

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

INDEPENDENT NORTH AMERICAN FILMMAKERS AT HOME AND ABROAD

No. 152

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 1969

A collection of works by American and Canadian filmmakers will be shown at The Museum of Modern Art, starting December 11 and continuing through December 23rd. The program will include Frederick Wiseman's controversial documentary "High School;" Paul Ronder's documentary on the Phoenix House, "Second Chance," which will have its first public showing; Susan Sontag's initial film "Duet for Cannibals;" James Salter's "Three," scheduled to have its American premiere shortly; and Donald Richie's "Five Philosophical Fables," which was made in Japan. Many of the films in the program were shot on location -- in the East Bronx, Philadelphia, Nebraska, France, Italy, Sweden, and on a Korean island.

At some of the showings the filmmakers will be present to discuss their films and to answer questions from the audience. Susan Sontag will make a guest appearance on December 18th; Paul Ronder will be present on December 20th; and James Salter will talk on December 23rd.

Conspicuous among the independent filmmakers is Frederick Wiseman, a law professor and urban planner, who has already established his reputation as an uncompromising documentarian in his two films "Titicut Follies," an expose of the Bridgewater Institution for the criminally insane, and "Law and Order," an Emmy Award-winning film on the Kansas City police force. Mr. Wiseman has produced and directed another provocative film "High School," his third work. It portrays Northeast High, a white, middle-class urban school in Philadelphia. The film concerns itself with the problems of American youth and its educational system. Instead of focusing on a ghetto school, Mr. Wiseman chose a middle-class school to emphasize the state of education as a whole in America today.

Donald Richie, best known as a film historian and author of such books as "The Films of Akira Kurosawa," has been making films ever since he was fifteen, the majority of them made in Japan where he has lived for more than half his life. Mr. Richie describes himself as a maker of "serious comedies." His films are plotless and have no dialogue. "Five Philosophical Fables" with members of the Nihon Mime Group and three of his shorts will be part of the

(more)

Museum's showing of independent works.

Humphrey Leynse's "Out There, A Lone Island" was shot on a Korean island, 200 miles from the nearest land. Every person in the film is a native of the island and never saw a camera before. The film portrays the daily life of a family, its hardships and survival; it expresses the Eastern philosophy of the subordination of self to nature.

Susan Sontag's first film, "Duet for Cannibals," which she wrote, directed and edited, was made in Sweden. A bizarre, psychological drama of a "ménage à quatre," it created a controversy at the last Cannes and New York Festivals.

Robert Frank's "Me and My Brother" is a study of a catatonic schizophrenic and his brother. It features the poets Peter Orlovsky and Allen Ginsberg, Joseph Chaikin from the Open Theatre, and other members of the Ginsberg circle, all of whom play themselves. Sam Sheppard is credited with the screenplay.

James Salter, who won first prize at the Venice Film Festival for his short, "Team, Team, Team," has written and directed "Three" for United Artists. "Three" was made in Italy and France, and is based on a story by Irwin Shaw. Mr. Salter is also responsible for the novel and screenplay of "Downhill Racer."

Two avant-garde films by Michael Snow, painter, sculptor and musician, will be presented along with two films of George Kuchar, "The Mammal Palace" and "The Encyclopedia of the Blessed." Paul Ronder's "Second Chance" -- a documentary made with drug addicts -- will also be shown. Mr. Ronder teaches film production and analysis at The School of The Arts of Columbia University. He was editor of "Finnegan's Wake."

Another documentary that is scheduled for viewing is Jack Willis' "Appalachia: Rich Land, Poor People." Larry Jordan's second feature "Hildur and the Magician" and the films of Steven Fox, Morgan Fisher, and David Cronenberg are also on the program which follows:

Thursday, December 11 at 2:00, 5:30 and 8:00

ONE SECOND IN MONTREAL. 1969. A film by Michael Snow. 15 min.

↔. 1968-69. A film by Michael Snow. With Emmett Williams, Max Neuhaus, Allan Kaprow. 50 min.

Friday, December 12 at 2:00 and 5:30

ME AND MY BROTHER. 1968. Directed and photographed by Robert Frank, Written by Sam Sheppard and Robert Frank. With Joseph Chaikin, Julius and Peter Orlovsky, Allen Ginsberg. Courtesy of New Yorker Films. 91 min.

(more)

Saturday, December 13 at 3:00 and 5:30

HIGH SCHOOL. 1969. Produced and directed by Frederick Wiseman. Courtesy of Osti Films  
75 min.

Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 and 5:30

THE MAMMAL PALACE. 1968. A film by George Kuchar. With Zelda Kaiser, Frank Meyer, Donna  
Kerness, Mike Kuchar, Hope Morris. 30 min.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE BLESSED. 1969. A film by George Kuchar. With Red Grooms, Mimi  
Gross. 42 min.

Monday, December 15 at 2:00 and 5:30

OUT THERE, A LONE ISLAND. 1968-69. Written and directed by Humphrey W. Leynse. With  
residents of the island of Ullung-do in the Korean Straits. 76 min.

Tuesday, December 16 at 2:00

STEREO. 1969. A film by David Cronenberg. With Ron Mlodzik, Ian Ething, Helen Mayer.  
Courtesy of International Film Archives. 65 min.

Thursday, December 18 at 2:00 and 5:30

FOUR FILMS BY DONALD RICHIE: LIFE. 1965. With Takashi Ueda, Chikako Kodama. 4 min.

ATAMI BLUES. 1962. Re-edited 1967. Written by Mary Evana. Music by Toru Takemitsu. 20 min.

DEAD YOUTH. 1967. After the poem of Mutsuro Takahashi. 10 min.

FIVE PHILOSOPHICAL FABLES. 1967. With members of the Nihon Mime Kenkyukai. 50 min.

Thursday, December 18 at 8:00

DUET FOR CANNIBALS. 1969. Written and directed by Susan Sontag. Produced by Goran Lingren  
for Sandrews Productions. With Adriana Asti, Lars Ekborg, Gosta Ekman, Agneta Ekmanner.  
Courtesy of Grove Press. 105 min.

Miss Sontag will be present for discussion with the audience after the screening.

Friday, December 19 at 2:00 and 5:30

SIXTEEN-1/2. 1969. A film by Steven Fox. With Guy La Ferrera. 30 min.

APPALACHIA: RICH LAND, POOR PEOPLE. 1969. Produced for National Educational Television (NET).

A film by Jack Willis. Camera by Don Lenzer, Richard Pearce, Adam Gifford. Edited by Jay  
Freund. 59 min.

Saturday, December 20 at 3:00 and 5:30

THE DIRECTOR AND HIS ACTOR LOOK AT FOOTAGE SHOWING PREPARATIONS FOR AN UNMADE FILM. 1969.  
A film by Morgan Fisher. 15 min.

SECOND CHANCE. 1969. Produced by The Department of Film, Columbia University.

Written and directed by Paul Ronder. Camera by Stan Scholl. With members of Phoenix  
House. 50 min.

Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 and 5:30

MY GIRLFRIEND'S WEDDING. 1969. A film by Jim McBride. Photographed by Mike Wadley.  
Music by Al Kooper. 60 min.

Monday, December 22 at 2:00 and 5:30

HILDUR AND THE MAGICIAN. 1969 A film by Larry Jordan. ca. 90 min.

Tuesday, December 23 at 2:00 and 5:30

THREE. 1969. A film by James Salter. Produced by Bruce Becker. Based on a story by Irwin  
Shaw. With Charlotte Rampling, Robie Porter, Sam Waterston. Courtesy of United Artists.  
104 min. Mr. Salter will be present for discussion with the audience after the 5:30  
screening.

\*\*\*\*\*

Additional information and stills available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lillian  
Gerard, Film Coordinator, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art,  
11 West 53rd Street, New York, New York. 10019. 956 - 7501, 7296.