

The Museum of Modern Art

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NEW CINEMA: AN INTERNATIONAL SELECTION

January 9 - 20, 1967

The Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art announced today the two final films to be shown in the program of New Cinema: An International Selection at the Museum from January 9 through 20: GALAXIE by Gregory J. Markopoulos and VALI by Sheldon Rochlin, both from the United States. Also to be included in the program is a short, OUR TRIP TO AFRICA, by Peter Kubelka of Austria.

GALAXIE, made in 1966 by Gregory Markopoulos, is a study in film portraiture consisting of 30 portraits each 3 minutes long. The color film includes portraits of Parker Tyler, Storm De Hirsch, George and Mike Kuchar, Louise Grady, Jasper Johns, Jonas Mekas, W. H. Auden, Susan Sontag, Gian Carlo Menotti, Ed Emshwiller and Robert C. Scull, among others.

George Christopoulos, in an article on the film to appear in Film Culture magazine, says, "[Markopoulos] opens each sequence like a composer and states its clear-phrase visual theme. Then he bursts the theme open with variation upon variation montaged upon the architecture of each human and creating through swift views other realities. A stony, staid and silent face may stay reclused on one side of the frame while another [image] of the same person (in a happier moment) may be introduced talking, living, metamorphosizing....

"...Markopoulos throughout the film utilizes one sound: an electronic anvil... [that clangs] down upon each subject....

"Except for those who have been teamed up and treated as 'one being,' all are presented in individual portraits. They are framed by a name-title in advance and with darkness at the end of their appearances. They do not meet, interact or participate in any obvious story or plot...."

Gregory Markopoulos began shooting films at 18. His films use a personal vocabulary and take liberty with traditional forms. Among his films since the late '40s
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are a trilogy DU SANG DE LA VOLUPTE ET DE LA MORT (PSYCHE, LYSIS, CHARMIDES); FLOWERS OF ASPHALT; SWAIN; and TWICE A MAN (1963). Mr. Markopoulos is presently Visiting Associate Professor of Cinematography at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

VALI, made in 1966, was produced, directed and photographed by Sheldon Rochlin, and edited by Mr. Rochlin with his wife Diane. The original commentary for the color film was written and spoken by Vali Myers and her husband Rudi Rappold, who appear in the film as themselves. Sheldon and Diane Rochlin lived with Vali and Rudi for several months acquainting themselves with the temperament of the couple. The film is about one day in the life of this exotic woman; however, the material is a composite of the footage shot by the Rochlins over a three-month period from October 1965 to January 1966. At times, through the use of still photographs and narration, the film stretches back 14 years. The film shows Vali and Rudi in their "Garden of Eden," a trip to Naples and Rosina, Vali dancing, Vali as a witch giving a young girl draughts of love potion, and a visit to another girl, a protegee of Vali's from New Zealand living in a nearby cave.

An article in the Paris Review explains that "Vali Myers, an Australian by birth, came to Paris shortly after the war, and in the ambience of American and European expatriates became at once the symbol and plaything of the restless, confused, vice-enthralled, intellectual milieu that haunted the cafes and bistros of the Left Bank.

"Rudi and Vali have now moved to Italy where they live in an isolated wood outside Positano. They are without running water and electricity. But they do have a family -- Ramona the pig, Foxy the fox, a goat, horse and donkey."

Sheldon Rochlin was born in 1938. His interest in filmmaking resulted from encounters with Jonas Mekas seven years ago at the experimental film screenings in the Living Theatre. He has worked with Conrad Rooks, Claes Oldenburg and Robert Frank. He was the cameraman for GUNS OF THE TREES (1962) by Jonas Mekas. Over the past seven years he has been employed as cameraman, editor and production manager by

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National Educational Television, Bob Drew Associates, U.S.I.A., Encyclopedia Britannica Films and a West German television firm.

OUR TRIP TO AFRICA (UNSERE AFRIKAREISE) was made by Peter Kubelka from 1961 to 1966. It is a 13-minute color film with no dialogue.

About the film, Stan Brakhage says, "I can think of nowhere else you would find so much beauty compacted in so small a space as in the work and living clarity of this man...Peter Kubelka takes a very long time making each film, a lasting experience of the moment of enjoyment...so that each can be seen again and again for increasing fulfillment of the initial experience...."

Peter Kubelka, who was born in Vienna in 1934, has been an independent filmmaker since 1952.

New Cinema: An International Selection, eleven feature films selected by the Museum's Department of Film in collaboration with the Committee for New Cinema, also will include BLACK GOD AND WHITE DEVIL from Brazil, THE REVOLUTIONARY MAN from Canada, SANTA CLAUS HAS BLUE EYES from France, AMORE AMORE from Italy, SILENCE HAS NO WINGS from Japan, THE SECRET FORMULA from Mexico, "I" from Sweden, UNRECONCILED from West Germany, and MAN IS NOT A BIRD from Yugoslavia.

A symposium entitled "Is There a New Cinema?" will be held at the Museum on Friday, January 20, at 8:30 p.m. Willard Van Dyke, Director of the Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, will moderate. Panel members will be Emile de Antonio, filmmaker; Shirley Clarke, filmmaker; Jonas Mekas, filmmaker and critic; Lino Miccichè, Italian filmmaker and critic; Annette Michelson, film and art critic; and Amos Vogel, Director of the Film Department, Lincoln Center. Tickets are available at the Museum for \$2; \$1.50 to students and Museum members.

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Still's and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Linda Gordon, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Circle 5-8900.