

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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WHAT'S HAPPENING? PROVOCATIVE FILM SERIES CO-SPONSORED BY LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

"What's Happening?", a weekly film series co-sponsored by The Museum of Modern Art and the Donnell Library Center of The New York Public Library, resumes on October 2 its presentation of movies examining diverse social and political issues. The series, now beginning its fourth season, reflects the desire of both sponsoring institutions to offer films, at times polemical or opinionated, that do not as a rule receive theatrical or television distribution. William Sloan, Film Librarian of The New York Public Library, is Program Director of "What's Happening?" and his selections are made from the wide range of subjects to which committed filmmakers, social/political documentarists, address themselves on film today.

Swain Wolfe of Missoula, Montana, has contributed to the initial program. His film, titled "The Terrible News," deals with strip mining in that town and in the state of Montana, where it was made. Described as "social-biological realism" by the regional filmmaker, it is an attempt to impress upon society the necessity of redefining our sense of reality in order to survive the plague of pollution. "The cycles of nature do not belong to us; we belong to them," according to this film, which points out that "isolation is an illusion."

From another part of the world comes a problem that derives from an ancient society and raises the question of women's liberation in the Middle East. "Behind the Veil," made in 1972 by Eve Arnold, still photographer, shows the traditional celebrations surrounding the wedding of a prince of Dubai. It suggests by contrast that liberation is coming to the women of the Trucial States, who are becoming active in economic affairs in these oil-rich and gold-trading lands on the Persian Gulf.

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Admission to the showings at the Donnell Library (20 West 53 Street) Tuesdays at noon is free; admission to the films as well as to the Museum on Wednesdays is on a pay-what-you-wish basis. "What's Happening?" is one of several ongoing weekly programs initiated by the Museum. Among the others are "Cineprobe," featuring films and appearances by independent filmmakers, and "Wednesdays-at-Noon," a weekly assortment of short films both old and new.

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Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Special Projects
Coordinator, and Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information,
The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 Street, New York, NY 10019.
Phone: (212) 956-7296.
