

The Museum of Modern Art

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CINEPROBE CONTINUES AT MoMA WITH DONNA CAMERON FEBRUARY 8
AND PHILIP HARTMAN MARCH 1

Independent and avant-garde filmmakers such as Donna Cameron, Abigail Child, Philip Hartman, Willie Varela, and Paul Winkler appear during the second half of CINEPROBE's twentieth season at The Museum of Modern Art. This ongoing series, generally held on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2, is a forum focusing on experimental works as well as on personal and unusual narratives.

February 8, 6:30 p.m.
DONNA CAMERON

In her first CINEPROBE, Donna Cameron presents short films, including NEWSW (1978-80), The Chinese Lunch (1980-87), Dracula and the Babysitter (1985-86), and her recent Superweapon (1987). Reworking existing footage, the filmmaker often creates films constructed from such optically-printed paper as newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and color photocopies. Ms. Cameron has written, "In all of my films I am concerned with the film as an object, the emulsion as some kind of skin through which the world is viewed. In the paper films the original is a film object, made to present a strange world--one composed of common, everyday objects such as paper. . . . In Dracula the original 1948 emulsion has faded, creating a hellish red world, the color of overindulgence of any sort."

March 1 (Tuesday), 6:30 p.m.
PHILIP HARTMAN

In conjunction with the Museum's week-long CONTEMPORARY ART IN CONTEXT program, director/writer Philip Hartman presents his Lower East Side feature No Picnic (1986). Photographed almost entirely in the East Village by Peter Hutton, this energetic film catches glimpses of local people. Much of the cityscape depicted in the film has already been transformed beyond recognition. The story of a young man's odyssey in "Alphabet City," No Picnic stars David

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Brisbin, Myoshin, and Anne D'Agnillo. Such underground musicians as Ned Sublette, the Raunch Hands, Fela Kuti, Richard Hell, and Raw Youth perform songs on the soundtrack.

Press Screening:

Monday, February 22, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
The Museum's Warner Communications Screening Room, fifth floor

April 26 (Tuesday), 6:30 p.m.
KATHRYN BIGELOW

A filmmaker trained as a painter, Kathryn Bigelow appears with Near Dark (1987), a romance and adventure feature set among vampires and ordinary people. This unusual genre film had a brief commercial run in November. According to Ms. Bigelow, who co-wrote the film, "Near Dark asks the audience not so much to keep an open mind as to be ready for an experience." The filmmaker also presents her provocative short film Set-Up (1979).

Both films are also shown on Monday, April 25, at 3:00 p.m. The director's first feature, The Loveless (1982), is screened on Monday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m., and Tuesday, April 26, at 3:00 p.m.

May 9, 6:30 p.m.
TOM CHOMONT

In his second CINEPROBE appearance, Tom Chomont, who has been making films since 1965, presents short works made between 1979 and 1987, including Minor Revisions (1979) and Razor Head (1982). His diaristic works, often portraits of personal friends, have a lyrical and sensual quality. According to the filmmaker, "My films attempt to retain what is past in a form that is presently valid. . . . Since childhood I have been fascinated by grain, fades, dissolves, superimpositions--all of film's formal and textural qualities connoting psychological and metaphysical regard of the image."

May 23 (Monday), 6:30 p.m.
PAUL WINKLER

Paul Winkler of Sydney, Australia, appears at his third CINEPROBE. He introduces the New York premieres of several short films, including Brick and Tile (1984), Incongruous (1985), and Australian Bush (1986). His films are noted for the beauty and complexity of the image structure, which is achieved with handmade, in-camera matting techniques. The filmmaker states, "I have developed a device which. . . [allows] me to do certain types of travelling mattes in camera and in real time, which means at twenty-four frames per second." Many of the filmmaker's works are part of the collection of the Museum's Circulating Film Library.

June 6, 6:30 p.m.
ABIGAIL CHILD

New York filmmaker Abigail Child presents short films from her ongoing series Is This What You Were Born For? (1981-87). The works include Prefaces (1981), Mutiny (1982-83), Covert Action (1984), Perils (1985-86), and the recent Mayhem (1987). Ms. Child uses disjunctive techniques in her densely textured films, often exploring the relation of sound to image. She often investigates sexual relationships, as well as the urban landscape.

June 13, 6:30 p.m.
WILLIE VARELA

In the filmmaker's first CINEPROBE and the final program of the season, Willie Varela, director of the Southwestern Alternate Media Project in El Paso, Texas, appears with the second super-8 program ever held at the Museum. Among the works presented is Recuerdos de Flores Muertas (1982), a film about a Mexican-American cemetery in Guadalupe, Texas. Many of his films are portraits of friends and such colleagues as Stan Brakhage and James Broughton. About the choice of super-8 as his medium, Mr. Varela states, "Because of the low resolution, quirky color, and limitation in regard to editing, the use of super-8 has forced me to become more resourceful visually, more sensitive to the light where I live, more willing to experiment, and finally more aware of my ambitions as a filmmaker."

Available tickets for CINEPROBE are free after 6:00 p.m. on the evening of each program. The series is programmed by Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancia, curators, and Jytte Jensen, curatorial assistant, in the Museum's Department of Film.

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For further press information and photographic materials, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, The Museum of Modern Art; (212) 708-9752.