DOCUMENTARY FILMS FROM THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD
OF CANADA Featured at MoMA

NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA: A RETROSPECTIVE is a three-part tribute presented by The Museum of Modern Art in recognition of NFBC's 41 years of exceptional filmmaking. PART TWO: DOCUMENTARY FILMS, running from March 26 through May 12 in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium, will trace the development of the documentary form at NFBC, and will be highlighted by a selection of some of the finest films directed by Donald Brittain, whose work has won wide acclaim and numerous awards.

PART TWO: DOCUMENTARY will get off to an auspicious start with twelve of Donald Brittain's powerful and unconventional portraits of exceptional individuals. Best known in this country for "Volcano: An Inquiry Into The Life and Death of Malcolm Lowry" (1976), Brittain brings his personal stamp of creative interpretation to such subjects as America's love affair with the automobile in "Henry Ford's America" (1976); the flamboyant Lord Thompson of Fleet Street (the newspaper baron who just sold the cornerstone of his empire, The London Times) in "Never A Backward Step" (1966); Norman Bethune, the Canadian poet/doctor/revolutionary who became a great hero in China when he marched with Mao ("Bethune" 1964); and the phenomenal media hysteria surrounding the famous quintuplets in "The Dionne Years" (1979). "Memo­randum" (1965) accompanies a Jewish glazier from Toronto when he takes his son back to the concentration camp where he was interned, an emotional and historical pilgrimage of strong impact and sensitivity. Donald Brittain will be present to introduce the first screening of "Volcano" on March 26 at 6:00 pm.

The 105 films in PART TWO: DOCUMENTARY will examine the evolution of distinctive forms at NFBC: cinema verite, compilation films, educational and current events series as well as NFBC co-productions with foreign filmmakers, such as "North China Factory" (1980) and "North China Commune" (1980) with China. Recent films produced by the French
Unit at NFBC will share equal emphasis. Some of the selections representing these major stylistic directions are wartime films, such as Stuart Legg's "Battle Is Their Birthright" (1943); compilation masterworks using historical footage such as "City of Gold", a 1957 film by Colin Low and Wolf Koenig which captured the Klondike Gold Rush; cinema verite classics like "The Back-Breaking Leaf" (1959), Terence Macartney-Filgate's study of tobacco pickers in the Niagara Peninsula; and Wolf Koenig and Roman Kroitor's "Lonely Boy" about the private man behind the public Paul Anka. The documentaries introduce us to the bustle of Montreal in "The Days Before Christmas" (1958); the quiet dignity of a Winnipeg man's life and work in "Paul Tomkowicz: Street Railway Switchman" (1954); and the Saigon streets of 1969 in "Sad Song of Yellow Skin". National Film Board documentaries truly fulfill their promise to interpret Canada to the world and bring the world to Canada.

According to Larry Kardish, Associate Curator of Film, who organized the retrospective and selected the films: "NFBC was given no time to mature. It sprang full blown into the war effort when Canada joined battle in 1940. Two years after its birth it won its first Academy Award for Stuart Legg's "Churchill's Island" about the Nazi bombing of Britain.

"Even though the films were made for Canadian theatres, they were not so propagandistic as to be nationalistic; they were impassioned, not inflammatory. They remained reasoned. So appealing were the first films that an American distributor released the Board's earliest documentaries under the World In Action banner. NFBC films have been seen and admired ever since. It is now the premier government-sponsored motion picture-making agency in the world."

Part One of the comprehensive Film Board Retrospective, which focused on NFBC's remarkable Animation Unit, was presented from January 22 through February 16; Part Three: Aspects of Fiction, which examines the uses of drama and fiction at NFBC, will begin August 24 and continue through September 15. Each of the three parts of MoMA's NFBC Retrospective showcase the Board's formidable balance of public service, artistic independence, formal innovation, and intelligent and lively entertainment.

A complete schedule of PART TWO: DOCUMENTARY is attached. For daily film schedules, the public may call 956-7078. For further press information, please contact Alicia Springer, Film Press Representative, 956-7289.
The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA: A RETROSPECTIVE

Part Two - Documentary
March 26 - May 12, 1981

Thursday, March 26 (2:30) 
Donald Brittain:

Thursday, March 26 (6:00)
Donald Brittain:

Thursday, March 26 (8:30)
Donald Brittain:

Friday, March 27 (2:30) 
Donald Brittain:
VOLCANO. see Thurs. March 26 6:00

Friday, March 27 (6:00)
Donald Brittain:
SELF-PORTRAIT. see Thurs. March 26 2:30

Saturday, March 28 (Noon)
Young People's Miscellany:

Saturday, March 28 (2:30)
Donald Brittain:
GRIERSON & BETHUNE see Thurs. March 26 8:30

Saturday, March 28 (5:00)
Donald Brittain:

Sunday, March 29 (Noon)
Donald Brittain:
I'LL NEVER FIND A WAY/MY NAMES IS SUSAN YEE/SASKATCHEWAN-45° BELOW/THE MANHATTAN ODYSSEY see Sat. March 28 Noon

Sunday, March 29 (2:30)
Donald Brittain:
THE DIONNE YEARS. 1979. Donald Brittain. 87 mins.

Monday, March 30 (Noon)
Donald Brittain:
MISCELLANY:

Monday, March 30 (2:30)
Donald Brittain:
A DAY IN THE NIGHT OF JONATHAN MOLE. 1959. Donald Brittain. 28 mins./ SAUL ALINSKY WENT TO WAR. 1968. Peter Pearson, Donald Brittain. 58 mins.

Tuesday, March 31 (Noon)
Donald Brittain:
HIGH GRASS CIRCUS see Mon. March 30 Noon

Tuesday, March 31 (6:00)
What's Happening? Also shown Noon at Donnell Library Center:
NORTH CHINA COMMUNE. 1980. Boyce Richardson, Tony Ianzelo. 80 mins.
Thursday, April 2 (2:30)
Donald Brittain:

Thursday, April 2 (6:00)

Thursday, April 2 (8:00)

Friday, April 3 (2:30)
Donald Brittain:

Friday, April 3 (6:00)

Saturday, April 4 (Noon)
On the North:

Saturday, April 4 (2:30)

Saturday, April 4 (5:00)

Sunday, April 5 (Noon)
Sunday, April 5 (2:30)

Early Documentaries:

Monday, April 6 (Noon)
Miscellany:

Monday, April 6 (2:30)
From the wartime series,
Canada Carries On & The
World in Action:

Tuesday, April 7 (Noon)

Tuesday, April 7 (6:00)
What's Happening? Also shown
Noon at Donnell Library Center:

Thursday, April 9 (2:30)

Thursday, April 9 (6:00)

Thursday, April 9 (8:30)
On Southeast Asia:

MEMORANDUM. 1965. Donald Brittain. 59 mins./
FIELDS OF SACRIFICE. 1964. Donald Brittain. 38 mins.

NEVER A BACKWARD STEP- LORD THOMSON OF FLEET STREET/
VAN'S CAMP see Sat. 28 5:00

THE DIONNE YEARS. see Sun. March 29 2:30

Brittain, William Canning. 56 mins. /HENRY FORD'S AMERICA
1976. Donald Brittain. 56 mins.

A DAY IN THE NIGHT OF JONATHAN MOLE/SAUL ALINSKY WENT
to war. see Mon. March 30 2:30

HOW TO BUILD AN IGLOO. 1950. Doug Wilkinson/Eskimo and
KENOJUAK. 1964. John Fenny./THE NETSILIK ESKIMO TODAY

ON the North: see Sat. April 4 Noon

HIGH OVER THE BORDERS. 1942. Irving Jacoby for New
York Zoological Society./ORDEAL BY ICE. 1945. Joe Gil
David Mayervitch./LISTEN TO THE PRARIES. 1945. Gudrun
Bjerring (Parker)./SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN. 1945. Sydw
Newman. 65 mins.

CANARIES TO CLYDESDALE. 1977. Eugene Boyko./ESTUAR.
Pederson. 59 mins.

CHURCHILL'S ISLAND. 1941./THE MASK OF NIPPON. 1942./
BATTLE IS THEIR BIRTHRIGHT. 1943./THE GATES OF ITALI.
1943. All directed by Stuart Legg. 83 mins.

CANARIES TO CLYDESDALE/ESTUARY/TARA'S MULCH GARDEN
see Mon. April 6 Noon


HIGH OVER THE BORDERS/ORDEAL BY ICE/LISTEN TO THE
PRARIES/SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN see Sun. April 5 2:30

CHURCHILL'S ISLAND/THE MASK OF NIPPON/BATTLE IS THEIR
BIRTHRIGHT/THE GATES OF ITALY see Mon. April 6 2:30

WHEN ASIA SPEAKS. 1944. Stuart Legg./INDOCHINA. 1955
Morton Parker./SAD SONG OF YELLOW SKIN. 1970. Michael
Rubbo. 109 mins.
Friday, April 10 (2:30)
Compilation Films:

Thursday, April 10 (6:00)
Anthropological Films:

Saturday, April 11 (Noon)
Young People. "Canoe" films by Bill Mason:

Saturday, April 11 (2:30)
WHEN ASIA SPEAKS/INDOCHINA/SAD SONG OF YELLOW SKIN see Thurs. April 9 8:30

Saturday, April 11 (5:00)
CITY OF GOLD/WOMEN ON THE MARCH/IMPERIAL SUNSET. see Fri. April 10 2:30

Sunday, April 12 (Noon)
PADDLE TO THE SEA/SONG OF THE PADDLE see Sat. April 11 Noon

Sunday, April 12 (2:30)
Cinema Vérité #1:

Monday, April 13 (Noon)
Originals & Eccentrics:

Monday, April 13 (2:30)
TOTEMS/LAND OF THE LONG DAY/THE LONGHOUSE PEOPLE/CIRCLE OF THE SUN see Fri. April 10 6:00

Monday, April 13 (6:00)
Cinema Vérité #2

Tuesday, April 14 (Noon)
LAUGH LINES/FLASH WILLIAM/BATES CAR see Mon. April 13 Noon

Tuesday, April 14 (6:00)
What's Happening? Also shown Noon at Donnell Library Center:
LAST DAYS OF LIVING. 1980 Malca Gillson. 58 mins.

Thursday, April 16 (2:30)
BLOOD AND FIRE/FISHERMEN/THE BACKBREAKING LEAF see Mon. April 13 6:00

Thursday, April 16 (6:00)
Cinema Vérité #3:

Thursday, April 16 (8:30)
PAUL TOMKOWICZ/THE SHEPHERD/LES RAQUETTEURS/THE DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS see Sun. April 12 2:30
Friday, April 17 (2:30)  
LES PETITES SOEURS/LONELY BOY/LES BUCHERONS DE LA MANOUANE see Thurs. April 16 6:00  

Friday, April 17 (6:00)  
Cinema Verite #5:  

Saturday, April 8 (Noon)  
Young People's Miscellany:  

Saturday, April 18 (2:30)  
Cinema Verite #4:  

Saturday, April 18 (5:00)  
Cinema Verite #6:  
YOU DON'T BACK DOWN. 1965. Don Owen.  

Sunday, April 19 (Noon)  
CORRAL/IN SEARCH OF THE BOWHEAD WHALE see Sat. April 18 Noon  

Sunday, April 19 (2:30)  
STEELTOWN/JOUR APRES JOUR see Fri. April 17 6:00  

Monday, April 20 (Noon)  
Miscellany:  

Monday, April 20 (2:30)  
YOU DON'T TALK BACK DOWN/THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE see Sat. April 18 5:00  

Tuesday, April 21 (Noon)  
UNIVERSE/FLUXES see Mon. April 20 Noon  

Tuesday, April 21 (6:00)  
What's Happening? Shown also Noon at Donnell Library Center:  

Thursday, April 23 (6:00)  
On the Ile-aux-Coudres,1:  
Michel Brault, Marcel Carrière, Pierre Perrault.  
English version. 85 mins.  

Thursday, April 23 (8:30)  
On the Ile-aux-Coudres,2:  
English subtitles. 111 mins.  

Friday, April 24 (2:30)  
From the French Unit:  
ROSE ET LANDRY. 1963 Jean Rouch, Jacques Godbout.  

Saturday, April 25 (Noon)  
Young people's miscellany:  
HIGH STEEL. 1965. Don Owen.  
60 CYCLES. Jean-Claude Labrecque. 66 mins.
Sunday, April 26 (Noon)  HIGH STEEL/ROULI-ROULANT/CATTLE RANCH/60 CYCLES  see Sat. April 25 Noon

Sunday, April 26 (2:30)  ROSE ET LANDRY/LE BEAU DERANGEMENT/LES MONTREALISTES  see Fri. April 24 2:30


Tuesday, April 28 (Noon)  LOS CANADIENSES. see Mon. April 27 Noon


Thursday, April 30 (6:00)  JEAN CARIGNAN, VIOLONEUX. see Mond. April 27 2:30

Friday, May 1 (2:30)  POUR LA SUITE DU MONDE. see Thurs. April 23 6:00


Saturday, May 2 (2:30)  A MATTER OF FAT. see Thurs. April 30 2:30

Sunday, May 3 (Noon)  AU BOUT DE MA RUE/LA PATINOIRE/I'M A MAMMAL.../THE RISE AND FALL OF THE GREAT LAKES/LE BEAU PLAISIR see Sat. May 2 Noon


Monday, May 4 (Noon)  SOME AMERICAN FEMINISTS. 1978. Luce Guilbeault, Nicole Brossard, Margaret Wescott. 56 mins.

Monday, May 4 (2:30)  LES VOITURES D'EAU. see Thurs. April 23 8:30

Tuesday, May 5 (Noon)  SOME AMERICAN FEMINISTS. see Mond. May 4 Noon


Thursday, May 7 (2:30)  CREE HUNTERS OF MISTASSINI/YOU ARE ON INDIAN LAND see Sun. May 3 2:30
Thursday, May 7 (8:00)
NFBC Abroad – People's Republic of China:

Friday, May 8 (2:30)
NFBC Abroad – Indonesia & Cuba:

Friday, May 8 (6:00)
On the Ile-aux-Coudres, 3:

Saturday, May 9 (Noon)
Young peoples miscellany:

Saturday, May 9 (2:30)

Saturday, May 9 (5:00)

Sunday, May 10 (Noon)

Sunday, May 10 (2:30)

Monday, May 11 (Noon)

Monday, May 11 (2:30)

Tuesday, May 12 (Noon)

NORTH CHINA FACTORY. 60 mins./NORTH CHINA COMMUNE. 80 mins. Both 1980; directed by Boyce Richardson, Tony Ianzelo.


SNOW/ABOVE THE HORIZON/HARVESTING/GOLD see Sat. May 9 Noon

WET EARTH AND WARM PEOPLE/WAITING FOR FIDEL see Fri May 8 6:00


LE CANOT A RENALD A THOMAS see Fri. May 8 6:00

CHALLENGER: AN INDUSTRIAL ROMANCE see Mon May 11 Noon

The paintings and drawings, mostly landscapes and views of architecture, are by British painters and Constable and Turner are well known in their talent, but less well known are the British artists who represent a movement in the 19th century that led to Modernism. The works represent the essence of England visually in a style comparable to Constable's and Turner's. The exhibition includes approximately one hundred paintings, on which the visitor will be able to see a variety of artists and a new sense of composition, which a visitor would be encouraged to appreciate. In the visual field, Millais contends that the medium of photography, which one select but not compose, was born of this crucial transformation in artistic values and pictorial strategy. The photographic section of the exhibition represents the considerable artistic capital that the best early photographers made of the new strategy, which painters had long been inventing and photographers could not use.