

The Museum of Modern Art

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LOTTE REINIGER TRIBUTE November 1-6

The silhouette animation of filmmaker Lotte Reiniger (1899-1981), whose interpretations of classic myths and fairy tales have delighted generations of children and adults, is the subject of an exhibition opening at The Museum of Modern Art on Saturday, November 1. The LOTTE REINIGER TRIBUTE includes such films as The Adventures of Prince Achmed (Germany, 1926), the cinema's first animated feature; Gallant Little Tailor (U.K., 1954), which was made for television and won First Prize at the 1955 Venice Film Festival; and two documentaries on Reiniger's work, John Isaacs's The Art of Lotte Reiniger (1970) and Felicity Field's Dancing Silhouettes (1983).

Lotte Reiniger created her figures and designs by cutting free-hand with scissors. The depth and delicate tones of the backgrounds, which were made out of tissue paper, were photographed on a horizontal glass plate lit from below. Different figures were made for close-ups and long shots, since the detail and silhouette in each case were subtly different.

With her husband Carl Koch, Lotte Reiniger pioneered the development of the animated film in Berlin in the early twenties. She went to England in 1934 and joined the G.P.O. Film Unit under John Grierson. After World War Two, she produced for television thirteen films based on traditional fairy tales. She was artist-in-residence at the National Film Board of Canada in the mid-seventies.

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Thirteen of Reiniger's short films were reissued in the early eighties by the Circulating Film Library of the Museum's Department of Film, which has also issued these and several other titles on videocassette.

The LOTTE REINIGER TRIBUTE will continue through Thursday, November 6, in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 (complete schedule below). The program has been organized by William Sloan, librarian in the Museum's Circulating Film Library.

Schedule

(All films screened in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2)

Saturday, November 1

2:30 p.m.: Gallant Little Tailor. 1954. 11 min./ The Frog Prince. 1954. 11 min./ Grasshopper and the Ant. 1954. 11 min./ Dancing Silhouettes. 1983. Felicity Field. 27 min.

5:30 p.m.: Cinderella. 1955. 11 min./ Aladdin. 1953. 14 min./ Puss in Boots. 1934. 11 min./ Galathea. 1935. 11 min./ Aucassin and Nicolette. 1975. 16 min.

Sunday, November 2

2:30 p.m.: Sleeping Beauty. 1954. 11 min./ The Caliph Stork. 1954. 11 min./ Snow White and Rose Red. 1953. 11 min./ Thumbelina. 1955. 11 min./ The Art of Lotte Reiniger. 1970. John Isaacs. 17 min.

5:30 p.m.: The Stolen Heart. 1934. 11 min./ The Adventures of Prince Achmed. 1926. 65 min.

Tuesday, November 4

3:00 p.m.: Gallant Little Tailor/ The Frog Prince/ Grasshopper and the Ant/ Dancing Silhouettes. See Saturday, November 1, 2:30.

6:30 p.m.: Cinderella/ Aladdin/ Puss in Boots/ Galathea/ Aucassin and Nicolette. See Saturday, November 1, 5:30.

Thursday, November 6

3:00 p.m.: Sleeping Beauty/ The Caliph Stork/ Snow White and Rose Red/ Thumbelina/ The Art of Lotte Reiniger. See Sunday, November 2, 2:30.

6:30 p.m.: The Stolen Heart/ The Adventures of Prince Achmed. See Saturday, November 2, 5:30.

ANIMATION

November 7-11

ANIMATION, a two-part exhibition comprised of "Best of Zagreb '86" and "The Joy of Movement," opens at The Museum of Modern Art on Friday, November 7. Recent animation from the seventh World Festival of Animated Film in Zagreb, Yugoslavia, as well as the retrospectives mounted there of the work of Canada's Norman McLaren and the Soviet Union's Andrei Khrzhanovsky, highlight "Best of Zagreb '86." Among the works in Programs I and II of "Best of Zagreb '86," which will be screened on November 7 and 8, are three films by Mr. Khrzhanovsky. Mr. McLaren's recently discovered Scherzo (1939) will be shown in the second of the two McLaren programs on November 11.

"The Joy of Movement" is a survey of recent work by students at the California Institute of Arts (CalArts). Jules Engel, the animator and professor who selected the films, will introduce the program on November 10.

ANIMATION continues through Tuesday, November 11, in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 (complete schedule below). The films in "Best of Zagreb '86" have been selected by Louise Beaudet of the Cinémathèque Québécoise; Charles Samu, director of intermission programming, Home Box Office; and Adrienne Mancina, curator in the Museum's Department of Film. "Best of Zagreb '86" has been organized with the cooperation of Borivoj Dvorniković, director of the World Festival of Animated Film; Jura Šaban, organizing director; and Maja Zaninović, assistant festival director.

Schedule

(All films screened in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2)

Friday, November 7

3:00 p.m.: "Best of Zagreb '86"- Program I. ca. 60 min.

6:30 p.m.: "Best of Zagreb '86"- Program II. ca. 60 min.

Saturday, November 8

2:30 p.m.: "Best of Zagreb '86"- Program II. ca. 60 min.

5:30 p.m.: "Best of Zagreb '86"- Program I. ca. 60 min.

Monday, November 10

3:00 and 6:30 p.m.: "The Joy of Movement" (animated works by CalArts students, 1978-85). Introduced by Jules Engel.

Tuesday, November 11

3:00 p.m.: "Best of Zagreb '86"- Norman McLaren tribute: Mail Early. 1941./ Canon. 1964./ A Little Phantasy on a Nineteenth Century Painting. 1946./ Fiddle De Dee. 1947./ Mosaic. 1965./ Dots. 1940./ Five for Four. 1942./ Pas De Deux. 1965. 46 min.

5:30 p.m.: "Best of Zagreb '86"- Norman McLaren tribute: Scherzo. 1939./ Neighbors. 1952./ Blinkity Blank. 1952./ Keep Your Mouth Shut. 1944./ Begone Dull Care. 1949./ Dollar Dance. 1943./ V for Victory. 1941./ Alouette. 1944./ A Chairy Tale. 1957. 46 min.

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For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.