

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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WHAT'S HAPPENING? 11th SEASON OF INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARIES ADDRESSES TOPICAL ISSUES

On Tuesday, October 6, the weekly WHAT'S HAPPENING? series begins its eleventh season as a forum for independently-made films on political and social issues. In many cases these films, which bring a fresh and controversial viewpoint to a variety of issues, receive their first New York showing in the series.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? is scheduled for Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in MoMA's Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium. The series runs from October 6 through December 22.

The series opens with RETRATOS by New York filmmaker Stewart Bird (co-director of "The Wobblies" in 1979). It profiles five very different and vital people from New York's Puerto Rican community. The October 13 presentation is THE BATTLE OF WESTLANDS, by Carol Mon Pere and Sandra Nichols; it is an investigative report on how agribusiness empires are taking over the rich farmland of California's Central Valley. Among the many awards it has received is the George Foster Peabody Award for Meritorious Service in Broadcasting.

On October 20 Alan and Susan Raymond's THE THIRD COAST takes a satirical look at lifestyles in Houston, Texas. Two films on the harsh life of coalminers in Appalachia will be screened on October 27: Kenneth Fink's BETWEEN ROCK AND A HARD PLACE and Darryl Hunt's APPALACHIA: NO MAN'S LAND, which was made for the Maryknoll Fathers.

The November program opens with three films by women. On November 3, Ellen Fryer's profile of a Japanese-American woman marathon champion, MARATHON WOMAN, MIKI GORMAN, will be triple-billed with LIGHT COMING THROUGH: A PORTRAIT OF MAUD MORGAN by Nancy Raines and Richard Leacock, about a remarkable 71-year-old artist, and TO BE A WOMAN SOLDIER, in which Israeli filmmaker Shuli Eshel provides a fascinating look at the induction of women into the Israeli army.

November 10's program is the Italian FIT TO BE UNTIED, by a team of four filmmakers, S. Agosti, M. Bellocchio, S. Petraglia, and S. Rulli. FIT TO BE UNTIED examines

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the treatment of long-term institutionalized mental patients in Italy, and reveals both the progressive and backward aspects of the system. On November 17, two films on urban America examine innovative urban rehabilitation programs. SURVIVAL OF A SMALL CITY, by Nancy Salzer and Pablo Frascioni, is set in Norwalk; NEIGHBORS: CONSERVATION IN A CHANGING COMMUNITY, by Richard P. Rogers, focuses on Boston's South End. Rounding out November's program, on November 24, is ANNIE MAE -- BRAVE HEARTED WOMAN by Lan Brookes Ritz, the heartbreaking story of young Indian activist Annie Mae Aquash, who lost her life in the struggle for Indian rights.

December 1, Leigh Wharton's THE EDGE OF SURVIVAL examines world hunger and human survival. On December 8, BEN DA, U.S.A., by David Hogoboom, details the problems of Vietnamese immigrants, and "FUNDI" THE STORY OF ELLA BAKER, by Joanne Grant, profiles the Black civil rights leader.

Glenn Silber and Tete Vasconcellas' incisive documentary EL SALVADOR: ANOTHER VIETNAM will be screened December 15. American involvement in the El Salvador civil conflict is examined.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? closes its Fall '81 series on December 22 with two films on the importance of the arts to the lives of young and old New Yorkers: CLOSE HARMONY, by Nigel Noble, portrays a Brooklyn music teacher who works with the elderly and the very young, and MADE IN THE BRONX by Susan Fanshel showcases an unusual arts program for children in the South Bronx.

The films presented in the WHAT'S HAPPENING? series are selected by William Sloan, Librarian of the Circulating Film Program of the Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art.

The Museum's Film programs are made possible in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

For program information, the public may call 956-7078 for daily film schedules or 956-6100 for further information. Admission on Tuesdays to MoMA is on a pay-what-you-wish basis.

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