

# The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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## JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL FEATURES NEW MOMA FILM LIBRARY ACQUISITION

Having gone through the experience of having had to leave Europe because of Hitler and of creating for myself a new life in this country, and being of about the same age as the two protagonists of your film, I can only marvel at how exactly and beautifully, how sensitively you have portrayed the fate of two people which is at the same time unique, and reflective of our common humanity...I wish many people would see this film, because they would get from it a deeper feeling for the beauty of New York, and of the old people who live there.

-Bruno Bettelheim

A PRIVATE LIFE, directed by noted Soviet emigre Mikhail Bogin, has recently been acquired by the Circulating Film Library of The Museum of Modern Art. The thirty-minute film has won great acclaim at numerous festivals, including the 1980 San Francisco Film Festival, where it had its premiere, and the 1981 American Film Festival, where it was awarded the First Prize for Best Fiction Film.

A PRIVATE LIFE, set in present-day New York, focuses on Margot Lerner (Lotte Andor), a 70-year-old German-Jewish emigre, and her attempts to establish a lasting relationship with Karl (Paul Andor), a man of similar age and background. Margot is a vital woman who enjoys her adopted city, works as an accountant, and looks forward to a fulfilling future; Karl, however, dwells on his memories of youth in pre-war Germany, and is incapable of sharing Margot's interest in the future. The New York setting, with both its community warmth and alienating detachment, is as finely etched as the love story conveying the immigrant experience and the experience of growing old with dignity.

The New York premiere of A PRIVATE LIFE will take place at the JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL (September 9 - 16 at the 92nd Street Y) on Thursday, September 10 at 2:00 p.m. A PRIVATE LIFE was very well received by critics and the public when it was shown in San Francisco and Los Angeles as part of the Jewish Film Festival's tour; after the Festival's run in New York it will be presented at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

The Museum of Modern Art

A number of impressive talents were brought together in the making of A PRIVATE LIFE. Heading the cast, Lotte Palfi Andor and Paul Andor are themselves emigres. Both were leading players in the pre-war German theater, and, after leaving Germany, both appeared in Casablanca, Confessions of a Nazi Spy and other WWII films. Paul Andor's career spans 60 years in German, French and American theater and cinema. He has appeared as a leading man and featured player in Lubitsch's To Be Or Not To Be and Bluebeard's Castle, and Feyder's Therese Raquin. He will be seen in Woody Allen's next film. Lotte Andor has recently appeared in Marathon Man, All That Jazz, and the upcoming Tattoo.

Director Mikhail Bogin emigrated to the U.S. in 1975 after struggles with U.S.S.R. film authorities led him to seek greater artistic freedom. His distinguished career in the Soviet cinema includes the feature films Zosia, On Love, and In Search of a Person. A PRIVATE LIFE is Bogin's first American film. His collaborators include Producer Peter Almond, who co-wrote the screenplay with Nancy Musser; both are independent filmmakers working in the San Francisco area.

The acquisition of A PRIVATE LIFE by MoMA's Circulating Film Library marks a step toward greater non-theatrical distribution of contemporary fiction films. In addition to its premiere with the Jewish Film Festival, A PRIVATE LIFE will be featured at The Museum of Modern Art as part of its CINEPROBE series later in the fall.

PRESS SCREENING: A PRIVATE LIFE will be screened by the Jewish Film Festival on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 at 2:00 P.M., Lorimar Screening Room, Gulf & Western Building, 15 Columbus Circle, 8th floor. It will be screened with The Wooden Gun, a feature film by Eitan Even, also part of the Festival.

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For further information, please contact Alicia Springer, Film Press Representative, 956-7289.

For Jewish Film Festival information, please contact Delores Neuman, Deborah Kaufman, or Nancy Sher at the 92nd Street YMHA, 427-6000 ext. 138

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