

MUSEUM TO PRESENT DOCUMENTARY ON THE CONTEMPORARY BLACK CHURCH

"Let the Church Say Amen!", a feature-length documentary about the Black religious experience, will be shown Tuesday, January 29, at 5:30 P.M., at The Museum of Modern Art, as part of the Museum's continuing Cineprobe series featuring the work of independent filmmakers. St. Clair Bourne, a 30-year-old producer/director with several films already to his credit, conceived and directed "Let the Church Say Amen!" and will be present at the screening to discuss his film with the audience.

"Let the Church Say Amen!" tells the story of a young Black seminarian who confronts newly emerging "Black" interpretations of Christian theology as he travels to new assignments after completing his studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. He investigates two Black churches, one in the rural town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, and the other in Chicago, and the ministers and congregations of each are presented through the young seminarian's eyes.

The film uses neither script nor actors. Director Bourne filmed people in actual situations using cinema-verité techniques; more than 26 hours of footage were edited into the final 75-minute film. Financed by a committee of Black churchmen, "Let the Church Say Amen!" was produced by Chamba Productions and received the Bronze Medal in the International Film and Television Festival of New York in 1973.

Other subjects treated on film by independent producer/director St. Clair Bourne have included the Black Muslims ("The Nation of Common Sense"), the recording industry ("Soul, Sounds and Money"), the motivations of southern Black students ("Black Student Movements"), and the origins of contemporary Afro-American dance ("Afro-Dance").

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator, and Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Phone: (212) 956 - 7296, -7295.

January 1974