

124
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
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THE FLAHERTY TRADITION,

FILM SERIES AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Beginning Sunday, April 30, the Museum of Modern Art will present a new film series, The Flaherty Tradition, a selection of 25 documentary films which have over the past decade won the Robert Flaherty Award, Honorable Mention, or Spacial Awards. Showings will be held daily at 3 and 5:30 through June 7, the program changing twice a week. The series will open with The Quiet One (1949), by Janice Loeb and William Levitt, and Guernica (1950), by Alan Renais, both shown through May 3; and The Undefeated (1951), by Paul Dickson, and Angry Boy (1951), by Irving Jacoby, May 4 - 6.

The Robert Flaherty Award, "made on the basis of outstanding creative achievement in the production of films of a factual nature, was founded by Hans Richter, first Director of the Institute of Film Techniques of the City College of New York. After the death of Robert Flaherty in 1951, Mr. Richter, with the approval of Mrs. Flaherty, re-named the Award the Robert Flaherty Award. Today it is conducted by Yael Woll, the present Director of the Institute of Film Techniques.

The Award's current panel of Judges, who annually review several score factual films from all parts of the world, are David Flaherty, Peter Glushanok, Richard Griffith, Emily Jones, Arthur L. Mayer, Cecile Starr, Amos Vogel, Herman G. Weinberg and Archer Winsten.

As stated by the Institute of Film Techniques, the Award's purpose is as follows:

"In making these Awards the judges seek to honor significant achievement in the progress of the humanistic documentary film. The Award is reserved solely for those films which expand the possibilities of the motion picture as a medium for expressing the spirit of man, rather than for outstanding performances within established idoms, however excellent or deserving in their own right. The major Award may be withheld in any given year should the judges deem no film deserving of it. Whatever the subject or genre, each film will ultimately be judged on its creative contribution to the universality of man's speaking to man, thus continuing in the truest sense the tradition exemplified in the films of Robert Flaherty."

Richard Griffith, Curator of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library, who selected the films in this exhibition from among the Flaherty Award winners, says of the series:

"Speaking for myself only, as one of the judges of the Award, I look not for films 'like' the Flaherty films or obviously made under their influence, but for films which I think Flaherty himself would have liked or admired or been interested by. Since his enthusiasms were mighty and his hopes for the medium high, that during his lifetime covered a wide spectrum, from Sergei Eisenstein's POTEMKIN to Lord Arthur Elton's

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British documentary on the development of the toothed wheel, THE TRANSFER OF POWER. Going over the Award winners of the past decade, it seems to me that they furnish a remarkable key to Flaherty's own outlook. Here is his interest in art films (GUERNICA); his personal fascination with primitive people and far places (THE HUNTERS); his predilection for the spontaneous (POW WOW); the development of the reportorial documentary under TV auspices, which he produced (HOFFA AND THE TEAMSTERS, PRIMARY, SIT-IN); and his quietly passionate belief that the motion picture was the most deeply communicative of the arts (THE QUIET ONE, ON THE BOWERY, ALL MY BABIES). But Flaherty was an exacting judge as well as a generous one, and it is appropriate indeed that during three years of the past decade, his Awards jury found no film up to the mark he set."

The Museum film series is made possible by the following persons and corporations who loaned films to the exhibition:

Miss Fae Miske, Joseph Burstyn, Inc.; Miss Rose Appelbaum, Pictura Films; Miss Ann Schutzer, Contemporary Films; Irving Jacoby, Affiliated Film Producers, Inc.; Columbia Broadcasting System; Mr. Daniel Jones, National Broadcasting Company; Mr. Sand W. Weiner, Film Representations, Inc.; The Shell Oil Company; The Standard Oil Company; Mr. Robert Drew, Time-Life, Inc; Mr. Herbert Golden, United Artists Corporation

Schedule attached

Film stills and further information available from Herbert Bronstein, Associate Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City. CI5-8900.