mm, the gauge of Hollywood, and the gauge of the amateur and independent. - MF

*Hellzapoppin'*  
HC Potter, 16mm, 1941, 84 mins

Rarely shown in the U.S. these days, this 1941 film of the wildly deconstructive stage farce with Ole Olsen and Chic Johnson is still regarded as a classic in Europe, and it lives up to its reputation. The credit sequence establishes the wartime mood with its vision of hell as a munitions factory (where demons preside over the packaging of Canned Guy and Canned Gal), which is shortly revealed as a movie soundstage, the first of many metafictional gags. Very belatedly the movie gets around to telling a spare musical-comedy story (with swell numbers by Martha Raye and the jazz duo of Slim Gaillard and "Slam" Stewart, and some very acrobatic jitterbugging), but the main bill of fare is manic nonsense that almost makes the Marx Brothers look sober. - Jonathan Rosenbaum