

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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WHAT'S HAPPENING? A PROGRAM OF INDEPENDENTLY-MADE DOCUMENTARY FILMS BEGINS ITS TENTH SEASON

On Tuesday, October 7th, the weekly What's Happening? series co-sponsored by The Museum of Modern Art and The New York Public Library begins its tenth season. The showings are at 12:00 noon in the auditorium of the Donnell Library Center and at 6:00 p.m. in the Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium of the Museum. The films, made largely by independents, are on contemporary problems, are usually partisan in nature and bring fresh and controversial viewpoints to a variety of issues. They reflect the concerns of contemporary filmmakers and do not necessarily reflect the views of either of the sponsoring institutions. In past years such documentaries as Fernando Solanas' "Hour of the Furnaces," Joseph Strick's "Interviews with My Lai Veterans," Frederick Wiseman's "Essene," Cinda Firestone's "Attica," Julia Reichart and James Klein's "Methadone: An American Way of Dealing," William Miles' "Men of Bronze," and Joris Iven's 12-part film on China, "How Yukong Moved the Mountain," have been shown.

Programmed primarily by William Sloan, Librarian of the Circulating Film Program of the Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art, the first month of What's Happening? indicates the scope and the diversity in documentary approach, style, and subject that will continue through the year.

Opening the series on October 7th will be a 135-minute examination by Sonya Friedman and Herman Engel of the history and development of the socially engaged documentary film that is titled, appropriately enough, "Documentary."

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On October 14th, Laila Abou-Saif, an Egyptian woman, reveals the position of women in that country in "Where is my Freedom?" Two short films complete the program on October 21st. The first, "Am I Normal?" by Debra Franco and David Shepard, is a serio-comic look at teenage sexuality, the second, "Rose by Any Other Name," is about the sexual needs of the elderly in old-age homes. On October 28th, Jean-Pierre Gorin, Jean-Luc Godard's collaborator on "Weekend" and "Tout va bien," will be present to talk about his own American-made documentary, "Poto and Cabengo," that is on one level about twins who have developed their own private language, and on another about the twins' parents and their aspirations to fulfill the American dream.

What's Happening? will be shown every Tuesday through June. The films will be screened at the Donnell Library Center, 20 West 53rd Street, at noon and repeated at the Museum at 6:00 p.m.

The Museum's film program is made possible in part by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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