

The Museum of Modern Art

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NO. 7
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FILMS BY JAMES BROUGHTON AT MUSEUM

A retrospective of the films of James Broughton, avant-garde filmmaker, poet and playwright, will be presented at The Museum of Modern Art beginning Thursday, January 24, at 8:00 P.M., when Broughton will attend a showing of his most recent works and answer questions from the audience.

James Broughton was born in Modesto, California, in 1913 and has lived most of his life in or near San Francisco. An early member of the San Francisco avant-garde, he participated during the forties in "Art in Cinema," Frank Stauffacher's historic program of film screenings at the San Francisco Museum of Art. In 1946 Broughton made his first film, "The Potted Psalm," in collaboration with Sidney Peterson, and completed his first solo film, "Mother's Day," two years later. Broughton's interest in what Larry Kardish, Assistant Curator of Film and programmer of this series, has called "the fantastic, the sublime, and the nonsensical" was apparent in these earliest works and has persisted throughout nearly three decades of poems, plays and films.

"Mother's Day" was followed by "Adventures of Jimmy" (1950), "Four in the Afternoon" (1951), "Loony Tom, the Happy Lover" (1951) and, in 1953, "The Pleasure Garden." The latter film, shot in the ruined gardens of London's Crystal Palace, was filmed in 35mm with a professional cast and was produced by Lindsay Anderson.

Broughton did not make another film until 1968 when, encouraged to return to filmmaking by the Royal Film Archive of Belgium, he completed "The Bed." A celebration of virtually everything that can happen on a bed, "The Bed" has been called by the filmmaker a "'horizontal prayer' of 'affirmative eroticism' ". Since then Broughton has made a film every year: "Nuptiae" (1969); "Dreamwood" (1970), his longest film, a modern-day Odyssey of a poet-hero who journeys to a strange, magical island; "The Golden Positions" (1971), a poetic celebration of the human body; "This Is It" (1972), a Zen poem which New York Times critic Roger Greenspun

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cited for "a kind of casual perfection in matching means and ends"; and "High Kukus" (1973).

P. Adams Sitney, co-director of Anthology Film Archives and long-time critic of the New American Cinema, has characterized Broughton's style as "urbane and witty with the persona of the naive, or the simpleton, or the child. Like the poems, the films record the basic rites of passage, the search for love, the primal relationships, with ironic insight: there are parents who are children, a rube who's really the artist, a loony wise man."

Broughton's films have been shown at countless festivals around the world and have won numerous international awards. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 1970-71 and was on the selection committee of Anthology Film Archives.

The schedule follows:

Thurs, Jan 24, 8:00	James Broughton will introduce this program: <u>Dreamwood</u> (1972, 46 min.), <u>This Is It</u> (1971, 10 min.), <u>High Kukus</u> (1973, 3 min.). This program recommended for adults only.
Sun, Jan 27, 5:30	<u>The Potted Psalm</u> (1946, 25 min., co-directed by Sidney Peterson), <u>Mother's Day</u> (1948, 20 min.), <u>Four in the Afternoon</u> (1951, 15 min.), <u>Adventures of Jimmy</u> (1950, 12 min.).
Mon, Jan 28, 2:00	<u>Loony Tom, the Happy Lover</u> (1951, 11 min.), <u>The Pleasure Garden</u> (1953, 38 min.), <u>The Potted Psalm</u> (1946, 25 min., co-directed by Sidney Peterson).
Mon, Jan 28, 5:30	<u>The Bed</u> (1968, 20 min.), <u>Nuptiae</u> (1969, 13 min.), <u>The Golden Positions</u> (1970, 32 min.).
Tues, Jan 29, 2:00	Same program as Monday, January 28, 5:30
Wed, Jan 30, 5:30	<u>Mother's Day</u> (1948, 20 min.), <u>Four in the Afternoon</u> (1951, 15 min.), <u>Adventures of Jimmy</u> (1950, 12 min.), <u>Loony Tom, the Happy Lover</u> (1951, 11 min.), <u>The Pleasure Garden</u> (1953, 38 min.).
Thurs, Jan 31, 5:30	Same program as Thursday, January 24, 8:00

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator, and Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N. Y. 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7296, -7295.

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