

The Museum of Modern Art

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SHORT FILMS FROM JAPAN EXAMINE RITUALS AND CUSTOMS

Two important documentaries made by Western filmmakers in Japan will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art as part of the Department of Film's ongoing SHORTS AND DOCUMENTARIES series Mondays and Tuesdays at noon in May. These films are being presented in conjunction with Japan Today, a series of cultural programs to be presented in five American cities this spring, and were selected by Margareta Akermark, former Associate Director of the Museum's Film Department.

"Shinto: Nature, Gods, and Man" by Peter Grilli and David Westphal will be introduced by Peter Grilli, Director of Education of New York's Japan Society, at noon on May 7 and 8. This 48-minute color film examines previously unphotographed Shinto shrines on the island of Okinoshima, as well as rare views of the imperial shrine at Ise and historic shrines at Nachi, Izumo, Kasuga, Omiwa, and Munakata. The film is noteworthy not only for its views of Shinto rituals, architecture, and artifacts, but also for the insight it offers into a religion not widely studied or understood in the West.

John Nathan's "Full Moon Lunch," also in color, scheduled May 14 and 15 at noon, is an intimate one-hour portrait of the Sugiura family in Tokyo, which combines cinema-verite and re-enactments filmed by Nathan and an eight-man Japanese crew. The Sugiuras make o-bento, lunches packed in lacquer boxes and delivered to Buddhist temples for ceremonial occasions. The art of preparing o-bento is practiced by each member of the family, and the camera follows them as they purchase supplies, make deliveries, and relax in public and at home.