

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
April 1994

SPRING FILM AND VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

The Museum of Modern Art's spring 1994 season features programs ranging from new film and video acquisitions to programs featuring the films of John Ford and Ilya Averbach of Russia.

ILYA AVERBACH April 15 - 19

Virtually unknown in the United States, Ilya Averbach (1934-1986) is considered within Russia to be one of the most significant and influential filmmakers who worked in the Soviet Union. Between 1969 and 1982, Averbach completed nine films, distinguished by expressive camera work and the subtle performances he elicited from his casts. The protagonists of these nuanced domestic melodramas must make accommodations both in the workplace and in the home in order to function in a society where truth is not practical. The five films in the program are: *Degree of Risk* (1969), *Tragedy of Another Time* (1972), *Monologue* (1973), *Other People's Letters* (1976), and *Declaration of Love* (1978). Coorganized by Laurence Kardish, Curator, Department of Film and Video, and Frigetta Gukasjan, Editor-in-Chief, Lenfilm Film Association, St. Petersburg, and Averbach's biographer.

JOHN FORD, 1894-1973: AN AMERICAN MASTER April 21 - May 5

Few directors have enjoyed longer, more successful careers in Hollywood than John Ford, whose work from 1914 to 1965 spanned much of the history of the motion picture studios. Ford is recognized as one of America's finest artists and favorite storytellers, and his films continue to be appreciated for their formal beauty, intelligence, and emotional resonance. Over the years, the Department of Film and Video has built an extensive collection of Ford's films; this program of seventeen films from the collection commemorates the 100th anniversary of his birth. Highlights include one of Ford's first films, *Straight Shooting* (1917); the Museum's restoration of *Three Bad Men* (1926); the early sound film *Up the River* (1930), starring Spencer Tracy and Humphrey Bogart; *Sergeant Rutledge* (1960), starring Woody Strode as a black cavalry officer on trial for rape and murder; and the underappreciated comedy *Donovan's Reef* (1963). Also included are the classics *The Informer* (1935), *Tobacco Road* (1941), *My Darling Clementine* (1946), and *The Searchers* (1956). Organized by Mary Lea Bandy, Chief Curator, Department of Film and Video.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES: RECENT ACQUISITIONS

May 20 - June 5

In 1993 more than 300 pieces of film material were added to the film collection. Many of these new acquisitions were the result of archival exchanges between the Department of Film and Video and such international film institutions as the Narodni Filmovy Archiv, Prague; Suomen Elokuva-Arkisto, Helsinki; and the Library of Congress. The film industry continued to support the growth of the collection with donations from Warner Bros. and Oliver Stone (*Heaven and Earth*, 1993), and Columbia Pictures and Martin Scorsese (*The Age of Innocence*, 1993). In addition to examples of Hollywood and international feature films, the program includes experimental and documentary short subjects. Organized by Anne Morra, Assistant Curator, Department of Film and Video.

VIDEO: RECENT ACQUISITIONS

June 3 - 14

This exhibition includes a selection of videotapes acquired by the Museum in the past year and acknowledges the breadth and inventiveness of interdisciplinary artists working in video throughout the world. Featured is work by indigenous directors from Canada and Latin America, as well as early work from the 1970s by William Wegman and Nam June Paik, videotapes from the 1980s by Joan Jonas, and recent work by French directors Jean-Luc Godard and Chris Marker. Organized by Barbara London, Associate Curator, and Sally Berger, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Film and Video.

SOUTH KOREA: TEN YEARS OF CINEMA, 1983-1993

June 6 - 14

This exhibition is part of the national year-long Festival of Korea, which seeks to deepen American understanding of Korea and its culture. The fifteen features in the series, ranging from period dramas and political satires to comedies, highlight the work of some of Korea's best known directors, as well as its new generation of filmmakers. Jointly organized by and shown at The Museum of Modern Art and The Asia Society, with the assistance of the Korean Motion Picture Promotion Corporation, Seoul. Organized for The Museum of Modern Art by Laurence Kardish, Curator, and Linden Chubin, Senior Program Associate for Films and Lectures, The Asia Society.

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