

The Museum of Modern Art

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FAF AT 15: FILM ARTS FOUNDATION, SAN FRANCISCO

June 7 - July 7, 1991

An exhibition honoring the fifteenth anniversary of San Francisco's Film Arts Foundation, a nonprofit organization assisting independent film and video artists, opens at The Museum of Modern Art on June 7, 1991. **FAF AT 15: FILM ARTS FOUNDATION, SAN FRANCISCO** comprises twenty-five programs spanning the diversity of work produced with the help of FAF or in other ways associated with the organization. These include over eighty features, documentaries, experimental and avant-garde shorts, and animation. The exhibition continues through July 7.

FAF AT 15 features the New York premiere of *Isadora Duncan: Movement from the Soul* (1988) in the opening night program on June 7 at 6:00 p.m. Daniel Geller and Dayna Goldfine's film on the life and artistic development of the controversial modern dance choreographer includes twelve reconstructed dances performed by third and fourth-generation Duncan dancers. Julie Harris provides the voice of Isadora Duncan.

Other New York premieres include Jack Farrell's *Life in the Time of the Roosevelts* (1990), a portrait of a small town in the Catskill Mountains in the 1920s and 1930s incorporating home movies from the era and family photographs from the 1960s; Daniel Keller and Joe McDonald's *Vietnam Experience* (1987), a montage of the war with archival footage and the music of Country Joe

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McDonald; and Scott Crocker and Toshiaki Ozawa's *Boneshop of the Heart: Folk Offerings from the American South* (1990), conversations with five contemporary artists. Also showing are Irving Saraf and Allie Light's *In the Shadow of the Stars* (1990), a behind-the-scenes opera documentary, and Trinh T. Minh-ha's *Naked Spaces: Living is Round* (1985), an epic look at African culture.

A number of programs in the exhibition are devoted to found-footage films, animation, and a tribute to FAF founder and filmmaker Scott Bartlett. Other veteran directors represented in the exhibition are James Broughton, Bruce Conner, Barbara Hammer, George Kuchar, and Curt McDowell.

FAF films, whether dealing with world events, local issues, or personal concerns, exhibit a social awareness and personal engagement that is particularly associated with filmmaking in Northern California. Among the films presented in the series, several are now classics of American independent cinema: Robert Epstein and Richard Schmiechen's *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984) and Tina DiFelicianantonio's *Living with AIDS* (1986), both of which received Academy Awards; Judy Irving, Chris Beaver, and Ruth Landy's *Dark Circle* (1982), an Emmy Award winner; and Susana Muñoz and Lourdes Portillo's *Las Madres: The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo* (1985).

Founded in 1976 by a handful of filmmakers, FAF now services close to 2,000 members who work in all genres and styles. Over 100 films and videos, including five Academy Award nominees, were completed with the help of FAF's sponsorship as a nonprofit fiscal agent since 1980. Aiding the independent in raising money for the production and distribution of film and videotape, FAF has also awarded eighty-seven grants to Bay Area artists since 1984. It

offers independent film and videomakers such production resources as low-cost editing facilities, camera rentals, and optical printers, and such support services as a newsletter, seminars, and a regional film and video festival.

FAF AT 15: FILM ARTS FOUNDATION, SAN FRANCISCO has been organized by Robert Hawk, FAF festival director and exhibition coordinator, and Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

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For further information or film stills for the exhibition, contact Barbara Marshall, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

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