

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
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## WHAT'S HAPPENING? WINTER/SPRING SEASON BEGINS FEBRUARY 7, 1991

WHAT'S HAPPENING?, The Museum of Modern Art's ongoing series of independently made films on social and political issues, begins its winter/spring 1991 season on February 7. The schedule of films, shown on Thursdays at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., is as follows:

### FEBRUARY 7

Lasse Naukkarinen  
*No Comments* (1984)

In this documentary, Lasse Naukkarinen explores aspects of modern life in Finland. Through interviews with a variety of people with different lifestyles, he attempts to illustrate the fragmented nature of today's world. In revealing the extraordinary number of subcultures that coexist within a small country, he also suggests how little genuine choice people really have in life.

### *The First Day of School* (1990)

This film portrays the first day of school in a small Finnish village, the same school that the filmmaker himself attended forty years earlier. Shot in one day, the film follows six children who have various outlooks.

### FEBRUARY 14

Kaisa Rastimo  
*Slaves of the System* (1990)

Kaisa Rastimo has created an impressionistic documentary of the lives of two twenty-five-year-old punk rockers.

Markku Honkanen and Pekka Turunen  
*And That's a Fact* (1989)

Due to a factory closing in a Finnish village near the Russian border, many townspeople lost their jobs. During a six-month period, this film records how two young unemployed men spent their free time, and how they related to their friends, families, and each other.

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**FEBRUARY 21**  
**Brian Beker**  
***Lines of Fire* (1990)**

Shot in rebel-held territories in Burma, *Lines of Fire* takes a close look at the civil war between Burma's rural population and the military dictatorship of General Ne Win. The filmmaker interviewed exiled students and guerrilla soldiers, as well as the notorious opium overlord Khun Sa, whose prosperous heroin business is camouflaged by the war. The film also addresses the devastating repercussions the United States's drug policy has had on this war-torn country.

**FEBRUARY 28**  
**Mary Katzke**  
***Sea of Oil* (1990)**

Mary Katzke, a lawyer and film student, investigates the social and emotional impact of the Exxon oil spill on the town of Valdez, Alaska. Filmed in August 1989 and January 1990, *Sea of Oil* includes interviews with Valdez residents, the former Mayor John Devens, Exxon officials, and a spokesman from the State Department of Environmental Conservation. The soundtrack is by Philip Glass.

**Charlotte Cerf and Allen Moore**  
***Black Water* (1990)**

This film observes how the fishing grounds of the people of Sao Braz in Bahia, Brazil, are threatened by industrial water pollution from a nearby paper mill. The residents express their feelings of powerlessness as they witness the loss of their livelihood.

**APRIL 4**  
**Pankaj Butalia**  
***When Hamlet Came to Mizoram* (1989)**

The people of Mizoram, a small state in northeastern India, have been profoundly influenced by and have developed a strange relationship to a local production of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. This film links the actors, the characters they play, and the members of Mizo society. The soundtrack incorporates American and Indian music with dialogue from the production.

**APRIL 11**  
**Will Be Televised: Video Documents From Asia (1989)**

This program features excerpts from a five-part video series compiled from different regions of Asia. The series was coordinated by Shu Lea Cheang, VideoAsia.

3:00 p.m.

**One Korea, One People Collective**

***Korea: Until Daybreak***

This video focuses on ten years of street riots in South Korea, and is narrated by the students, farmers, and workers who have supported the Korean Reunification movement. Beginning with the Kwang-ju people's uprising and suppression in 1980, the documentary follows office workers' strikes, farmers' protests, and border battles.

**Philippines Educational Theater Association**

***The Philippines: A Legacy of Violence***

From the Marcos era, the Aquino revolution, and through the recurring attempts at a *coup d'état* in recent years, the Philippine people have created underground videos, some of which are broadcast on television. Included in this show are selections from a weekly comedy program that parodies and satirizes national issues.

6:00 p.m.

**Xia Jun**

***China: Presenting "River Elegy"***

Xia Jun's video excerpts a six-part television series that reviews China's past, present, and future, seeking to demystify its cultural icons, such as the Great Wall and Chairman Mao. After the June 1989 student uprising, the series was banned, and its scriptwriter became one of the most wanted intellectuals in China.

**The Green Team**

**Taiwan: The Generation After Martial Law**

Since martial law in Taiwan was lifted in 1987, alternative film and videomakers have joined with farmers, workers, and students to press for social and political change. This program illustrates how artists have created highly sophisticated videos that are successfully distributed through the mail, on the streets, and via pirate television transmissions.

**APRIL 18**

**Zozimo Bulbul**

***Abolicao* (1988)**

One hundred years have passed since slavery was abolished in Brazil, yet many questions remain unanswered regarding the events of that time. This film seeks to examine Brazil's heritage of slavery and racism through drawings, photographs, testimonies, and interviews.

APRIL 25

Jon Silver

*Watsonville on Strike* (1989)

In Watsonville, California, 4,000 Mexican-American workers produce nearly forty percent of the nation's frozen foods. This film documents an eighteen-month strike, led largely by women, which paralyzed this factory town located at the northern tip of California's Salinas Valley.

MAY 2

Maria De Luca

*Green Streets* (1989)

Maria De Luca's film chronicles a spontaneous movement of New York City neighbors who joined together to transform city wastelands into thriving vegetable and flower gardens. These gardens have become community gathering places, where residents can overcome their differences and contend with such pressing issues as the environment, racism, housing, and drugs.

MAY 9

Eric Stange

*Children of the Left: A Story About Family and Politics in Cold War America* (1989)

In Eric Stange's historical chronicle, five adults recall their years as children of American Communist Party members. Vintage film footage, family photographs, propaganda clips, and maps illustrate the narrator's history of the Communist Party. The film also points out that many of these children came of age during and participated in the events of the politically turbulent 1960s.

Daniel Keller, Charles Light, Rob Okun

*Unknown Secrets: Art and the Rosenberg Era* (1990)

*Unknown Secrets* is a portrait of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were tried and subsequently executed as Communist spies in 1953. Featuring dramatic readings by award-winning actors, the story is told through the images and words of artists and writers and archival footage that reveals the climate of the times.

MAY 16

Clare Gartrell Davis

*Encounters with the Truth* (1990)

Clare Gartrell Davis's film demonstrates how Rajmohan Gandhi--author, journalist, member of the Indian Parliament, and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi--is working to apply his grandfather's methods in a crusade for a strong, united India.

**Selwyn Jacob**  
***The Saint From North Battleford (1989)***

Selwyn Jacob's profile of Rueben Mayes, a black football player from the New Orleans Saints, reveals a story of black migration and history. In 1910, the Mayes family had migrated from Oklahoma to Saskatchewan, Canada. Nearly eight decades later, Rueben Mayes returned to the United States and became a star of the National Football League.

**MAY 23**  
**Marlon Riggs**  
***Tongues Untied (1989)***

This video by California-based director and performer Marlon Riggs portrays the black homosexual experience. Using personal testimony, dance, poetry, and rap, Riggs explores identity and cultural stereotypes and confronts the power of homophobia and racism.

**MAY 30**  
**Matthew Westfall**  
***On Borrowed Land (1990)***

Matthew Westfall's film explores the forces that have shaped a sprawling community of squatters along Manila Bay in the Philippines. This "city within a city" has become a source of tension between the squatters, the Aquino government, and land developers.

**JUNE 6**  
**Josephine Hayes Dean**  
***The Rebuilding of Mascot Flats (1990)***

Josephine Hayes Dean's film documents a homesteading project on New York's Lower East Side. It focuses on the conflicts, struggles, and successes of a Christian organization from Georgia that supports the project and the area's homeless population as they work cooperatively to transform an abandoned tenement named Mascot Flats into low-income cooperatives.

**JUNE 13**  
**Oren Rudavsky and Yale Strom**  
***At the Crossroads: Jews in Eastern Europe Today (1990)***

This film looks at the lives and identities of Jewish people living in Eastern Europe today. Filmed in cities, towns, and traditional villages in Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, the film focuses on Jewish folk music as a common language and a key to learning more about contemporary Jewish culture.

**JUNE 20****Elaine Velazquez*****Moving Mountains* (1990)**

Since the end of the Vietnam War, thousands of Southeast Asian refugees have made America their home. Elaine Velazquez's intimate portrait of the Mien tribe contrasts its former living conditions in the hills of Laos with its present life in the United States. Caught between two worlds, the Mien relate their experience of acculturation.

**JUNE 27****Ellen Spiro*****DiAna's Hair Ego: AIDS Info Up Front* (1990)**

Ellen Spiro's videotape portrays a South Carolinian woman who makes videos on AIDS prevention and shows them in her beauty parlor. Motivated by the incidence of AIDS in her community, DiAna DiAna began to tape interviews with AIDS-afflicted men and women and with experts who offer advice on prevention of the disease.

**Joe Berlinger*****Outrageous Taxi Stories* (1989)**

This collection of nine stories that took place in New York City taxis ranges from the ridiculous to the bizarre. Each tale is augmented by unusual photographs, that were taken during a two-year period by a former New York City cab driver.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? is organized by William Sloan, librarian, Circulating Film Library, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art. Tickets are included with Museum admission, which is on a pay-what-you-wish basis after 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.