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The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



PRESS RELEASE NO. 53

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO PRESENT A WEEK OF ANIMATED FILMS
OCTOBER 23 - 28, 1980

The Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art will present a week-long program focusing on animated films, from October 23 to October 28, 1980. The program, announced by Adrienne Mancina, Curator of Film Exhibitions, will highlight: "The Best of Zagreb and Ottawa," a selection of films from this year's international animation festivals at Zagreb (Yugoslavia) and Ottawa (Canada); "A Survey of Soviet Animation from the 1970s," introduced by a special delegation from the U.S.S.R.; and the work of a pioneer of animation and trick film, Segundo de Chomon.

"The Best of Zagreb and Ottawa '80," including many of the prize-winning films, will be shown in four programs in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium. The difficulties of commercial distribution for short films have made it almost impossible to see such films in conventional theatrical release; this program is a unique opportunity to follow recent trends in animation from all over the world. The scope and quality of the program can be judged from the fact that there will be representative works from England (Bob Godfrey's INSTANT SEX, and Geoff Dunbar's interpretation of Alfred Jarry's theater classic UBU), Canada (Paul Driessen's ELBOWING, and Richard Condie's GETTING STARTED), Japan (Kihachiro Kawamoto's animated Bunraku film, THE HOUSE OF FLAME), Czechoslovakia (Jiri Brdečka's LOOOVE, and Bretislav Pojar's BOOM), Hungary (Ferenc Rofusz's THE BUG, and Tibor Hernadi's ANIMALIA IV), Yugoslavia (Joško Marušić's FISHEYE, and Nikola Majdak's THE LAST RAY OF SUNSHINE), and the United States (Faith Hubley's SKY DANCE, and Mike Jittlov's THE WIZARD OF SPEED AND TIME). The range of animation techniques in this program is broad, pointing out the variety inherent in this neglected genre.

Segundo de Chomon (1871-1929) is a rediscovered early master of the cinema. As an inventor, animator, cinematographer and director, he made hundreds of short films in Spain, France and Italy. Born in Spain, de Chomon was a newspaper cartoonist at the time of the first films of Louis Lumière. De Chomon's interest in the cinema was extensive, and he helped to develop techniques for color tinting, pixillation, and camera movement. In 1905, de Chomon created his first trickfilm using pixillation, EL HOTEL ELECTRICO, predating similar efforts by Emile Cohl by three years: this film may be the first film animated frame-by-frame with objects and live actors. In addition, his use of the close-up in that same year was several years ahead of similar developments in the work of D. W. Griffith. The rediscovery of Segundo de Chomon is a vital link to the earliest expressive inventions of the cinema. As an innovator, he was as prolific as Georges Méliès or Edwin S. Porter, though far less renowned; this program, organized by Louise Beaudet of the Cinéma-thèque Québécoise (Montreal), is an important introduction to his work.

Juri Norstein's TALE OF TALES was the winner of the Grand Prize at both the Zagreb and the Ottawa festivals, and this film will be part of a program devoted to animated films from the U.S.S.R., organized by Charles Samu. This program is the first complete survey of the extensive activity in cinematic animation which is going on in the U.S.S.R. Boris Stepancev, one of the leading animators from Moscow and the head of the A.S.I.F.A., U.S.S.R. (the International Federation of Animation), and Arnold Burovs, the head of the Puppet-Film Studio of Riga (Latvia), will be present to introduce this selective retrospective. This program has two sections: one is a selection of animated films from the studios of all of the individual Republics, such as Latvia, Georgia and the Ukraine; the other is a selection of animated films from the major studio in Moscow, Soyuzmultfilm, which is one of the largest animation studios in the world, a central training school employing over 500 craftsmen. The inventiveness of contemporary Soviet animation, as evidenced by the extraordinary prize-winner TALE OF TALES, is a testimony to the efforts in the U.S.S.R. to sustain a working tradition for this cinematic genre.

PRESS RELEASE NO. 53

PAGE 3

"The Best of Zagreb and Ottawa '80" will be presented at the Cinémathèque Québécoise (Montreal), the Art Institute of Chicago, Center Screen (Boston), as well as The Museum of Modern Art.

The film schedule is attached.

"THE BEST OF ZAGREB AND OTTAWA '80"

Thursday, October 23 at 2:30: Program #1

GETTING STARTED. Richard Condie. Canada.
O MARSCE A VLCIM HRADKU (MARYSKA AND THE WOLF'S LAIR). Vlasta Poppi-silova and Edgar Dutka. Czechoslovakia.
LAAASKA (LOOOVE). Jiri Brdečka. Czechoslovakia.
LES TROIS INVENTEURS (THE THREE INVENTORS). Michel Ocelot. France.
INSTANT SEX. Bob Godfrey. Great Britain.
DER FLUSS (THE RIVER). Katja Georgi. German Democratic Republic.
RIBLJE OKO (FISHEYE). Joško Marušić. Yugoslavia.
THE WIZARD OF SPEED AND TIME. Mike Jittlov. U.S.A.

Thursday, October 23 at 6:00: Program #2

ALTERNATIVA (ALTERNATIVE). Roumen Petkov. Bulgaria.
TE LAND, TER ZEE, EN IN DE LUCHT (ON LAND, AT SEA, AND IN THE AIR). Paul Driessen. The Netherlands.
OPENS WEDNESDAY. Barrie Nelson. U.S.A.
LA PLAGE (THE BEACH). Suzanne Gervais. Canada.
JEU DE COUDES (ELBOWING). Paul Driessen. Canada.
PREMIERS JOURS (FIRST DAYS). Clorinda Warny, Lina Gagnon and Suzanne Gervais. Canada.
UBU. Geoff Dunbar. Great Britain.
INTERIOR DESIGNS. Jane Aaron. U.S.A.
LEGACY. Will Vinton. U.S.A.
JESSE: THE FIRST YEAR. Al Jarnow. U.S.A.

Thursday, October 23 at 8:30: Program #3

THE SWEATER. Sheldon Cohen. Canada.
LIFE AND DEATH. Joost Roelofsz, Rogier Proper and D. du Pury. The Netherlands.
KATAKU (THE HOUSE OF FLAME). Kihachiro Kawamoto. Japan.
A BOGAR (THE BUG). Ferenc Rofusz. Hungary.
SKY DANCE. Faith Hubley. U.S.A.
BUM (BOOM). Bretislav Pojar. Czechoslovakia.
WHALE SONGS. Mary Beams. U.S.A.
CONFESSION OF A STARDREAMER. John Canemaker. U.S.A.

Friday, October 24 at 2:30: Program #4

A SUFI TALE. Gayle Thomas. Canada.
HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN THREE MINUTES FLAT. Michael Mills. Great Britain.
POSLEDNJI SUNČEV ZRAK (THE LAST RAY OF SUNSHINE). Nikola Majdak. Yugoslavia.
CRNA PTICA (THE BLACKBIRD). Aleksandar Marks and Vladimir Jutriša. Yugoslavia.
ANIMALIA IV: A MACSKA (ANIMALIA IV: THE CAT). Tibor Hernadi. Hungary.
LAUGH LINES. Zina Heczko and Franco Battista. Canada.
WHO IS RICHARD JAY SILVERTHORN, ANYWAY? R. J. Silverthorn. U.S.A.

Friday, October 24 at 2:30: Program #4 (continued)

ALOUETTE (CANADA VIGNETTE). Michèle Pauzé. Canada.

SMILE FOR AUNTIE. Gene Deitch. U.S.A.

MAN OF MIGHT CLIPS: FEET; PARADE; GROCERIES; PEP TALK. Janet Perlman.
Canada.

Each program will be preceded by the festival logos, designed by Zdenko Gasparovic (for Zagreb) and Alain Leduc (for Ottawa).

Sunday, October 26 at 2:30: a repeat of Program #4

Sunday, October 26 at 5:00: a repeat of Program #1

Monday, October 27 at NOON: a repeat of Program #2

Tuesday, October 28 at NOON: a repeat of Program #3

"REDISCOVERY: SEGUNDO DE CHOMON"

Friday, October 24 at 6:00 and Tuesday, October 28 at 2:30

EL HOTEL ELECTRICO (THE ELECTRIC HOTEL). 1905. Spain. Spanish titles.

LES KI RI KI. 1908. France.

LA POULE AUX OEUFS D'OR (THE GOOSE WITH THE GOLDEN EGGS). 1908. France.

LES VETEMENTS CASCADEURS (THE JUMPING CLOTHES). 1908. France.

LA VIE ET LA PASSION DE JESUS CHRIST (THE DEATH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST). 1908. France. English intertitles.

LA POURSUITE MOUVEMENTEE (THE LIVELY CHASE). 1909. France.

LA CUISINE MAGNETIQUE (THE MAGNETIC KITCHEN). 1909. France.

ALARDE EQUILIBRISTA (ACROBATS ON PARADE). 1910. Spain.

LA GUERRA E IL SOGNO DI MOMI (WAR AND MOMI'S DREAM). Excerpt. 1916.
Italy. Flash intertitles.

"A SURVEY OF SOVIET ANIMATION FROM THE 1970s"

Saturday, October 25 at 2:30

FILMS FROM SOYUZMULTFILM, MOSCOW

Saturday, October 25 at 5:00

FILMS FROM THE REPUBLICS

Monday, October 27 at 2:30

a repeat of Saturday, October 25 at 5:00

Monday, October 27 at 6:00

a repeat of Saturday, October 25 at 2:30

For further information, contact Adrienne Mancina, Curator, Film Exhibitions, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. (212) 956-4206.
