

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
October 1994

WHAT'S HAPPENING? BEGINS ITS FALL 1994 SEASON

WHAT'S HAPPENING?, The Museum of Modern Art's ongoing series of independently made films and videos on social and political issues, continues with its fall 1994 season. The schedule of films, shown on Thursdays at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., is as follows:

OCTOBER 27

Geoffrey O'Connor for Realis Pictures

Contact: *The Yanomami Indians of Brazil* (1990)

One of the most remote corners of the Brazilian Amazon, the Yanomami territory has been declared a national security zone by the military and off-limits to all non-authorized personnel, including journalists. To make this film, director Geoffrey O'Connor was smuggled illegally into the territory, where he captured the devastating impact on the indigenous Yanomami Indians from contact with invading gold miners. 28 min.

Geoffrey O'Connor for Realis Pictures

At the Edge of Conquest: The Journey of Chief Wai-Wai (1993)

This documentary chronicles an indigenous leader's quest to save his society from devastation. Facing a proposal by the Brazilian government to reduce their traditional lands and cut them off from a vital water supply, Chief Wai-Wai of the Waiapi Indians travels to Brasília, the capital city, to fight for his people's rights. 28 min.

NOVEMBER 3

Mira Reym Binford

Diamonds in the Snow (1994)

Three Jewish women, including the filmmaker, born in the same Polish city of Bendzin, share their experiences as children hidden by Christians during World War II. Of the thousands of Jewish children in Bendzin during the Nazi

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invasion, barely a dozen survived. Through interviews and archival film and photos, *Diamonds in the Snow* tells the story of this vanished community, the luck of these few children, and the bravery of those responsible for saving them. 59 min. Video.

NOVEMBER 10

Kathy Fredricks

The Yavapai Story (1992)

This work focuses on the history and struggles of the Yavapai, a small Native American tribe in Arizona, including their current-day confrontations with the State of Arizona and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The first film ever made on the Yavapai, it focuses on a tribe considered by others to be a model for economic self-sufficiency and self-determination. Much of this progress was achieved under the leadership of women, America's only tribal Chieftesses. 80 min.

NOVEMBER 17

Dominique Andreas Faix and Dobrivoie Kerpenisan

Joanes Gesetz (1993)

Joanes Gesetz depicts life in the Romanian village of Kerpenisan's youth. Returning to the village as an adult, the filmmaker discovers that this once agricultural community has experienced great change due to industrialization, technology, and western modernization. In German with English subtitles. 51 min.

DECEMBER 1

Jack Kuper

A Day in the Warsaw Ghetto (1992)

Canadian filmmaker Kuper provides a visual record of the Warsaw Ghetto in 1941, based on photos taken clandestinely by a Nazi soldier. The soldier celebrated his forty-third birthday by taking these photos inside the ghetto, which he kept hidden until he knew he was dying. The filmmaker, a Holocaust survivor, combines the pictures with dramatic narration taken from hidden ghetto diaries. Courtesy of Filmmakers Library. 30 min.

Barbara Pfeffer

Art and Remembrance: The Legacy of Felix Nussbaum (1993)

This film tells the story of the Holocaust through the art of Felix Nussbaum, a German-Jewish artist who perished at Auschwitz. While in hiding for four years in Brussels, Nussbaum painted a major body of work about Jews during World War II. The film features reactions to the work by young Germans today. Courtesy of First Run/Icarus Films. 30 min.

DECEMBER 8**Bette Jean Bullert*****Earl Robinson: Ballad of an American (1994)***

Narrated by Judy Collins, *Earl Robinson: Ballad of an American* profiles the man who composed several legendary folk songs, including "Joe Hill," "Ballad for Americans," and "The House I Live In." The past fifty years of American social and political history provides a backdrop to Robinson's story, which is illustrated using historical footage and radio recordings, interviews, and appearances by Frank Sinatra, Joan Baez, and Three Dog Night. 60 min. Video.

DECEMBER 15**Richard Schmiechen*****Changing Our Minds: The Story of Dr. Evelyn Hooker (1992)***

This documentary tells the story of Dr. Evelyn Hooker, who helped prove to the medical establishment that homosexuals were not mentally ill. Her findings culminated in a major victory for gay rights and played a pivotal role in forcing the American Psychiatric Association in 1974 to remove homosexuality from its official manual of mental disorders. 75 min.

DECEMBER 22**Patrick Mullins*****From Shore to Shore: Irish Traditional Music in New York City (1993)***

From Shore to Shore traces the influences of community, Irish immigration, and American popular culture on Irish traditional music and shows how this music is being played today in New York City. The film combines archival photographs and film footage with current interviews and performances. Courtesy of Cherry Lane Productions, Truckee, California. 57 min.

DECEMBER 29**Tom Zubrycki*****Homelands (1993)***

This Australian film is a moving portrait of the Robles family who fled from their native El Salvador during the civil war to live in Australia. Upon learning of the end of the war, Mr. Robles immediately returns to El Salvador. Mrs. Robles and their four daughters remain in Australia, torn between the happiness they have found in their new homeland and the emotional ties they have for their native country.

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For further information or film stills, contact Christine Dietlin, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.