

# The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PRESENTS A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE TO NEW DAY FILMS

New Day Films, the distinguished, cooperatively run distribution company for independent filmmakers, is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, and the Department of Film is pleased to contribute to the celebration with a program titled HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NEW DAY FILMS. The series, which will consist of 21 outstanding works from the New Day catalogue, will be shown in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 from June 17 through June 21.

In explaining the history of their company, the New Day filmmakers have written that "We began in 1972 as a distribution cooperative for feminist films. Over time, it became clear that feminism was more than the domain of women or 'women's issues' alone." From an initial group of four feminist members, New Day has expanded to represent 29 filmmakers and has a catalogue of 39 award-winning films on a broad range of topics: growing up, growing old, working for justice on the job, labor history, sex roles, the environment, and creativity. Not only has New Day become a model cooperative of and for independent filmmakers, but through its documentary films it has participated in and charted many of the social changes in the United States over the last decade.

The series will begin on June 17 with a program introduced by Joanne Grant, East Coast Coordinator for the tenth anniversary celebration. The program will include Ms. Grant's Fundi: The Story of Ella Baker (1981), a portrait of a civil rights activist and organizer. Also on the opening program will be Felicia Lowe's China: Land of My Father (1979), the story of the filmmakers' trip to mainland China in search of her father's roots, and Quilts in Women's Lives (1981), directed by Pat Ferrero, a series of portraits of seven women from disparate backgrounds who all have made a traditional art part of their daily lives.

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Among the other films to be shown in the course of the series are the Academy Award nominees Union Maids, With Babies and Banners, Men's Lives, China: The Other Half of the Sky, and In Our Water. Noon screenings on Saturday, June 18 and Sunday, June 19 will present a program of interest to adolescents, including Liane Brandon's Once Upon a Choice (1981), a delightful fairy-tale about sex-role stereotypes, Bonnie Friedman's The Flashettes (1977), a celebration of young urban women and sports, and Am I Normal? (1979), directed by Debra Franco and David Shepard, a funny and informative situation comedy about adolescent male sexuality. The series will close on June 21 with a program of films that are new to New Day: Ralph Arlyck's An Acquired Taste (1981), a high-spirited study of the American obsession with success, and Bonnie Friedman's The Last to Know (1981), an examination of alcoholism and prescription drug abuse among women.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NEW DAY FILMS has been organized by the Department of Film in cooperation with New Day Films. The Museum's film program is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

A complete schedule is attached. For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9400.

May 1983

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For further PRESS information, please contact Stuart Klawans, Film Press Representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019 (212) 708-9752.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, NEW DAY FILMS

June 17 - 21, 1983

- Fri. 6/17 6:00 Quilts in Women's Lives. 1981. Pat Ferrero. 28 min.  
Fundi: The Story of Ella Baker. 1981. Joanne Grant.  
63 min.  
China: Land of My Father. 1979. Felicia Lowe. 28 min.
- Sat. 6/18 noon Of interest to adolescents:  
Once Upon a Choice. 1981. Liane Brandon.  
The Flashettes. 1977. Bonnie Friedman.  
Am I Normal? 1979. Debra Franco and David Shepard.  
Anything You Want to Be. 1971. Liane Brandon.  
Entire program 67 min.
- 2:30 2 A.M. Feeding. 1982. Kristine Samuelson. On adjusting  
to life with baby. 24 min.  
Joyce at 34. 1972. Joyce Chopra and Claudia Weill.  
A woman faces the conflict of work vs. family. 28 min.  
Men's Lives. 1975. Josh Hanig and Will Roberts. The  
pressures, competition, and conditioning of American  
men. 43 min.
- 5:00 Great Grand Mother. 1978. Anne Wheeler and Lorna  
Rasmussen. A history and celebration of prairie  
women. 29 min.  
Possum Living. 1980. Nancy Schreiber. The "good  
life" on \$2,000 a year. 29 min.  
Union Maids. 1976. Julia Reichert, James Klein, and  
Miles Mogulescu. An oral history of women organizing  
in the 1930s. 48 min.
- Sun. 6/19 noon For adolescents: See Saturday, June 18, at noon.
- 2:30 Love It Like a Fool. 1979. Susan Wengraf. Songwriter-  
activist Malvina Reynolds at work. 28 min.  
In Our Water. 1981. Meg Switzgable. The chemical  
pollution of the nation's drinking water. 60 min.
- 5:00 Outskirts of Hope. 1982. David Davis. On poverty  
in America. 60 min.  
With Babies and Banners. 1978. Lorraine Gray. The  
Women's Emergency Brigade of 1937. 45 min.
- Mon. 6/20 noon Conversations with Willard Van Dyke. 1981. Amalie  
Rothschild. A personal history of the documentary  
movement. 59 min.
- Tue. 6/21 noon The Other Half of the Sky: A China Memoir. 1974.  
Claudia Weill and Shirley MacLaine. 74 min.
- 6:00 An Acquired Taste. 1981. Ralph Arlyck. 26 min.  
The Last to Know. 1981. Bonnie Friedman. 45 min.