

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
April 1991

SPECIAL FILM PROGRAMS AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

As part of the ART OF THE FORTIES exhibition, The Museum of Modern Art is presenting two film programs exploring the ground-breaking cinema of the World War II era. In addition, twenty-five years of alternative filmmaking by The Millennium Film Workshop are documented in the first segment of a two-part program (to be concluded in October 1991). The program is as follows (schedule attached):

A TRIBUTE TO CINEMA 16 April 11 & 13, 1991

In October 1947, Cinema 16 held its first screening of documentary and experimental films; sixteen years later, it had become the world's largest and America's most important film society. Cinema 16 played a pivotal role in the recognition of the motion picture not only as an art form, but also as an extremely powerful social force. Amos Vogel, a Cinema 16 founder and executive secretary, has compiled two programs of films for the tribute and introduces the first program on April 11. Excerpts of the original program notes for each of the films are available at both screenings.

The programs include Georges Franju's *The Blood of the Beasts* (1948), a violent yet poetic view of a Parisian slaughterhouse; Stan Brakhage's subjective documentary *Blue Moses* (1962); Charles and Ray Eames's *House* (1955), a celebration of the modular home they built overlooking the Pacific ocean; Harry Watt's and Basil Wright's *Night Mail* (1936), recording the nightly journey of the Postal Special train from London to Glasgow; and Sidney Peterson's *The Lead Shoes* (1949), an Oedipal narrative about a mother and her son.

A TRIBUTE TO CINEMA 16 has been organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

CITIZEN KANE
50TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING
 April 30, 1991

The most celebrated film of the forties, *Citizen Kane* opened May 1, 1941, at Broadway's RKO Palace Theatre. Made when Welles was only twenty-five years old, the film broke all the rules and reinvented movie-making for the rest of this century. This anniversary screening revives the rarely seen *Citizen Kane* trailer, featuring the Mercury Players. Harlan Lebo, author of the book *Citizen Kane: The Fiftieth Anniversary Album*, introduces the program with a slide presentation on the making of the film.

CITIZEN KANE: FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING has been organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

MILLENNIUM: 25 YEARS
 April 19 - 21, 1991

The Millennium Film Workshop, a nonprofit educational organization and one of New York's most vibrant film workshops and exhibition spaces, marks twenty-five years of innovative, alternative filmmaking and exhibition. The works in this program were either produced using Workshop facilities or made their New York premieres as part of its Personal Cinema series. The program is introduced by Ken Jacobs, founding director of Millennium, and Howard Guttenplan, its director since 1969.

The exhibition includes *Rainy Season* (1987), by Bronx-born iconoclast George Kuchar; *Critical Mass* (1971), the third in the *Hapax Legomena* series, by Hollis Frampton; *A and B in Ontario*, (1966/1984), begun in 1966 by Hollis Frampton and Joyce Wieland and completed by Ms. Wieland after Mr. Frampton's death in 1984; *Murder Psalm* (1981), by the visionary Stan Brakhage; and *Morning* (1968), a study of light by Ernie Gehr.

MILLENNIUM: 25 YEARS has been programmed by Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, with the cooperation of Howard Guttenplan and the film- and videomakers represented in the series.

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No. 30

For further information or film stills, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.

A TRIBUTE TO CINEMA 16

Film Program Schedule

Thursday, April 11
Program I

6:00 p.m. *The Blood of the Beasts (Le Sang des bêtes)*. 1948.
Georges Franju. In French, English subtitles. 20 min.

Paul Tomkowicz: Street Railway Switchman. 1954.
Roman Kroiter. Documentary about a Polish-born Canadian working
on the trolleys of Winnipeg. 9 min.

The Lead Shoes. 1949.
Sidney Peterson. 18 min.

Blazes. 1961.
Robert Breer. 3 min.

And So They Live. 1940.
Written and directed by John Ferno and Julian Roffman. Social
documentary about the educational system in a rural Kentucky
community. 25 min.

A Movie. 1958.
Bruce Conner. 12 min.

Fiddle-de-dee. 1947.
Norman McLaren. A film made by painting directly on motion-
picture celluloid; no camera used for filming.

Saturday, April 13
Program II

- 5:30 p.m. *Blue Moses.* 1962.
Stan Brakhage. With Robert Benson. 11 min.

- N.Y., N.Y.* 1957.
Francis Thompson. Music by Gene Forrell. 15 min.

- Treadle and Bobbin.* 1954.
Wheaton Galentine. Music by Noel Sokoloff. An intricate study of the mechanics of an early model Singer sewing machine. 8 min.

- Mother's Day.* 1948.
James Broughton. 23 min.

- House.* 1955.
Charles and Ray Eames. Music by Elmer Bernstein. Documentary about their California home. 13 min.

- Thanatopsis.* 1963.
Ed Emschwiller. 5 min.

- Night Mail.* 1936.
Harry Watt, Basil Wright and W.H. Auden. Production, script, and dialogue by Basil Wright. Music by Benjamin Britten. 23 min.