

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
September 1991

WHAT'S HAPPENING? FALL/WINTER SEASON BEGINS OCTOBER 10, 1991

WHAT'S HAPPENING?, The Museum of Modern Art's ongoing series of independently made films and videos on social and political issues, begins its fall/winter 1991 season on October 10. The schedule of films, shown on Thursdays at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., is as follows:

OCTOBER 10
Lilias Fraser
Women of the Iron Frontier (1990)

Filmed in the remote Pilbara region of Western Australia, this three-part work reveals the struggle of women who are trying to create a new life for themselves in the hostile environment of outback mining towns. It also addresses the displacement of local Aborigines, whose tribal land was taken away when the mines were discovered.

OCTOBER 17
Sylvia Hamilton and Claire Prieto
Black Mother, Black Daughter (1989)

This moving testament to the Black women of Nova Scotia shows how they have struggled for over 200 years to create and maintain a home and community. The women speak candidly about their lives and the discrimination they have endured and offer an eloquent tribute to their mothers.

Claire Prieto
Older Stronger Wiser (1989)

This film focuses on five Black women in Canada who speak compellingly of what life was like for them from the 1920s through the 1950s. It documents their legacy of hard work and optimism in the face of adversity.

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OCTOBER 24 AND 27

David Perlov
***Diary* (1988)**

This autobiography of David Perlov, a native of Brazil, details his life in Israel from 1973 to 1983. In the tradition of Proust, *Diary* examines the filmmaker's family, work, roots, and Jewishness. NOTE: This film is 315 minutes long. On October 24 it is shown in two parts at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., with a half-hour break. It is repeated on October 27 at 1:00 p.m., without a break.

OCTOBER 31

Xiao-Yen Wang
***The Blank Point* (1990)**

This video by a woman from mainland China is a personal view of transsexualism in the United States, a phenomenon virtually unknown in the filmmaker's native country. It focuses on two male-to-female and one female-to-male transsexuals, who talk about their psychological and physical changes.

NOVEMBER 7

Francine E. Zuckerman and Roushell N. Goldstein
***Half the Kingdom* (1989)**

Seven women from Canada, the United States, and Israel engage in a process of regarding their Jewish heritage from a feminist perspective. They struggle to reclaim a role for themselves in Jewish life and to rediscover rituals and stories that had been forgotten through the centuries.

NOVEMBER 14

Prem Kalliat
***Jareena: Portrait of a Hijda* (1990)**

This video explores the life of a transsexual and her community in the south Indian city of Bangalore. It provides a unique insight into the lifestyle of Hijdas, a secret society of eunuchs who have thrived in India for centuries. Jareena is recognized as and accorded the status of a woman.

Arlette Girardot and Michel Kania
***Diamond Market: The World of Iqbal Hussain* (1990)**

Iqbal Hussain, a renowned painter in Pakistan, is the son of a prostitute, who paints the underworld of prostitution with a poignant and realistic touch. In this film, he tells the story of a Lahore community whose women have been dancers and prostitutes for generations.

NOVEMBER 21

Kyle Kibbe

100 N.Y., N.Y. 1989 (1990)

An experimental documentary of portraits of 100 homeless people in New York offers just as many reactions to a tragic social situation.

Susana Aiken and Carlos Aparicio

The Salt Mines (1990)

This powerful video profiles a group of homeless people, mostly Latino transvestites, who live in an isolated area along New York's Hudson River amid out-of-service sanitation trucks. Their stories of survival and hope are told with humor and compassion.

DECEMBER 5

Alan Adelson and Kathryn Taverna

Lodz Ghetto (1989)

This film chronicles the wartime history of the Lodz Ghetto in Poland, where 200,000 Jews labored for the Nazis before being transported to death camps. It comprises photographs taken by people in the ghetto, an unknown German photographer's color slides, six minutes of a Nazi film, and original footage of the ghetto today. The script is taken from writings left behind by the ghetto's inhabitants and is narrated by Jerzy Kosinski, Theodore Bikel, and David Warrilow, among others.

DECEMBER 12

Walter Brock

A Season in Hell (1990)

This documentary focuses on a rural Kentucky family's struggle with a young woman's anorexia and bulimia. Shot over a three-year period, the videotape is composed of personal narrative.

DECEMBER 19

Susan Kalish, Yasha Aginsky, John Knoop

Eritrea (1990)

For nearly thirty years, the Eritrean people of northern Ethiopia have been engaged in a bitter war with the occupying forces of the Ethiopian government. Now the Eritreans face independence and the task of rebuilding their destroyed nation. This film explores the Eritrean history and the relationship between the war and the famines that have ravaged northern Ethiopia.

Daniele Lacourse

The Forbidden Land (1990)

The history of the conflict between the Eritreans and Ethiopians is told.

DECEMBER 26**Pamela Beere Briggs*****Funny Ladies: A Portrait of Women Cartoonists* (1991)**

This film features four of America's most popular women cartoonists: Dale Messick, creator of *Brenda Starr*, one of the earliest syndicated cartoon strips by a woman; Cathy Guisewite, who originated the contemporary comic strip *Cathy*; Nicole Hollander, whose *Sylvia* is the only daily comic strip in self-syndication; and Lynda Barry, the creator of the weekly strip *Ernie Pook's Comeek*. Actress Jean Stapleton is narrator of a prologue presenting a visual history of comic strips made by women between 1900 and 1940.

Lori J. Horsley***Hulls & Hulks in the Tide of Time: A Portrait of John A. Noble* (1990)**

The end of the age of sailing ships as depicted in the lithographs of John A. Noble is explored in this film.

JANUARY 2**Bonnie Burt*****Trees Cry for Rain: A Sephardic Journey* (1989)**

This video explores the life of Rachel Amado Bortnick, a Sephardic Jew and one of the last generation of native speakers of Ladino or Judeo-Spanish. Through songs, photographs, cooking, and stories, she paints a vivid picture of Jewish life and customs in Turkey, where Sephardic Jews were exiled after their expulsion from Spain in 1492.

Mark Freeman***The Yidische Gauchos* (1990)**

A little-known story is brought to light in this film about Jews who escaped from Eastern Europe and settled in the Argentine pampas. At the end of the nineteenth century, millions of Jews fled from persecution and Russian pogroms. Many went to Argentina and, with the help of the Jewish Colonization Association, became ranchers and farmers.

JANUARY 9**Julie Sperling and Douglas Freilich*****Dying to Please: The Dolphin Dilemma* (1989)**

The human/dolphin swim programs in the Florida Keys is investigated, as well as the appropriate use of marine mammals in captivity. Although the programs are considered educational, the filmmakers question where education ends and exploitation begins. The film is narrated by Michael Landon.

JANUARY 16
Mimi Pickering and Anne Johnson
***Chemical Valley* (1991)**

Institute, West Virginia, is the site of one of the largest chemical manufacturing plants in the United States, including the deadly chemical that killed and disabled thousands of people in Bhopal, India. On the heels of that disaster, the film documents the efforts of the citizens to make socially accountable an industry that has all too often forced communities to choose between safety and jobs.

JANUARY 23
Dan Jelesco
***The Damned Dynasty* (1990)**

This video was shot in Romania in January 1990, immediately following the bloody revolution that ended the Ceausescu dictatorship. Comprising five chapters, it attempts to analyze and synthesize the events through interviews and documentary footage.

JANUARY 30
Jon Alpert, Maryann DeLeo, Quan Nguyen
***Viet Nam 1990* (1990)**

As the Vietnam War was ending, a South Vietnamese army officer put his pregnant wife on the last plane leaving Saigon. She arrived in the United States, had a daughter, and did not see her husband for fifteen years. This video tells their story and also explores the ramifications of the war on families in both countries.

Kaz Takeuchi
***Shimon Fingerprint* (1990)**

The filmmaker explores the Korean minority living in Japan and their continuing problems with racism.

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For further information or film stills, contact Barbara Marshall, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.