

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
September 1986

CINEPROBE OPENS NINETEENTH SEASON AT MoMA OCTOBER 21 WITH WARREN SONBERT

CINEPROBE, a forum for the work of independent and avant-garde filmmakers, begins on Monday, October 20, at 6:30 p.m., with the appearance of Warren Sonbert of San Francisco. CINEPROBE takes place on Mondays in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 and focuses on experimental works as well as on personal and unusual narratives. A complete fall schedule is attached.

For the October 20 program, Mr. Sonbert presents the world premiere of The Cup and the Lip (1986), as well as A Woman's Touch (1983). A filmmaker for twenty years, Sonbert has constructed his recent films from his observations in the course of his daily life and his travels. His works have been recognized for their emotional resonance and subtle editing.

Abraham Ravett of Florence, Massachusetts, an associate professor of filmmaking and photography at Hampshire College, appears on November 17 with Half Sister (1985), Zeger's Note (1984), and Thirty Years Later (1978). He created the meditative Half Sister after discovering a photograph of his half sister, who had died in Auschwitz. Thirty Years Later is a diary film about the impact of the Holocaust on the filmmaker's parents, and how it affected their relationship to him.

On November 24 Jonas Mekas of New York City presents He Stands in a Desert Counting the Seconds of His Life (1969-85). Since his time has been occupied by his advocacy of American independent films and his work at Anthology Film Archives, Mr. Mekas has created, "out of desperation," segmented, improvisational diary films from 1949 to the present. He Stands in a Desert Counting the Seconds of His Life consists of 124 brief sketches of celebrities, friends, urban landscapes, and nature scenes.

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Ross McElwee of Cambridge, Massachusetts, introduces his films Backyard (1982) and Charleen (1978) on December 8. In addition, a screening of Mr. McElwee's Sherman's March (1985), which has opened in New York to enthusiastic reviews, will take place at 3:00 p.m. A visiting lecturer in filmmaking in Harvard's Department of Visual and Environmental Studies, he frequently returns to his native North Carolina to examine the effects of his southern background and education. Backyard is a portrait of the filmmaker's upper-middle-class family, including its black help. A month in the life of his eccentric North Carolina high school teacher is recorded in Charleen. Both films relate thematically and stylistically to the later Sherman's March.

CINEPROBE's first Super-8 program will be screened on December 15, when Joe Gibbons of Boston presents Living in the World, Parts I-IV (1984-85), an ongoing biography that is both comic and self-critical. Mr. Gibbons has stated that "...daily life is full of drama, packed with small-scale suspense: will the swordfish turn out OK?" He takes his camera into such places as his bed, shower, and office and engages the audience directly in his problem of living in the world.

On January 12 Danny Lyon of Clintondale, New York, appears with Born to Film (1983) and Willie (1985). Mr. Lyon, who is also a noted photographer, has been creating works since the late sixties that expose human suffering and depict society's marginals. The filmmaker's son is featured in the optimistic Born to Film. Willie is a tough social document about the world of prison inmates who define themselves as outsiders in a way that parallels the attitudes of the prison authorities. Mr. Lyon meshes form and content equally to relate his unique vision.

CINEPROBE programs for spring 1987 include appearances by Stan Brakhage of Colorado on January 26; Jon Jost of San Francisco, February 9; Peter Hutton of

New York City, February 23; Elaine Summers of New York City, April 13; Jean Beaudry and François Bouvier of Montreal, May 11; and Larry Gottheim of Binghamton, New York, June 1.

CINEPROBE is organized by Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancina, curators, and Jytte Jensen, curatorial assistant, Department of Film.

Available tickets for this series are free after 6:00 p.m. on the day of the screening.

No. 75

For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9752.

CINEPROBE

Fall 1986-87

The Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 Street, New York

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

ALL PROGRAMS MONDAYS AT 6:30 P.M.
Available tickets free after 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 20
Warren Sonbert (San Francisco)
The Cup and the Lip (1986) - premiere
A Woman's Touch (1983)
Entire program 70 min.

NOVEMBER 17
Abraham Ravett (Florence, Mass.)
Half Sister (1985, 22 min.)
Zeger's Note (1984, 17 min.)
Thirty Years Later (1978, 43 min.)

NOVEMBER 24
Jonas Mekas (New York City)
He Stands in a Desert Counting the Seconds of His Life (1969-85, 150 min.)

DECEMBER 8
Ross McElwee (Cambridge, Mass.)
Backyard (1982, 45 min.)
Charleen (1978, 60 min.)
Special screening at 3:00- Sherman's March (1985, 150 min.)

DECEMBER 15
Joe Gibbons (Boston)
Super-8 program-
Living in the World, Parts I-IV (1984-85, 105 min.)

JANUARY 12
Danny Lyon (Clintondale, N.Y.)
Born to Film (1983, 33 min.)
Willie (1985, 80 min.)