

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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MUSEUM TO HONOR NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA IN THREE-PART RETROSPECTIVE

The National Film Board of Canada will be honored at The Museum of Modern Art with a major retrospective of 41 years of exceptional filmmaking. Renowned as one of the most innovative and creative filmmaking centers in the world, NFBC is recognized as a leader in the development of animation and documentary techniques, continually breaking new ground and setting the standards for excellence for filmmakers at home and abroad.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA: A RETROSPECTIVE is being presented by the Film Department of The Museum of Modern Art with the close cooperation of the NFBC office in New York. Public screenings will be held in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium.

The comprehensive program, which begins on January 22 and ends on September 15, will be presented in three sections, each highlighting a major area of production. Part One, running from January 22 through February 16, will focus on animation, and was prepared by Louise Beaudet, Head of the Animation Department of the Cinémathèque québécoise in Montreal. Part Two, from March 12 to May 11, surveys the documentary film, and Part Three, which will examine documentary aspects of fiction, opens on August 24 and runs through the 15th of September. Parts Two and Three of the NFBC retrospective were prepared by Larry Kardish, Associate Curator of Film at MoMA.

The National Film Board of Canada was founded in 1939 by an Act of Parliament "to initiate and promote the production and distribution of films in the national interest and in particular... to interpret Canada to Canadians and to other countries." Since its inception, it has far exceeded its early charter as a conveyor of information. While social issues and matters of public concern have always been addressed by NFBC, it has been equally committed

to quality filmmaking. Each of the three parts of the Museum's retrospective will showcase the Board's formidable balance of public service, artistic independence, formal innovation, and intelligent and lively entertainment.

PART ONE: ANIMATION comprises 150 films in 20 programs, and will include a complete retrospective of the work of Norman McClaren, who founded NFBC's Animation Unit in 1941. Along with such other NFBC artists as Grant Munro, Caroline Leaf, Ryan Larkin, Paul Driessen, Co Hoedeman, Evelyn Lambart, Bernard Longpré and René Jodoin, McClaren's approach, a diversity of techniques applied to a wide range of topics, distinguishes the National Film Board as a leading center for dynamic animation.

The 150 films in PART ONE: ANIMATION have been divided by theme or historical perspective into 20 programs, including three surveys of the Animation Unit's evolution: The First Challenge, The Turning Point, and The Later Styles. Programs from The French Unit, The English Unit, and By Foreign Filmmakers are included, as well as selections of Educational and Instructional Films, Scientific Films, films on Eskimo Themes and About Society, among others.

As noted by Louise Beaudet, "The vigor and dynamism of this selection shows that the trademark of NFBC animation is innovation...animation of the foremost rank."

PART TWO: DOCUMENTARY will trace the development of the documentary at NFBC, covering cinema verite, compilation films, current events series and NFBC co-productions with foreign filmmakers. Recent films by both the French and English Units will be featured.

PART THREE:ASPECTS OF FICTION examines the uses of drama and the development of the feature film at the National Film Board.

Further information on the complete Norman McClaren retrospective and on Parts Two and Three will be made available closer to their presentation. A complete schedule of PART ONE: ANIMATION can be found on the accompanying sheet.

The Department of Film would like to express its gratitude to the National Film Board of Canada and the Office of the Consul-General of Canada for their collaboration and assistance in the preparation of this retrospective.

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For further information, please contact Alicia Springer, Film Press Representative, (212) 956-7289.

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART DEPARTMENT OF FILM
NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA - A RETROSPECTIVE
Part One: Animation

Prepared by Louise Beudet, Head of the Animation Department of
the Cinémathèque québécoise, Montreal

January 22 - February 16, 1981

Thursday, January 22 (6:00) - The First Challenge, 11 films,
1943 - 1951. 65 minutes

Thursday, January 22 (7:30) - Recent Films: French Unit, 7 films,
1975 - 1980. 67 minutes

Friday, January 23 (2:30) - Recent Films: French Unit, same as
Thurs. Jan. 22 at 7:30

Friday, January 23 (6:00) - Recent Films: English Unit, 10 films,
1977 - 1980. 65 minutes

Saturday, January 24 (2:30) - The Turning Point, 11 films, 1952 -
1971. 70 minutes

Saturday, January 24 (5:00) - Later Styles, 8 films, 1972 - 1974.
61 minutes

Sunday, January 25 (2:30) - Recent Films: English Unit, same as
Fri. Jan. 23 at 6:00

Monday, January 26 (2:30) - The First Challenge, same as Thurs.
Jan. 22 at 2:30

Thursday, January 29 (2:30) - By Foreign Filmmakers, Program I,
1944 - 1971. 9 films by Alexeieff, Foldes, Grgic, Hale, Hubley,
Kolar, Pojar, Noyes Jr. 69 minutes

Thursday, January 29 (6:00) - By Foreign Filmmakers, Program II,
1972 - 1975. 7 films by Driessen, Foldes, Grgic, Pojar, Reiniger.
66 minutes

Thursday, January 29 (7:30) - Eskimo Themes, 6 films by Heczko,
Hoedeman, Leaf and native Cape Dorset artists. 58 minutes.

Friday, January 30 (2:30) - By Foreign Filmmakers II, same as Thurs.
Jan. 29 at 6:00

Friday, January 30 (6:00) - By Foreign Filmmakers I, same as Thurs.
Jan. 29 at 2:30

Saturday, January 31 (noon) - Eskimo Themes, same as Thurs. Jan 29 7:30

Saturday, January 31 (2:30) - About Society I: "Things To Change"
10 films, 1967 - 1979. 69 minutes

Saturday, January 31 (5:00) - About Society II: "Intoxication"
8 films, 1970 - 1980. 57 minutes

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Part One: Animation

Sunday, February 1 (2:30) - About Society III: "A Matter of Energy"
4 films, 1972 - 1978. 67 minutes

Monday, February 2 (2:30) - same as Sun. Feb. 1 at 2:30

Monday, February 2 (6:00) - Scientific Films, 6 films, 1959-74 67 min.

Thursday, February 5 (2:30) - same as Mon. Feb. 2 at 6:00

Thursday, February 5 (6:00) - About Society II: "Intoxication"
same as Sat. Jan. 31 at 5:00

Thursday, February 5 (7:30) - About Society I: "Things To Change"
same as Sat. Jan. 31 at 2:30

Friday, February 6 (2:30) - Educational and Instructional Films I
6 films, 1950 - 1966. 61 minutes

Friday, February 6 (6:00) - Educational and Instructional Films II
7 films, 1966 - 1971. 66 minutes

Saturday, February 7 (2:30) - Educational and Instructional Films III
7 films, 1974 - 1979. 68 minutes

Saturday, February 7 (5:00) - Educational and Instructional Films I
same as Fri. Feb. 6 at 2:30

Sunday, February 8 (2:30) - Educational and Instructional Films II
same as Fri. Feb. 6 at 6:00

Monday, February 9 (2:30) - Educational and Instructional Films III
same as Sat. Feb. 7 at 2:30

From Thursday, February 12 through Monday, February 16: a five-program
complete NORMAN McCLAREN retrospective.