

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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DEPARTMENT OF FILM CELEBRATES TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

The Department of Film of The Museum of Modern Art honors the New York State Council on the Arts (N.Y.S.C.A.) on the occasion of its silver anniversary with a presentation of films by independent New York artists. The films in the four programs were produced with the help of N.Y.S.C.A. funding and have been acquired by the Department of Film for either its permanent collection or Circulating Film Library. Each program will be screened twice on successive Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18, and 25, and on Thursday, February 27.

The series includes Charles Musser's Before the Nickelodeon: The Early Cinema of Edwin S. Porter (1982), a graphic and entertaining account of the early days of film production and exhibition. Clarence and Angel (1980), written, produced, and directed by Robert Gardner, is an often humorous drama of two twelve-year-old "troublemakers." Yvonne Rainer's Journeys from Berlin/1971 (1980) is a cinematic exposure of the gap between public and private action. In addition, The Times of Harvey Milk (1984), a film also funded by N.Y.S.C.A., will be shown in the Museum's 1984 ACADEMY SURVEY OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS on Thursday, February 13, at 3:00 and 6:30 p.m.

The New York State Council on the Arts, which was founded by Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1960 as a "temporary" state arts commission, became a permanent agency in the executive branch of the state's government in 1965. It was the first agency of its kind in the nation, predating the federal endowments and other arts agencies.

N.Y.S.C.A.'s Film Program, which was established in the Council's sixth year of operation, was also the first government-supported program of its kind. For the past decade, it has supported film exhibition, preservation, distribution, and a wide range of other services. The Film Program has also funded the production of independent films by New York filmmakers.

A TRIBUTE TO N.Y.S.C.A. has been organized for the Museum by Jytte Jensen, curatorial assistant in the Department of Film.

SCHEDULE (all programs in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2 at 3:00 and 6:30 p.m.)-

- Tuesday, February 4: Clarence and Angel. 1980. Robert Gardner. 72 min.
- Tuesday, February 11: Journeys from Berlin/1971. 1980. Yvonne Rainer. 125 min.
- Tuesday, February 18: Sea Travels. 1978. Anita Thacher. 11 min./ Clotheslines. 1982. Roberta Cantow. 32 min./ Thicket. 1985. George Griffin. 10 min./ A Private Life. 1980. Mikhail Bogin. 30 min.
- Tuesday, February 25: Before the Nickelodeon: The Early Cinema of Edwin S. Porter. 1982. Charles Musser. 60 min.
- Thursday, February 27: Strong Medicine. 1979. Richard Foreman. 84 min.

No. 11

For additional press information, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art 212/708-9752.