

10:43 AM CDT on Monday, April 27, 2009

By KRISTON CAPPS / Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News
Kriston Capps is a freelance writer in Washington, D.C.

'YTMND' at And/Or

"You're the man now, dog" – Sean Connery had no way of knowing that in uttering those tone-deaf, old-guy-who's-hip-to-it lines in the film *Finding Forrester* he would be doing anything worse than cashing in on a sappy script. But the Internet does not forgive, and the Internet does not forget.

One Max Goldberg picked up on the clip and isolated it in an audio file, adding it to a Web site that would eventually feature Connery's tiled mug along with the words "You're the Man Now, Dog," hovering over the page in a three-dimensional script that might well be from PowerPoint. That site, of course, was www.yourethemannowdog.com.

From that, an Internet phenomenon was born. It is both an homage to and a curated exhibition of this meme that is the root of "YTMND," an unlikely show at And/Or Gallery.

Gallery director Paul Slocum, himself a new-media artist, has assembled some of the funniest and oddest examples from the genre and displayed them on monitors throughout the gallery. It's an in-depth look at this user-driven aesthetic, full of references to everything from *Walker: Texas Ranger* to *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

What makes this show unusual is that it could be experienced, for the most part, in a solid afternoon of YouTube and Web browsing. Slocum's dedication to challenging the notion of what art, artist and object can mean extends to his own enterprise. The gallery's Web site even promises to link to all of the *YTMNDs* in the exhibition.

It's a bet that pays off. Isolated from the frenzy of message boards where these videos proliferate and presented instead in a gallery space, the *YTMNDs* are invested with special significance as archival objects. The show examines the finely tuned humor that somehow emerges from a vast, distributed community.

Through May 2 at And/Or Gallery, 4221 Bryan St., Suite B. Hours: 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and noon to 6 p.m. Thursdays through Saturday. 214-824-2442. www.andorgallery.com.



BEN TORRES/Special Contributor
Images of Sean Connery and Lindsay Lohan, part of the 'YTMND' exhibit.