

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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#26

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CINEPROBE--17TH SEASON OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS' FORUM ANNOUNCES FINAL PROGRAMS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

CINEPROBE, a forum for the independent and avant-garde filmmaker, has announced the final three programs of the 17th season. One of the longest-running such programs in the United States, CINEPROBE invites filmmakers to present their work in person so as to encourage dialogue between independent artists and their audience. All presentations in this Monday-evening series begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2. After 6:00 p.m., rush tickets are available free.

The current season of CINEPROBE began in October 1984. The final three programs of the season are:

May 13: MARK RANCE from New York, showing his 1983 feature-length documentary Death and the Singing Telegram. Shot over a five-year period, from 1975 to 1980, Death and the Singing Telegram is a cinema-verité portrait of the filmmaker's family; "the key events" (according to Peter Keough, writing in the Chicago Reader) "are a birthday, a wedding, and four deaths...Rance's film is alternately (and sometimes simultaneously) comic, confusing, depressing, profoundly moving, astonishing..." The film won two awards at the all-documentary Nyon International Film Festival in Switzerland in 1983.

May 20: BILLY WOODBERRY from Los Angeles, with his 1983 feature film Bless Their Little Hearts, written and photographed by Charles Burnett and starring Nate Hardman and Kaycee Moore. A drama of a black family in the Watts section of Los Angeles struggling to stay together despite the pressures of unemployment, Bless Their Little Hearts focuses on the character of Charlie Banks, a man whose self-respect has disappeared with his job. Reviewing the film for the New York Times, Vincent Canby wrote that it "is a small, self-assured, independent American film that, though severely even-tempered, never disguises its own anger or that of its characters..."

June 17: BARRY GERSON from New York, with a program of short, non-narrative works: Inversion (1973), The Secret Abyss (1979), Hidden Tracings (1980), Exposed Fragrances (1980), Episodes from the Secret Life (1983). This will be the fourth

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CINEPROBE evening devoted to Gerson's work (the others were in 1970, 1974, and 1977); his recent films continue Gerson's intense concentration on the function of light (both in nature and in the projection of film) and his revelation of abstract form in commonplace objects.

CINEPROBE is made possible with support from the New York State Council on the Arts and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The series will resume with its 18th season in fall 1985.

For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500.

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