

# The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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ENTRANCE at 18 West 54th

#8  
for immediate release

1/28/83

## WHAT'S HAPPENING? CONTINUES SEASON

### SPECIAL PROGRAM IN HONOR OF THOMAS BRANDON

The twelfth season of the weekly WHAT'S HAPPENING? series, a showcase for independently-made films on political and social issues, continues with a special program in honor of the pioneer film distributor Thomas Brandon. The program, to be screened on Tuesday, February 22, at 6:00 p.m., will present rare labor films of the 1930s which are among the works donated to the Department of Film as the Thomas Brandon Collection. The program will be introduced by Erik Barnouw and Jane Loader and will feature the first public showing since 1927 of THE PASSAIC TEXTILE STRIKE, a 1926 film produced by International Workers Aid. The film, which was made by the striking workers themselves, disappeared for many years and was one of the films rediscovered by Thomas Brandon.

Born in 1908, Thomas Brandon became deeply involved in the social documentary movement of the early thirties, encouraging, promoting, and distributing its films. He was associated with the famous Workers Film and Photo League, Frontier Films, the Film Forum, and the Harry Alan Potamkin Film School. In 1940, he set up his own distribution company, Brandon Films, in order "to build up a great library of the best in the world" and to encourage the exhibition of nontheatrical films. With the active assistance of his wife Lillian, he organized showings, obtained distribution rights to foreign films that otherwise might not have reached this country, and helped train generations of young people who have since gone on to make their own contributions in many areas of film. Mr. Brandon died in 1982. His family has now established the Thomas Brandon Collection at The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film in his memory. His papers, books, and films will  
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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

be available to scholars and researchers for generations to come.

All showings in the WHAT'S HAPPENING? series are held in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. The series will continue through June.

MARCH 1: HAITIAN SONG. 1982. Karen Kramer. A lyrical portrait of a small village in rural Haiti. Courtesy Karen Kramer. 50 minutes.

MARCH 8: DUDLEY CARTER. 1982. Abby Sher. A ninety-year-old artist-logger creates a monumental sculpture from a huge cedar tree. Courtesy Sher Films. 59 minutes.

MARCH 15: LA FRONTERA. 1982. Victoria Schultz. On the Latins and Anglos who live on U.S.-Mexican border. Courtesy Hudson River Productions. 28 minutes.

TODOS SANTOS CUCHUMATAN. 1982. Olivia Carrescia. Illustrates centuries-old patterns of life in a Mayan village of Guatemala against a background of political unrest. Courtesy Icarus Films. 42 minutes.

MARCH 22: BEN'S MILL. 1981. John Karol and Michel Chalufour. On rural craftsman Ben Thresher and his water-powered mill which has been in operation in Vermont for over a century. Courtesy Apertura Productions. 58 minutes.

MARCH 29: BEING A JOINES: A LIFE IN THE BUSHY MOUNTAINS. 1980. Tom Davenport, Joyce Joines Newman, Daniel W. Patterson, and Allen Tullos. On a master storyteller and his life in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Courtesy Tom Davenport Films. 55 minutes.

APRIL 5: THE GOLD PIT. 1982. Pauline Spiegel. Traders at work in the Gold Pit of New York's Commodity Exchange. Courtesy of Mirror Films, New York. 23 minutes.

SOLD AMERICAN. 1982. Richard Boehm. On marijuana growers in California. Courtesy Richard Boehm, New York. 28 minutes.

CLOCKWORK. 1981. Eric Breitbart. Relates the historic work of Frederick Winslow Taylor in time management study to modern computerized factories. Courtesy of California Newsreel, San Francisco. 25 minutes.

APRIL 12: A special program of films by Jørgen Roos. Mr. Roos is one of Denmark's leading documentary filmmakers. He will be present to introduce two of his major films: CARL NIELSON, 1978, 50 minutes, and THE SLEDGE PATROL SIRIUS, 1981, 45 minutes. Films courtesy of the Consulate General of Denmark, New York.

APRIL 19: DEATH ROW. 1979. Bruce Jackson and Diane Christian. Examines the daily life of prisoners in Ellis Prison's Death Row in Texas. Courtesy of Documentary Research, Buffalo. 59 minutes.

APRIL 26: HOUSING PROJECT U.S.A. 1980. Jeffrey Wisotsky. A Bronx housing project is the setting of this drama of a crisis in the life of an Hispanic family. Courtesy of Jeffrey Wisotsky, Bronx, N.Y. 28 minutes.

CHILDBIRTH BLUES. 1980. Mary Halawani. This film, set in the Bronx, explores the relation of a single parent to her child. Courtesy of Mary Halawani. 20 minutes.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The programs in the latter portion of the 12th WHAT'S HAPPENING? season will be announced at a later date.

The films presented in WHAT'S HAPPENING? are selected by William Sloan, Librarian of the Circulating Film Library, Department of Film. The Museum's film programs are made possible by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts. Admission to MoMA is on a pay-what-you-wish basis on Tuesdays. For program information, the public may call 708-9490.

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For further press information, please contact Alicia Springer, Film Press Representative, (212) 708-9752.

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