

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
April 1994

WHAT'S HAPPENING? SPRING 1994 SEASON

WHAT'S HAPPENING?, The Museum of Modern Art's ongoing series of independently made films and videos on social and political issues, continues its winter/spring 1994 season in April. Held on Thursdays at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m., the program is as follows:

APRIL 14
Isabel Hill
***Made in Brooklyn* (1993)**

Isabel Hill's video illustrates how -- despite expert opinions to the contrary -- Brooklyn is an important manufacturing and employment center. It demonstrates how the borough's productive economic environments, from Domino Sugar with 500 employees to a small workshop with five employees, help shape communities in positive ways.

APRIL 21
Catherine Saalfield and Debra Levine
***I'm You, You're Me* (1993)**

This video examines the lives of HIV-positive women making the transition from prison to independent living. Women are discharged from correctional facilities without medical referrals, adequate housing, or support systems. In the video, a group of women are shown receiving guidance from ACE OUT (The AIDS Counseling and Education Group), a peer counseling, support, and advocacy network for women with HIV or AIDS who have been released from prison.

Revaz Gvarliani
***Zone* (1992)**

The difficult life of women in a Tbilisi prison is the focus of this documentary made during the breakdown of the Communist system. The film shows disparate scenes of prison life, such as the women taking drugs and fighting, and a beauty contest and concert organized by the camera crew.

APRIL 28

Herzel Jacoby

Rice and Honey: Sri Lanka Children in War (1993)

This video concerns the shattered lives of children, both Singhalese and Tamil, caught up in the civil war in Sri Lanka. The children bear witness to the loss, devastation, and discrimination they were born into.

MAY 5

Andrea Gschwendtner

The Anthropologist (1992)

Rudolph Poch, the first anthropologist of Vienna, did fieldwork in the Austro-Hungarian prisoner-of-war camps during World War I. Later, his studies became part of the materials used during the eugenics movement, which sought to improve the human race through the control of hereditary factors. Using documentary techniques and drama, the film raises ethical questions about the use and misuse of anthropological research.

MAY 12

Steve Thomas

Black Man's Houses (1992)

Dealing with issues of racism and the survival of the Aborigines in Tasmania, *Black Man's Houses* reassesses historical assumptions, documents the land-rights dispute on Flinders Island, and examines aboriginality as it exists there today.

MAY 19

Cyrille Phipps and Catherine Saalfield

Sacred Lies, Civil Truths (1992)

Using interviews and excerpts from independently produced videotapes, this one-hour video analyzes the attacks on the lesbian and gay community by the religious right. It also follows the campaign for anti-gay initiatives in Oregon and Colorado in 1992 and examines the issues of family values, gay youth, violence, and religion in the gay community.

MAY 26

Stephanie J. Castillo

Simple Courage: An Historical Portrait for the Age of AIDS (1991)

Simple Courage explores the tragic way Hawaii's leprosy epidemic was handled in the late 1800s and compares it to the present day treatment of people with AIDS. The leprosy sufferers, mostly native Hawaiians, were banished to an isolated peninsula; American colonizers told them the disease was a curse from God. The video speaks about society's obligation to care for its sick with compassion.

JUNE 2
Ilan Ziv
***Tango of Slaves* (1992)**

Tango of Slaves, named after a popular tune from the Warsaw Ghetto, was produced by Ilan Ziv for his two daughters, so they could have their own images of the Holocaust. Frustrated by popular Holocaust imagery, Ziv took his father back to his former Warsaw home. The film is the story of that return and a meditative essay about history, memory, and their preservation in images. Presented in collaboration with **VIDEO VIEWPOINTS**.

JUNE 9
Jos de Putter
***It's Been a Lovely Day* (1993)**

It's Been a Lovely Day is a portrait of the final harvest year on a traditional Dutch farm, made by the farmers' son. The farmers are retiring without a successor, even though the farm has been passed down through the family for more than a century. The film beautifully observes a way of life that is fast disappearing throughout Europe.

JUNE 23
Dan Bessie
***Turnabout - Gays in Their Nineties: A Theatrical Portrait* (1992)**

This film is a portrait of three men who operated the Turnabout Theater in Hollywood and who revealed their homosexuality in their mid-eighties. Along with the story of their show business success, this is the story of their quiet collaboration in an era when few individuals were openly gay.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? is programmed by William Sloan, Librarian, Circulating Film and Video Library. The June 2 program is coorganized with Barbara London, Associate Curator, and Sally Berger, Curatorial Assistant, Department of Film and Video.

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For further information or stills, contact Barbara Marshall, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.