

The Museum of Modern Art

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

63
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FILM ON FIRST ALI-FRAZIER FIGHT TO BE SHOWN IN "WHAT'S HAPPENING?" PROGRAM

"The Fighters," a film by William Greaves on the first heavyweight title match between Muhammad Ali and Walt Frazier, will be shown Tuesday, March 19, at noon, at the Donnell Library, and Wednesday, March 20, at 2:00, at The Museum of Modern Art, as part of the "What's Happening?" film series co-sponsored by the Museum and the Donnell Film Library.

"My background is in theatre, acting, and the training of actors," notes producer/director Greaves, who won an Emmy Award for his work as the first black executive producer on public television's "Black Journal." "Although I've spent many years in documentary films, I can't resist the temptation to always introduce the laws and aesthetics of theatre into my work....I call 'The Fighters' a docudrama." "The Fighters" attempts to fuse cinema verité technique with theatrical dramatic structure; it deals not only with the fight itself, but also at length with events leading up to the 1971 Ali-Frazier match.

Time Magazine's film critic Jay Cocks has written of "The Fighters": "Greaves has a quick eye and an obvious affection for the more flamboyant personalities behind the sport....'The Fighters' captures the skill and challenge of the sport, as well as its grand carnival spirit, as surely and lovingly as A.J. Liebling did in 'The Sweet Science.' That is saying a great deal." Variety's Addison Verrill called the film "a first-rate documentary" and Archer Winsten of The New York Post termed it "a picture of uncommon interest and quality...."

The "What's Happening?" series, programmed by William Sloan, Film Librarian of The New York Public Library, features topical films covering a broad range of social and political issues and events, with a different program presented each week, Tuesday at noon at the Donnell Library auditorium, 20 West 53 Street, and Wednesday at 2:00 at The Museum of Modern Art.

Additional information available from Mark Segal, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Phone: (212)956-7296.

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