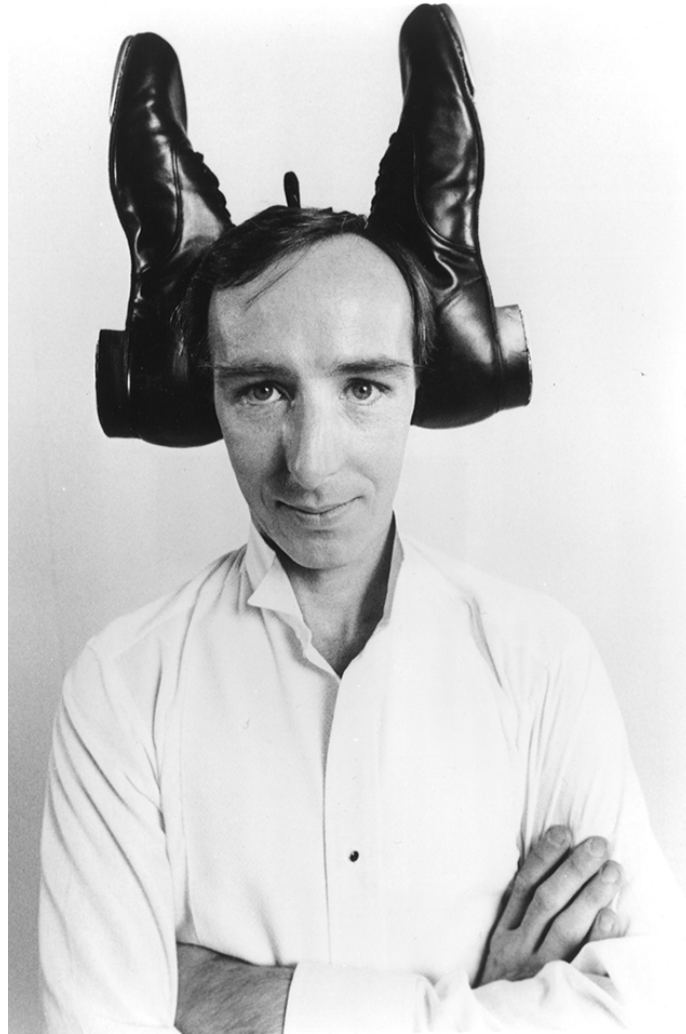


Fred



Fred went to the audiologist, Dr. Heebbers, complaining of ringing in his ears. The doctor dutifully hooked him up to the Urgway Spectral Sonometer, a device that measured hearing ability. But something was wrong. Try as he might, he couldn't get the headphones to fit over Fred's ears. It was then he noticed that his patient's earlobes were unusually extended and inverted. Dr. Heebbers recalled a similar case with a Mrs. Cauliflower of West Bloodtick in which he employed the Florsheim Adaptor, a device designed to accommodate oversized hear-organs. As he attached the apparatus to Fred's ears, Dr. Heebbers was aware of a faint ringing. He reached for the telephone, then realized that the sound was emanating from deep within Fred's ears! Hmm. Interesting. He turned on the Sonometer. Immediately, a jangling tintinnabulation poured out of the speaker. Fred looked to be in distress and attempted to cover his ears. The doctor could well appreciate his motivation, for the sound was alarmingly loud. In fact, the windowpanes in the clinic began to vibrate uncontrollably. Then, one after another, they burst – *pow, pow, pow ... pow!* Dr. Heebbers turned off the machine, but the strident ringing didn't cease. If anything, it increased in volume. Fred yanked off the Florsheim Adaptor and rubbed his ears. The pitch of the ringing wobbled accordingly. Somewhere, a dog barked. The doctor, too, felt like howling. Instead, he grabbed a tin of shoe polish off his desk, sank his fingers into the soft, black dye, and liberally lathered Fred's ears with it. Amazingly, the noise swiftly subsided, then vanished altogether. Some time later, an immensely relieved Fred left the audiologist's clinic cradling a year's supply of Kiwi brand Ear Care Product, while Dr. Heebbers dutifully began to clean up the glass shards.