

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
March 1990

WHAT'S HAPPENING? SPRING SEASON CONTINUES

WHAT'S HAPPENING?, The Museum of Modern Art's ongoing series of independently made films on social and political issues, continues through June 1990. The schedule of films, shown on Thursdays at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., is as follows:

APRIL 5

A Tribute to Leo Seltzer

Leo Seltzer, an American social-documentary filmmaker whose career spans over half a century, has made more than sixty films. This program features five works: America Today (1932), First Steps (1947), Fate of a Child (1950), Progress Through Freedom (1962), and Invitation to India (1962). One of the founders of the Film and Photo League, Seltzer received many international awards for his work, including an Academy Award for Best Documentary. In 1962 he served as cinema-biographer to the White House for President John Kennedy.

APRIL 12

Jeni Kendell and Paul Tait
Blowpipes and Bulldozers (1989)

The Penan, a unique tribe of rain-forest nomads who for centuries have lived peacefully in a remote part of Malaysia, are being forced out of existence by loggers. This film was made by an Australian crew hoping to publicize the tribe's plight. (Courtesy Bullfrog Films)

APRIL 26

Ned Johnston and Susan Todd
The Lost Army (1989)

This film documents a zany search for the remains of a Persian army that reportedly vanished 2,500 years ago in the western desert of Egypt. Expedition leader and novelist Gary Chafetz and his crew spent five months on a fruitless exploration which ultimately became a bizarre, comic odyssey in which everything went wrong.

MAY 3

Robert McBride and Tom Marcyes
Peacock's War (1989)

Shattered by his experience in the Vietnam War, Douglas Peacock set up a new life in the uninhabited wilderness of the American West. There he became interested in the life of the endangered grizzly bear. This film documents

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Peacock's study of this intelligent and dangerous animal and shows how Peacock discovered new life in himself. (Courtesy Bullfrog Films)

MAY 10

In Memoriam: Emile de Antonio
Painters Painting (1972)

In this film, Emile de Antonio interviews painters working in New York between 1940 and 1970, when New York became the center of the international art world. Shot with a handheld camera in the artists' studios, the dialogue is casual and improvised. The art is filmed in color; the interviews in black and white. Painters Painting features interviews with Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Frank Stella, and Andy Warhol, among others.

MAY 17

Lou Werner and Ned Johnston
Voice of the Whip (1989)

This ethnographic documentary covers a forty-day, 800-mile camel drive from the Kordofan province in the western Sudan to the Egyptian market. The crew was accompanied by Arab drivers and their three camel herds. The film records the activities of the drivers and includes camel-thief stories, classical poetry recitations, and camel-driving songs.

MAY 24

Deborah Shaffer
Dance of Hope (1989)

Intimate portraits of eight Chilean women are interwoven with stark testimonies of others from the Association of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared. Many of these women would dig the sands of Chile's northern desert searching for the remains of relatives murdered by the military. Musicians Sting and Wendy Blackstone provide the soundtrack. (Courtesy First Run Features)

MAY 31

Roberta Seligman
Soldier's Heart (1988)

In this profile, World War II veteran Mel Seligman reveals his experiences as a soldier and the effect the war had on his life and family. The film was conceived and directed by the veteran's daughter and was shot in the countryside of Normandy, near the concrete remains of German bunkers.

JUNE 7

Dennis O'Rourke
Half Life: A Parable for the Nuclear Age (1985)

Half Life examines United States Government testing of nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands from 1946 to 1958. The film presents evidence that the government elected not to evacuate several populated islands in order to

establish the natives as a control group for testing the long- and short-term effects of nuclear fallout. (Courtesy Direct Cinema)

JUNE 14

Bob Connolly and Robin Anderson
Joe Leahy's Neighbors (1988)

A tribe of aborigines in Papua, New Guinea, deeply rooted in its traditions, decides to get involved in the business of the coffee plantation that employs its people and that is owned by their neighbor, Joe Leahy. In a few short months, the tribe is simultaneously engaging in ancient ritual and attending meetings with bankers and lawyers as it enters the "age of business."
(Courtesy Documentary Educational Resources)

JUNE 21

Boyce Richardson for the National Film Board of Canada
Super Companies (1987)

Focusing on the aluminum industry, Super Companies is a revealing portrait of the operations of multinational and transnational corporations and the effects of corporate decision-making on the economic well-being of individuals and countries. (Courtesy Bullfrog Films)

JUNE 28

Marlene Booth
The Forward: From Immigrants to Americans (1988)

This is the story of the Jewish Daily Forward, the world's most successful Yiddish newspaper, which has served hundreds of thousands of immigrants since its founding in 1897. (Courtesy Direct Cinema).

WHAT'S HAPPENING is organized by William Sloan, librarian,
Circulating Film Library, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.
Tickets are included with Museum admission, which is on a pay-what-you-wish basis after 5:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.