

The Museum of Modern Art

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The Museum of Modern Art's Department of Film announced today three additional films that will be included in the program of NEW CINEMA: AN INTERNATIONAL SELECTION at the Museum from January 9 through 20: THE REVOLUTIONARY MAN from Canada, MAN IS NOT A BIRD from Yugoslavia, and UNRECONCILED from West Germany.

THE REVOLUTIONARY MAN was directed, written and produced by Jean-Pierre Lefebvre in 1965. The film was shot in a wintry, isolated area where a party of young people led by a "chief" is militantly and morally trained. Disorder is brought by the arrival of a girl with whom the "chief" falls in love. Attempts to break the rules of the Community are punished by the "chief" -- a young boy is shot, two others forced to duel, the girl's husband "persuaded" to commit suicide. The surviving "soldiers" receive an order to shoot one another. Only the girl survives.

Jean-Pierre Lefebvre says "I made the film against the audience....If it were essential in my eyes that the film be plastically beautiful, it was in large part to make glaringly obvious the intentional awkwardness of the dialogue, the false tone of the characters, the awkwardness of their gestures, their attitudes and their ideas. When you look at a snow storm from inside a warm house, it is beautiful; if you go out, the storm remains beautiful in itself, but your emotions are transformed. What I wanted to do was to show at the same time that winter is beautiful and disgusting, and that our situation is similar to this. I wanted THE REVOLUTIONARY MAN to be a fuse and the spectator to be the bomb."

THE REVOLUTIONARY MAN, Mr. Lefebvre's first feature film, is black and white. The film, in French with no English subtitles, is accompanied by folkloristic music.

Jean-Pierre Lefebvre was born in Canada in 1941. Since 1961 he has been the editor of the Canadian film magazine Objectif. He has published stories in commercial magazines and a collection of poems. Prior to THE REVOLUTIONARY MAN, he made three short films.

MAN IS NOT A BIRD, written and directed by Dusan Makavejev in 1966, is in black and white and has English subtitles. Michel Delahaye, in Cahiers du Cinema, writes
(more)

"MAN IS NOT A BIRD is a disturbing message of youth and sincerity, of a young man who wants to say everything at once, and to say it with outcries as well as with laughter. What he wants to say is that it is somewhat forgotten that a man must be accepted and loved for what he is: just a man, and not a bird. One must respect human nature, and the nature of things; and one risks disaster by trying to change everything at all costs."

Dusan Makavejev, born in Belgrade in 1932, is one of the most active of the younger generation of film critics. Between 1955 and 1958, at the Belgrade Cine Club, one of the centers of the Yugoslav avant-garde film, he made several amateur films. He made thirteen documentaries before making his feature film debut in 1966 with MAN IS NOT A BIRD.

UNRECONCILED, made between 1964 and 1965, was directed by Jean-Marie Straub. The black and white film, based on the novel Billard um halbzehn by H. Boll, has English subtitles.

Jean-Claude Biette in Cahiers du Cinema says "The risk of UNRECONCILED...is to span a half-century in sixty minutes, to show ten characters, to mention about twenty more, to agitate a whole nation, to allude to both the First and Second World Wars. Most of the facts of the two wars were known...but it remained, so the film seems to say -- to make the official statement on the era through the scars left on the individual and in order to avoid all dissipation...to limit oneself to one family.... Speaking without fear and without Manicheanism, also without illusion of the survival of 1945, UNRECONCILED...which employs the calmest dialogues, where the conflicts are invisible, is an interiorisation of acts, passions, and even of emotions where only narrations remain, resums of past life."

Jean-Marie Straub was born in Metz, France, in 1933. In 1954 he went to Paris where he worked as an assistant to Abel Gance, Jean Renoir, Jacques Rivette, Robert Bresson and Alexandre Astruc, until 1958 when he settled in West Germany. He made one short before making UNRECONCILED.

NEW CINEMA: AN INTERNATIONAL SELECTION, eleven feature films selected by the Museum's Department of Film in collaboration with the Committee for New Cinema, (more)

also will include BLACK GOD AND WHITE DEVIL from Brazil, SILENCE HAS NO WINGS from Japan, JAG ("I") from Sweden and selections from France, Italy, Mexico and the United States, which will be announced later in December.

A symposium entitled "Is There a New Cinema?" will be held at the Museum on Friday, January 20, at 8:30 p.m. Willard Van Dyke, Director of the Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, will moderate. Panel members will be Emile de Antonio, film-maker; Shirley Clarke, film-maker; Jonas Mekas, film-maker and critic; Lino Micciché, Italian film-maker and critic; Annette Michelson, film and art critic; and Amos Vogel, Director of the Film Department, Lincoln Center. Tickets are available at the Museum for \$2; \$1.50 to students and Museum members.

Stills and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Circle 5-8900.