

The Museum of Modern Art

50th Anniversary



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DOCUMENTARY FILMS FROM THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA FEATURED AT MOMA

NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA: A RETROSPECTIVE is a three-part tribute presented by The Museum of Modern Art in recognition of NFBC's 41 years of exceptional filmmaking. PART TWO: DOCUMENTARY FILMS, running from March 26 through May 12 in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Auditorium, will trace the development of the documentary form at NFBC, and will be highlighted by a selection of some of the finest films directed by Donald Brittain, whose work has won wide acclaim and numerous awards.

PART TWO: DOCUMENTARY will get off to an auspicious start with twelve of Donald Brittain's powerful and unconventional portraits of exceptional individuals. Best known in this country for "Volcano: An Inquiry Into The Life and Death of Malcolm Lowry" (1976), Brittain brings his personal stamp of creative interpretation to such subjects as America's love affair with the automobile in "Henry Ford's America" (1976); the flamboyant Lord Thompson of Fleet Street (the newspaper baron who just sold the cornerstone of his empire, The London Times) in "Never A Backward Step" (1966); Norman Bethune, the Canadian poet/doctor/revolutionary who became a great hero in China when he marched with Mao ("Bethune" 1964); and the phenomenal media hysteria surrounding the famous quintuplets in "The Dionne Years" (1979). "Memorandum" (1965) accompanies a Jewish glazier from Toronto when he takes his son back to the concentration camp where he was interned, an emotional and historical pilgrimage of strong impact and sensitivity. Donald Brittain will be present to introduce the first screening of "Volcano" on March 26 at 6:00 pm.

The 105 films in PART TWO: DOCUMENTARY will examine the evolution of distinctive forms at NFBC: cinema verite, compilation films, educational and current events series as well as NFBC co-productions with foreign filmmakers, such as "North China Factory" (1980) and "North China Commune" (1980) with China. Recent films produced by the French

Unit at NFBC will share equal emphasis. Some of the selections representing these major stylistic directions are wartime films, such as Stuart Legg's "Battle Is Their Birthright" (1943); compilation masterworks using historical footage such as "City of Gold", a 1957 film by Colin Low and Wolf Koenig which captured the Klondike Gold Rush; cinema verite classics like "The Back-Breaking Leaf" (1959), Terence Macartney-Filgate's study of tobacco pickers in the Niagara Peninsula; and Wolf Koenig and Roman Kroitor's "Lonely Boy" about the private man behind the public Paul Anka. The documentaries introduce us to the bustle of Montreal in "The Days Before Christmas" (1958); the quiet dignity of a Winnipeg man's life and work in "Paul Tomkowicz: Street Railway Switchman" (1954); and the Saigon streets of 1969 in "Sad Song of Yellow Skin". National Film Board documentaries truly fulfill their promise to interpret Canada to the world and bring the world to Canada.

According to Larry Kardish, Associate Curator of Film, who organized the retrospective and selected the films: "NFBC was given no time to mature. It sprang full blown into the war effort when Canada joined battle in 1940. Two years after its birth it won its first Academy Award for Stuart Legg's "Churchill's Island" about the Nazi bombing of Britain.

"Even though the films were made for Canadian theatres, they were not so propogandistic as to be nationalistic; they were impassioned, not inflammatory. They remained reasoned. So appealing were the first films that an American distributor released the Board's earliest documentaries under the World In Action banner. NFBC films have been seen and admired ever since. It is now the premier government-sponsored motion picture-making agency in the world."

Part One of the comprehensive Film Board Retrospective, which focused on NFBC's remarkable Animation Unit, was presented from January 22 through February 16; Part Three: Aspects of Fiction, which examines the uses of drama and fiction at NFBC, will begin August 24 and continue through September 15. Each of the three parts of MoMA's NFBC Retrospective showcase the Board's formidable balance of public service, artistic independence, formal innovation, and intelligent and lively entertainment.

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A complete schedule of PART TWO: DOCUMENTARY is attached. For daily film schedules, the public may call 956-7078. For further press information, please contact Alicia Springer, Film Press Representative, 956-7289.

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA: A RETROSPECTIVE

Part Two - Documentary
March 26 - May 12, 1981

- Thursday, March 26 (2:30) SELF-PORTRAIT. 1961. Assembled by Guy Glover & David Mayervitch. Excerpts from 41 films produced at the NFBC, 1939-1960. 150 mins.
- Thursday, March 26 (6:00) Donald Brittain: VOLCANO: AN INQUIRY INTO THE LIFE AND DEATH OF MALCOLM LOWRY. 1976. Donald Brittain. (print courtesy Cinema 5). 100 mins. Filmmaker may be present.
- Thursday, March 26 (8:30) Donald Brittain: GRIERSON. 1972. Roger Blais. Commentary by Donald Brittain. 58 mins./ BETHUNE. 1964. Donald Brittain. 59 mins.
- Friday, March 27 (2:30) VOLCANO. see Thurs. March 26 6:00
- Friday, March 27 (6:00) SELF-PORTRAIT. see Thurs. March 26 2:30
- Saturday, March 28 (Noon) Young People's Miscellany: I'LL FIND A WAY. 1977. Beverly Shaffer./ MY NAME IS SUSAN YEE. 1975. Beverly Shaffer./ SASKATCHEWAN - 45⁰ BELOW. 1971. Larry Kent./ THE MANHATTAN ODYSSEY. 1970. Bernard Gosselin. 75 mins.
- Saturday, March 28 (2:30) Donald Brittain: GRIERSON & BETHUNE see Thurs. March 26 8:30
- Saturday, March 28 (5:00) Donald Brittain: NEVER A BACKWARD STEP-LORD THOMSON OF FLEET STREET. 1966. Donald Brittain, Arthur Hammond, John Spotton. 58 mins./ VAN'S CAMP. 1974. 28 mins.
- Sunday, March 29 (Noon) I'LL NEVER FIND A WAY/MY NAMES IS SUSAN YEE/SASKATCHEWAN-45⁰ BELOW/THE MANHATTAN ODYSSEY see Sat. March 28 Noon
- Sunday, March 29 (2:30) Donald Brittain: THE DIONNE YEARS. 1979. Donald Brittain. 87 mins.
- Monday, March 30 (Noon) Miscellany: HIGH GRASS CIRCUS. 1976. Torben Schioler, Tony Ianzelo. 57 mins.
- Monday, March 30 (2:30) Donald Brittain: A DAY IN THE NIGHT OF JONATHAN MOLE. 1959. Donald Brittain. 28 mins./ SAUL ALINSKY WENT TO WAR. 1968. Peter Pearson, Donald Brittain. 58 mins.
- Tuesday, March 31 (Noon) HIGH GRASS CIRCUS see Mon. March 30 Noon
- Tuesday, March 31 (6:00) What's Happening? Also shown Noon at Donnell Library Center: NORTH CHINA COMMUNE. 1980. Boyce Richardson, Tony Ianzelo. 80 mins.

2

- Thursday, April 2 (2:30)
Donald Brittain: MEMORANDUM. 1965. Donald Brittain. 59 mins./
FIELDS OF SACRIFICE. 1964. Donald Brittain. 38 mins.
- Thursday, April 2 (6:00) NEVER A BACKWARD STEP-LORD THOMSON OF FLEET STREET/
VAN'S CAMP see Sat. 28 5:00
- Thursday, April 2 (8:00) THE DIONNE YEARS. see Sun. March 29 2:30
- Friday, April 3 (2:30)
Donald Brittain: KING OF THE HILL: FERGUSON JENKINS. 1974. Donald
Brittain, William Canning. 56 mins./HENRY FORD'S AMERICA
1976. Donald Brittain. 56 mins.
- Friday, April 3 (6:00) A DAY IN THE NIGHT OF JONATHAN MOLE/SAUL ALINSKY WENT
TO WAR. see Mon. March 30 2:30
- Saturday, April 4 (Noon)
On the North: HOW TO BUILD AN IGLOO. 1950. Doug Wilkinson/ESKIMO ART
KENOJUAK. 1964. John Fenney./THE NETSILIK ESKIMO TODAY
1972. Gilles Blais./BIGHORN. 1970. Bill Schmalz. 58 mins.
- Saturday, April 4 (2:30) KING OF THE HILL/HENRY FORD'S AMERICA see Fri. April 3
2:30
- Saturday, April 4 (5:00) MEMORANDUM/FIELD OF SACRIFICE see Thurs. April 2 2:30
- Sunday, April 5 (Noon) On the North: see Sat. April 4 Noon
- Sunday, April 5 (2:30)
Early Documentaries: HIGH OVER THE BORDERS. 1942. Irving Jacoby for New
York Zoological Society./ORDEAL BY ICE. 1945. Joe Giblin
David Mayervitch./LISTEN TO THE PRARIES. 1945. Gudrun
Bjerring (Parker)./SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN. 1945. Sydney
Newman. 65 mins.
- Monday, April 6 (Noon)
Miscellany: CANARIES TO CLYDESDALE. 1977. Eugene Boyko./ESTUARY.
1980. Don White./TARA'S MULCH GARDEN. 1976. John
Pederson. 59 mins.
- Monday, April 6 (2:30)
From the wartime series,
Canada Carries On & The
World in Action: CHURCHILL'S ISLAND. 1941./THE MASK OF NIPPON. 1942./
BATTLE IS THEIR BIRTHRIGHT. 1943./THE GATES OF ITALY.
1943. All directed by Stuart Legg. 83 mins.
- Tuesday, April 7 (Noon) CANARIES TO CLYDESDALE/ESTUARY/TARA'S MULCH GARDEN
see Mon. April 6 Noon
- Tuesday, April 7 (6:00)
What's Happening? Also shown
Noon at Donnell Library Center: WHY MEN RAPE. 1979. Douglas Jackson. Adults only. 40 mins.
- Thursday, April 9 (2:30) HIGH OVER THE BORDERS/ORDEAL BY ICE/LISTEN TO THE
PRARIES/SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN see Sun. April 5 2:30
- Thursday, April 9 (6:00) CHURCHILL'S ISLAND/THE MASK OF NIPPON/BATTLE IS THEIR
BIRTHRIGHT/THE GATES OF ITALY see Mon. April 6 2:30
- Thursday, April 9 (8:30)
On Southeast Asia: WHEN ASIA SPEAKS. 1944. Stuart Legg./INDOCHINA. 1955.
Morton Parker./SAD SONG OF YELLOW SKIN. 1970. Michael
Rubbo. 109 mins.

- Friday, April 10 (2:30)
Compilation Films:
CITY OF GOLD. 1957. Wolf Koenig. Colin Low./WOMEN ON THE MARCH, Pt 1 - THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS. 1958. Douglas Tunstall./IMPERIAL SUNSET. 1967. Josef Reeve. 70 mins.
- Thursday, April 10 (6:00)
Anthropological Films:
TOTEMS. 1944. Laura Bolton./LAND OF THE LONG DAY. 1952. Doug Wilkinson./THE LONGHOUSE PEOPLE. 1950. Alan Wargon./CIRCLE OF THE SUN. 1961. Colin Low. 81 mins.
- Saturday, April 11 (Noon)
Young People."Canoe" films by Bill Mason:
PADDLE TO THE SEA. 1966. SONG OF THE PADDLE. 1978. 69 mins.
- Saturday, April 11(2:30)
WHEN ASIA SPEAKS/INDOCHINA/SAD SONG OF YELLOW SKIN see Thurs. April 9 8:30
- Saturday, April 11 (5:00)
CITY OF GOLD/WOMEN ON THE MARCH/IMPERIAL SUNSET. see Fri. April 10 2:30
- Sunday, April 12 (Noon)
PADDLE TO THE SEA/SONG OF THE PADDLE see Sat. April 11 Noon
- Sunday, April 12 (2:30)
Cinema Verité #1:
PAUL TOMKOWICZ: STREET-RAILWAY SWITCHMAN. 1954. Roman Kroitor./THE SHEPHERD.1956. Julian Biggs./LES RAQUETTEURS. 1958. Gilles Grouix./DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS.1958. Terence Macartney-Filgate, Stanley Jackson, Wolf Koenig. 0 mins.
- Monday, April 13 (Noon)
Originals & Eccentrics:
LAUGH LINES - A PROFILE OF KAJ PINDAL. 1979. Zina Heczko, Franco Battista./FLASH WILLIAM. 1978. John Laing, Thom Burstyn./BATE'S CAR: SWEET AS A NUT. 1974. Tony Ianzelo. 60 mins.
- Monday, April 13 (2:30)
TOTEMS/LAND OF THE LONG DAY/THE LONGHOUSE PEOPLE/CIRCLE OF THE SUN see Fri. April 10 6:00
- Monday, April 13 (6:00)
Cinema Verité #2
BLOOD AND FIRE. 1958. Terence Macartney-Filgate./ FISHERMEN. 1959. Guy L. Côte/ THE BACKBREAKING LEAF. 1959. Macartney-Filgate. 81 mins.
- Tuesday, April 14 (Noon)
LAUGH LINES/FLASH WILLIAM/BATES CAR see Mon. April 13 Noon
- Tuesday, April 14 (6:00)
What's Happening? Also shown
Noon at Donnell Library Center:
LAST DAYS OF LIVING. 1980 Malca Gillson. 58 mins.
- Thursday, April 16 (2:30)
BLOOD AND FIRE/FISHERMEN/THE BACKBREAKING LEAF see Mon. April 13 6:00
- Thursday, April 16 (6:00)
Cinema Verité #3:
LES PETITES SOEURS. (THE LITTLE SISTERS). 1960. Pierre Patry./LONELY BOY. 1961. Wolf Koenig, Roman Kroitor./ LES BUCHERONS DE LA MANOUANE (MANOUANE RIVER LUMBERJACKS). 1962. Arthur Lamothe. 84 mins.
- Thursday, April 16 (8:30)
PAUL TOMKOWICZ/THE SHEPHERD/LES RAQUETTEURS/THE DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS see Sun. April 12 2:30

- Friday, April 17 (2:30) LES PETITES SOEURS/LONELY BOY/LES BUCHERONS DE LA MANOUANE see Thurs. April 16 6:00
- Friday, April 17 (6:00) STEELTOWN. 1966. Wolf Koenig, Rex Trasker./
Cinema Verite #5: JOUR APRES JOUR. (DAY AFTER DAY). 1962. Clement Perron. 84 mins.
- Saturday, April 8 (Noon) CORRAL. 1954. Colin Low./IN SEARCH OF THE BOWHEAD
Young People's Miscellany: WHALE. 1974. Bill Mason. 61 mins.
- Saturday, April 18 (2:30) LA LUTTE. (WRESTLING). 1961. Michel Brault. Claude
Cinema Verite #4: Jutra, Marcel Carrière, Claude Fournier./GOLDEN GLOVES
1961. Gilles Groulx./KINDERGARTEN. 1963. Guy L. Côté.
72 mins.
- Saturday, April 18 (5:00) YOU DON'T BACK DOWN. 1965. Don Owen./THE THINGS I CAN
Cinema Verite #6: CHANGE. 1966. Tanya Ballantyne./NELL AND FRED. 1971.
Richard Todd. 111 mins.
- Sunday, April 19 (Noon) CORRAL/IN SEARCH OF THE BOWHEAD WHALE see Sat. April
18 Noon
- Sunday, April 19 (2:30) STEELTOWN/JOUR APRES JOUR see Fri. April 17 6:00
- Monday, April 20 (Noon) UNIVERSE. 1960. Roman Kroitor, Colin Low./FLUXES.
Miscellany: 1967. Arthur Lipsett. 50 mins.
- Monday, April 20 (2:30) YOU DON'T TALK BACK DOWN/THE THINGS I CANNOT CHANGE/
NELL AND FRED see Sat. April 18 5:00
- Tuesday, April 21 (Noon) UNIVERSE/FLUXES see Mon. April 20 Noon
- Tuesday, April 21 (6:00) THE INHERITANCE. 1980. John Kramer. On the political
What's Happening? Shown also important but ideologically split Johnson family in
Noon at Donnell Library Quebec. 58 mins.
Center:
- Thursday, April 23 (6:00) PUR LA SUITE DU MONDE. (THE MOONTRAP). 1964.
On the Ile-aux-Coudres,1: Michel Brault, Marcel Carrière, Pierre Perrault.
English version. 85 mins.
- Thursday, April 23 (8:30) LES VOITURES D'EAU. (RIVER SCHOONERS). 1968. Pierre
On the Ile-aux-Coudres,2: Perrault. English subtitles. 111 mins.
- Friday, April 24 (2:30) ROSE ET LANDRY. 1963 Jean Rouch, Jacques Godbout./
From the French Unit: LE BEAU DERANGEMENT. (LEGAULT'S PLACE). 1964. Suzanne
Angel./LEA MONTREALISTES. (VILLE-MARIE). 1965. Denys
Arcand. 68 mins.
- Saturday, April 25 (Noon) HIGH STEEL. 1965. Don Owen./ROULI-ROULANT. (THE DEVIL
Young people's miscellany: TOY). 1966. Claude Jutra./CATTLE RANCH. 1961. Guy
L. Côté./60 CYCLES. Jean-Claude Labrecque. 66 mins.

- Sunday, April 26 (Noon) HIGH STEEL/ROULI-ROULANT/CATTLE RANCH/60 CYCLES
see Sat. April 25 Noon
- Sunday, April 26 (2:30) ROSE ET LANDRY/LE BEAU DERANGEMENT/LES MONTREALISTES
see Fri. April 24 2:30
- Monday, April 27 (Noon) LOS CANADIENSES. 1976. Albert Kish. On the Mackenzie-
Papineau bataillon, Spanish Civil War. 58 mins.
- Monday, April 27 (2:30) JEAN CARIGNAN, VIOLONEUX. (JEAN CARIGNAN, FIDDLER).
1975. Bernard Gosselin. English subtitles. 88 mins.
- Tuesday, April 28 (Noon) LOS CANADIENSES. see Mon. April 27 Noon
- Thursday, April 30 (2:30) A MATTER OF FAT. 1969. William Weintraub.
About weight loss. 99 mins.
- Thursday, April 30 (6:00) JEAN CARIGNAN, VIOLONEUX. see Mond. April 27 2:30
- Friday, May 1 (2:30) POUR LA SUITE DU MONDE. see Thurs. April 23 6:00
- Saturday, May 2 (Noon)
Young People's Miscellany: AU BOUT DE MA RUE. (STREET TO THE WORLD). Louis-
Georges Carrier./LA PATINOIRE. (THE RINK). 1963.
Gilles Carle./I'M A MAMMAL AND SO ARE YOU. 1972./THE
RISE AND FALL OF THE GREAT LAKES. 1968. William
Mason./ LE BEAU PLAISIR. (BELUGA DAYS). 1968. Pierre
Perrault, Bernard Gosselin, Michel Brault. 60 mins.
- Saturday, May 2 (2:30) A MATTER OF FAT. see Thurs. April 30 2:30
- Sunday, May 3 (Noon) AU BOUT DE MA RUE/LA PATINOIRE/I'M A MAMMAL.../THE
RISE AND FALL OF THE GREAT LAKES/LE BEAU PLAISIR see
Sat. May 2 Noon
- Sunday, May 3 (2:30)
Challenge for Change
program-Indian issues: CREE HUNTERS OF MISTASSINI. 1974. Boyce Richardson,
Tony Ianzelo./YOU ARE ON INDIAN LAND. 1969. George
C. Storey, Mort Ransen, Noel Starblanket, Mike Mitchell.
105 mins.
- Monday, May 4 (Noon)
NFBC Abroad - USA: SOME AMERICAN FEMINISTS. 1978. Luce Guilbeault, Nicole
Brossard, Margaret Wescott. 56 mins.
- Monday, May 4 (2:30) LES VOITURES D'EAU. see Thurs. April 23 8:30
- Tuesday, May 5 (Noon) SOME AMERICAN FEMINISTS. see Mond. May 4 Noon
- Tuesday, May 5 (2:30) GOING THE DISTANCE. 1979. Paul Cowan. On the athletes
of the Commonwealth Games. 89 mins./PRETEND YOU'RE
WEARING A BARREL. 1978. Jan-Marie Martell. 10 mins.
- Thursday, May 7 (2:30) CREE HUNTERS OF MISTASSINI/YOU ARE ON INDIAN LAND see
Sun. May 3 2:30

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- Thursday, May 7 (8:00)
NFBC Abroad - People's Republic of China:
NORTH CHINA FACTORY. 60 mins./NORTH CHINA COMMUNE. 80 mins. Both 1980; directed by Boyce Richardson, Tony Ianzelo.
- Friday, May 8 (2:30)
NFBC Abroad - Indonesia & Cuba:
2 by Michael Rubbo. WET EARTH AND WARM PEOPLE. 1971. 58 mins./WAITING FOR FIDEL. 1974. 58 mins.
- Friday, May 8 (6:00)
On the Ile-aux-Coudres,3:
LE CANOT A RENALD A THOMAS. (THE SKIFF OF RENAL AND THOMAS). 1980. Bernard Gosselin. English subtitles. 60 mins.
- Saturday, May 9 (Noon)
Young peoples miscellany:
SNOW. 1961. Barrie McLean./ABOVE THE HORIZON. 1964. Roman Kroitor, Hugh O'Connor./LA MOISSON (HARVESTING). 1966. Arthur Lamothe./GOLD. 1955. Colin Low. 56 mins.
- Saturday, May 9 (2:30)
GOING THE DISTANCE/PRETEND YOU'RE WEARING A BARREL. see Tues. May 5 2:30
- Saturday, May 9 (5:00)
NORTH CHINA FACTORY only see Thurs May 7 8:00
- Sunday, May 10 (Noon)
SNOW/ABOVE THE HORIZON/HARVESTING/GOLD see Sat. May 9 Noon
- Sunday, May 10 (2:30)
WET EARTH AND WARM PEOPLE/WAITING FOR FIDEL see Fri May 8 6:00
- Monday, May 11 (Noon)
CHALLENGER: AN INDUSTRIAL ROMANCE. 1980. Stephen Low. 58 mins.
- Monday, May 11 (2:30)
LE CANOT A RENALD A THOMAS see Fri. May 8 6:00
- Tuesday, May 12 (Noon)
CHALLENGER: AN INDUSTRIAL ROMANCE see Mon May 11 Noon

The paintings and drawings, mostly landscapes and views of architecture, are by such painters as Constable and Lorrain and by some of their talented but less well-known contemporaries. The works re-assert the emergence of a fundamentally modern artistic outlook that has begun to make individual, contingent perceptions of the world more publicly sanctioned expressions of aesthetic taste. With this outlook came a new sense of pictorial syntax, in which a picture was conceived not as a deliberately composed whole but as a telling fragment of a continuous and variable visual field. As Edward Seward contends that the medium of photography, which does select but not compose, was born of this crucial new transition in artistic value and pictorial strategy. The photographic section of the exhibition represents the considerable artistic capital that the best early photographers made of the new strategy, which painters had long been inventing and photographers could not avoid.

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