

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
September 1987

CINEPROBE BEGINS TWENTIETH SEASON AT MoMA WITH PREMIERE OF ANDREW NOREN'S THE LIGHTED FIELD OCTOBER 5

Andrew Noren, Su Friedrich, and animators David Ehrlich and Larry Jordan are among the independent and avant-garde filmmakers to appear at The Museum of Modern Art during the twentieth season of CINEPROBE. This ongoing series, generally held on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2, is a forum that focuses on experimental works as well as on personal and unusual narratives.

For the opening program of the fall/winter season, on Monday, October 5, at 6:30 p.m., Mr. Noren will present the premiere of The Lighted Field (1987), Part V of his ongoing The Adventures of the Exquisite Corpse. The filmmaker participated in CINEPROBE in 1971 and 1976 and was also the subject of a Department of Film retrospective in 1981. The Lighted Field contains some found footage and is a silent, black-and-white extension of the modulation of filmic light and texture in Mr. Noren's previous films.

Ms. Friedrich, whose The Ties that Bind (1986) was screened in the 1986 NEW DIRECTORS/NEW FILMS program, will appear on Monday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m., with the New York premiere of Damned If You Don't (1987). The film

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combines narrative and experimental elements and draws on such historical elements as the trial of a seventeenth century abbess accused of having an affair with another nun. Ms. Friedrich begins with footage from Powell and Pressburger's Black Narcissus (1946) and continues with an acted narrative of a nun expressing her sexual desire and pleasure.

On Thursday, October 29, at 3:00 and 6:30 p.m., Pierre Sauvage will present Weapons of the Spirit (1986). This program is cosponsored by CINEPROBE and WHAT'S HAPPENING?, the ongoing series of topical social and political films. Weapons of the Spirit relates the true story of how the 5,000 villagers of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France, hid 5,000 Jews from the occupying German forces and collaborationist Vichy regime. Mr. Sauvage was himself a Jewish child born in the area of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon during the Occupation. Admission to the Museum on Thursdays is on a pay-what-you-wish basis after 5:00 p.m.

The Museum's Animation Week will include two CINEPROBE appearances, David Ehrlich on Monday, November 9, at 6:30 p.m., and Larry Jordan on Tuesday, November 10, at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Ehrlich will present short films he made between 1976 and 1987, as well as Academy Leader Variations (1987), a collaborative effort which won the Special Jury Prize for Animated Short at this year's Cannes Film Festival. His own animation is inspired by classical sources in both the visual arts and music. Mr. Ehrlich will also screen three short films made by children who have studied in his animation workshops.

On the following evening, animator Jordan will present the New York premiere of his feature Sophie's Place (1986). Mr. Jordan, who has been making animated films since 1954, was a CINEPROBE participant in 1972. Sophie's Place revolves around scenes inside and outside of Istanbul's Saint Sophia Mosque. Mr. Jordan refers to the film as an "alchemical autobiography." He chose not to edit the work, but rather to let the ideas flow like dream images in the order that they appeared before the camera.

Christoph Janetzko, a young German filmmaker who recently lived in Lower Manhattan before moving to West Berlin, will present the premiere of ON LUDLOW in blau (1987) on Monday, November 23, at 6:30 p.m. The program also includes the award-winning short films SN (1984), S1 (1985), and M (1986). Mr. Janetzko has created films which are among the most poetic examples of Aesthetic Formalism.

Hungarian avant-garde filmmaker András Szirtes will appear on Monday, November 30, at 6:30 p.m., with Lenz (1986). Produced by Budapest's Béla Balázs Studio, this feature is a free and modern interpretation of Georg Büchner's novel. In Lenz, Szirtes plays a scientist who attains a very curious state after exposure to radiation.

On December 7, at 6:30 p.m., Alan Berliner will present The Family Album (1986). This "experimental documentary" is an unscripted, intimate portrait of American family life. Mr. Berliner borrows from a vast collection of rare 16mm home movies from the twenties through the fifties, structuring the images of celebration and struggle from birth to death into a collage form. The

soundtrack consists of oral history interviews and a wide variety of family audio recordings.

Avant-garde playwright, filmmaker, video artist, and sculptor Stuart Sherman will appear on Monday, January 11, 1988, at 6:30 p.m., with short films made between 1978 and 1987. Most of these ironic and whimsical works were created to accompany his live theater pieces. Mr. Sherman constructs in all of his work associations between the banal and the sublime.

On Monday, January 25, at 6:30 p.m., Corinne Cantrill of Melbourne, Australia, will present the autobiographical In This Life's Body (1984). She and Arthur Cantrill appeared at a CINEPROBE in 1974 with a program of short films on which they have collaborated since 1963. They have continued to make films and to publish Cantrill's Filmnotes, a critical journal devoted to the work of independent filmmakers. Ms. Cantrill's In This Life's Body is as unconventional as the independent life it describes.

Available tickets for CINEPROBE are free after 6:00 p.m. on the evening of each program. The series is programmed by Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancina, curators, and Jytte Jensen, curatorial assistant, in the Museum's Department of Film.

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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.