

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

13TH SEASON OF INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARIES
ADDRESSES TOPICAL ISSUES

On Tuesday, October 4, the weekly WHAT'S HAPPENING? series will begin its thirteenth season as a showcase for independently made films on political and social issues. In many cases these films, which bring a fresh and controversial viewpoint to a variety of issues, receive their premiere New York showing in the series. All screenings begin on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2.

This season will begin with La Operacion, a film by Anna Maria Garcia on the promotion of sterilization as a means for birth control among Puerto Rican women. The filmmaker asserts that one-third of the women of child-bearing age in Puerto Rico have been sterilized, at an average age of 26; the procedure is so common that women refer to it simply as la operacion. On the same program will be Stephanie Palewski's DES: The Timebomb Drug, a report on the long-term threat that this drug poses to women's health.

Among the other highlights of the season will be Out of Order, a film portrait of former nuns who have left the convent, co-directed by Diane Christian, who was herself a nun; Moving On: The Hunger for Land in Zimbabwe, winner of the Grierson Award at the 1983 American Film Festival for its depiction of the complexities of land redistribution in Africa, told through the contrasting stories of two farm families, one black and one white; and Silver Valley, a look at an unemployed family in Idaho living in a present-day James Agee-Walker Evans world. A program on November 15 will focus on nuclear issues: Washington to Moscow Peacewalk documents the beginnings of the nuclear freeze campaign in New England in 1981 (the Washington and Moscow of the title are both in Vermont); Button, Button: A Dream of Nuclear War shows a pageant play written and performed by people in Strafford, Vermont; Harrisburg re-creates the mood of the time of the Three Mile Island incident through the use of TV, radio, and newspaper coverage; and Gods of Metal

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is an Academy Award-nominated film on the arms race, sponsored by the Maryknoll Missioners.

Programs in the latter portion of the 13th season of WHAT'S HAPPENING? will be announced at a later date.

The films presented in WHAT'S HAPPENING? are selected by William Sloan, Librarian of the Circulating Film Library, Department of Film. The Museum's film programs are made possible by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Admission to MoMA on Tuesdays is on a pay-what-you-wish basis. For further information on the programs, the public may call (212) 708-9500.

SCHEDULE IS ATTACHED

September 1983

For further PRESS information, please contact Stuart Klawans, Film Press
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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

13TH SEASON

OCTOBER 4: DES: The Timebomb Drug. 1982. Stephanie Palewski. An examination of a long-term threat to women's health. Courtesy Lime-light Productions. 27 min.

La Operacion. 1983. Anna Maria Garcia. On the sterilization of women in Puerto Rico. Courtesy The Film Fund. 40 min.

OCTOBER 11: Out of Order. 1983. Diane Christian and Bruce Jackson. About former nuns who have left the convent. Courtesy Documentary Research. 89 min.

OCTOBER 18: Moving On: The Hunger for Land in Zimbabwe. 1982. Peter Entell. On the politics of land redistribution in Africa. Courtesy California Newsreel. 62 min.

OCTOBER 25: The Leaves of the Sea Are Shaken and Shaken. 1983. Jane Abbott and Robert Yeomans. A close-up look at the canopy of a Costa Rican rain forest. Courtesy of the filmmakers. 60 min.

NOVEMBER 1: Silver Valley. 1983. Michel Negroponte, Peggy Stern, and Mark Erder. A family in Idaho faces unemployment. Courtesy of the filmmakers. 45 min.

The Probable Passing of Elk Creek. 1983. Rob Wilson. A community in California faces extinction. Courtesy Tacayos Films, Los Angeles. 50 min.

NOVEMBER 8: Manos a la Obra: The Story of Operation Bootstrap. 1983. Pedro Rivera, Susan Zeig, and Jaime Barrios. The history of "Operation Bootstrap" in Puerto Rico. Courtesy Center for Puerto Rican Studies, CUNY. 58 min.

NOVEMBER 15: Button, Button: A Dream of Nuclear War. 1982. Juan Mandelbaum. Courtesy Cantonmedia, Boston. 14 min.

Washington to Moscow Peacewalk. 1982. George Cullinen, Mark Robbins. Courtesy of the filmmakers. 15 min.

Harrisburg. 1979. Andrew Phillips, Ian Wood, Matthew Seig. Courtesy Bullfrog, Oley, Pennsylvania. 20 min.

Gods of Metal. 1982. Robert Richter. Courtesy Icarus, New York. 25 min.

NOVEMBER 22: Children of Violence. 1982. William Jersey. A Chicano family is faced with adolescent violence. Courtesy Quest Productions, Emeryville, California. 58 min.

NOVEMBER 29: From Appalshop Films of Whitesburg, Kentucky, a workshop for independent filmmakers:

Coalmining Women. 1982. Elizabeth Barret. 40 min.

The Big Lever: Party Politics in Leslie County, Kentucky. 1982. Frances Morton. 53 min.

Later programs in WHAT'S HAPPENING? to be announced.