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## Moveable Backdrop: From mere pseud to Mere Pseud ... or, it's about time you started thinking about the rerun which seems to be our lives

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# Moveable Backdrop

From mere pseud to *Mere Pseud*... or, it's about time you started thinking about the rerun which seems to be our lives.

Dr. Phil Dickinson

Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 11:00 am, 316 BTSU

*Mere Pseud*... purports to be the transcription of the early-1980s diary of a melancholic and angst-ridden youth from a lower-middle class family in the fictitious Yorkshire town of Easterby and lets us drift amid the daily detritus of an England dreaming its way through the clamor of Thatcherism, the Falklands War, the Miner's Strike and postpunk. All of this serves as the moveable backdrop for what is part social history, part prolonged and unintentional comedic pratfall. *Mere Pseud*... invokes the spectres of E.P. Thompson and The Young Ones, Joe Gormley and Genesis P. Orridge, The History Man and The Wicker Man, a ghostly cavalcade that even then was curiously antique, a time out of joint. The events in *Mere Pseud*... unspool in real time over the course of four-plus years of ordinary and not-so ordinary days, allowing each of these two worlds, ours and that of the mere pseud himself, to be haunted by the ghosts of the other's futures and pasts. Plus there's *Bullseye* on Sundays, revolutionary communism, drink, drugs, and non-league football.



Phil Dickinson teaches in the Department of English at BGSU. Originally from the UK, he moved to the States for one year in 1988... Between classes, Dr. Dickinson enjoys playing drums in various local bands, listening to the music of the whales, playing with his parrot, and following the occasionally spectacular but more often disappointing exploits of his hometown soccer team Bradford City A.F.C.