

# The Museum of Modern Art

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For Immediate Release

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES PROMOTION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FILM

Mary Lea Bandy, Director of the Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art, has announced the promotion of Laurence Kardish to the position of curator.

Laurence Kardish joined the Museum's staff in 1968 as a curatorial assistant in the exhibition office of the Department of Film. He has been involved with the Cineprobe program, in which independent filmmakers show and discuss their work, since its inception in 1969, selecting works in conjunction with curator Adrienne Mancia. Since 1972 Kardish has also participated in the selection of films for New Directors/New Films, presented each spring by the Department of Film and the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

Among the exhibitions Kardish directed are surveys of national cinemas including Senegal (1978), the Scandinavian countries (1980), and French-speaking Canada (1972), and retrospectives of independent American filmmakers including Shirley Clarke (1971), Emile de Antonio (1975), Les Blank (1979), and John Cassavetes (1980). He directed the 1981 exhibition Of Light and Texture: Andrew Noren and James Herbert and authored the accompanying catalog. Among other shows on which Kardish worked are The Lubitsch Touch (1968) with the late Herman Weinberg; retrospective histories of Columbia Pictures (1968), Warner Bros. (1973), MGM (1974), Universal Pictures (1977), RKO (1978), and American-International (1979); retrospectives devoted to Alan Dwan (1971), Alberto Cavalcanti (1972), King Vidor (1972), Raoul Walsh (1974), Francesco Rosi (1975), and Henry King (1978). He also participates in the selection of works for the periodic programs of recent French and German films in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters, and with the American Film Institute he made the selection for China Film Week, which toured America in 1982.

In 1980, under the auspices of the Museum's International Council, Kardish toured Europe with a program of independent American films. Kardish is the author of Reel Plastic Magic, published in 1972 as a textbook on American filmmaking, and he has contributed an essay on the international avant-garde cinema for the new Circulating Film Library Catalog, to be published by the Museum in January 1984. A playwright and filmmaker, Kardish has a feature film, Slow Run (1968), preserved in the National Film Archive of the British Film Institute. For the past three years

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he has served on the jury for Channel 13's Independent Focus series, and he has served on the Board of Advisors for the Collective for Living Cinema in New York. From 1980 to 1982 Kardish was on the Board of Directors of the National Alliance of Media Arts Centers.

Kardish, who studied philosophy at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, came to New York for graduate work in film, radio and television at Columbia University's School of the Arts, where he studied under Erik Barnouw. Before coming to the Museum, Kardish worked for the New American Cinema Group, whose Filmmakers Distribution Center attempted to find theatrical release for the works of American independent filmmakers.

Currently Kardish is co-director with Adrienne Mancina of a major retrospective of the British cinema and is the author of the accompanying catalog essay Michael Balcon and the Idea of a National Cinema.

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