

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
August 1990

TWENTY-THIRD SEASON OF CINEPROBE BEGINS

The twenty-third season of CINEPROBE begins on October 15, 1990, at The Museum of Modern Art. Held on Mondays at 6:30 p.m., CINEPROBE is a forum in which independent and avant-garde filmmakers present and discuss their work. The series focuses on experimental works as well as on personal and unusual narratives. The schedule is as follows:

OCTOBER 15

Sharon Greytak (New York)

Sharon Greytak's feature-length film *Hearing Voices* (1989) explores the circumstances of a woman who is compelled to reexamine her self-image. The character Erika Nagy ends an abusive relationship, begins a complex one with a gay man, and undergoes a serious surgical operation. The film is presented as a series of dramatic tableaux, where characters are often represented symbolically.

OCTOBER 22

Elias Merhige (New Jersey)

Begotten (1989), a film by performance artist Elias Merhige, chronicles a mother and son's odyssey through a brutal land where they encounter various tribes desperately scrounging for survival. Striking in its style and unsettling in its effect, this black-and-white 16mm movie resembles early German expressionist film, but maintains the gritty realism of a documentary.

NOVEMBER 5

Emily Hubley (New Jersey)
Stacey Steers (Colorado)

Emily Hubley's presentation of animated shorts includes *Deliberating Man* (1985), *Let Sleeping Dogs Eat* (1982), and *Delivery Man* (1982). Also featured

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is *Blake Ball* (1988), in which the nine nights depicted in William Blake's poem *VaLa* are illustrated metaphorically through the nine innings of a baseball game. Stacey Steers shows *Watunna* (1989), an elaborate handpainted film narrated by Stan Brakhage, which is based on tales of creation from the South American rain forest.

NOVEMBER 19

Warren Sonbert (California)

In *Friendly Witness* (1989), San Francisco filmmaker Warren Sonbert presents a collection of scenes he filmed while travelling around the world. His first film in twenty years with a soundtrack, *Witness* is set to sixties' music by female singers in its first half and to classical music by Christopher Gluck in the second. The program also includes *Hall of Mirrors* (1966) and *Honor and Obey* (1988).

DECEMBER 10

Fred Marx (Illinois)

Film and videomaker Fred Marx's *Dream Documentary* (1981) is a collage of found footage that addresses the way Americans look at the world. *House of UnAmerican Activities* (1983) focuses on the artist's father, a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, who joined the Communist party in 1946 and was subsequently investigated by the House on UnAmerican Activities Committee in 1956. *Dreams of China* (1989) is a diary-like account of his experiences while living in China from 1983 to 1985.

JANUARY 7

Liza Bear (New York)

Editor, writer, and filmmaker Liza Bear presents her first feature, *Force of Circumstance* (1990), an offbeat story of political intrigue. Set in Casablanca and Washington, D.C., the story follows an amateur activist who thwarts the sale of a historic Virginia estate to a despot supported by the United States.

JANUARY 28

Jerry Barrish (San Francisco)

3:00 p.m. Jerry Barrish's film *Recent Sorrows* is a bizarre tale of two men whose respective love affairs have recently ended. A strange encounter between the two in a cafe leads to a mysterious murder.

6:30 p.m. Barrish's 16mm color film *Shuttlecock* is the story of a painter and a German cabaret singer and their relationship to a standup comic and his wife, a dancer in a strip club. Together, they are caught up in a series of affairs and confidences.

Available tickets for CINEPROBE are free after 6:00 p.m. on the evening of each program. The series is programmed by Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancina, curators, and Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.