

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
May 1994

GAYS AND FILM: GET REEL

June 17 - July 12, 1994

The first international survey devoted exclusively to gay documentaries and non-narrative film and video opens at The Museum of Modern Art on June 17, 1994. **GAYS AND FILM: GET REEL** follows the development of the gay documentary and is designed to facilitate an understanding of the movement's history of the past thirty years. On view through July 12, the exhibition is presented on the occasion of the citywide celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, which launched the Gay Liberation Movement.

The twenty-four part exhibition comprises works drawn from the independent film and video community, featuring work from the highly experimental 1960s, the more traditional 1970s and 1980s, and the new generation of directors working today. The forty-six works in the series, either by gay artists or with gay-related content, explore social and political issues which engage the lesbian and gay community, such as AIDS, anti-gay violence, human rights, history, and lesbian concerns.

A number of films and videos in the series examine two divergent styles within the gay documentary field -- experimental and traditional. Early experimental documentaries include the opening film of the series, *Portrait of Jason* (1967, Shirley Clarke), a study of a black gay man filmed in one night at the Chelsea Hotel, which also addresses the process of filmmaking itself; *Blow Job* (1964, Andy Warhol), filmed in real time, shows a young man's facial

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expression while presumably receiving fellatio; and *Scorpio Rising* (1963, Kenneth Anger), which provides a look at some motorcyclist's gay sado masochistic rituals. More recent experimental works presented include those by Sadie Benning, Cheryl Dunye, Su Friedrich, Barbara Hammer, and Ellen Sprio.

Traditional documentaries include the groundbreaking *Word is Out* (1977, Mariposa Film Group), which is made up of coming-out stories by sixteen lesbians and gay men; *Before Stonewall* (1986, Greta Schiller and Robert Rosenberg), a history of the gay rights movement to June 1969; and *Paris is Burning* (1990, Jennie Livingston), on the Harlem drag balls and voguing, a dance phenomenon. Other traditional nonfiction works by Elaine Valesquez, Rita Moreira, and Pam Walton are also included.

Four programs are devoted to the work of individual artists. Two programs focus on the videotapes of the late Marlon Riggs. Featured works are the highly controversial *Tongues Untied* (1989), which Senator Jesse Helms used as an example to attack the National Endowment for the Arts; *Color Adjustment* (1991), a study of the changing role of blacks on American television; and *No Regret* (1992), the story of five H.I.V.-positive black men.

Pratibha Parmar, an Indian video artist based in London, uses dance as her signature technique. Her two works screened are *Khush* (1991), on the lives of southeast Asian lesbians and gays in India and elsewhere; and *Warrior Marks* (1993), on the issue of female circumcision with text and narration by the writer Alice Walker.

The third featured artist is Richard Fung, who lives in Toronto and is of Chinese descent. His videotapes include *Chinese Characters* (1986), which addresses the effect of European-dominated pornographic iconography on Asians;

and *The Way to My Father's Village* (1988), a document of the artist's search for his roots in China.

The series concludes with two films on role models: *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984, Robert Epstein and Richard Schmeichen), an Academy Award-winning documentary on Milk, the assassinated city supervisor of San Francisco; and *Gertrude Stein: When This You See Remember Me* (1971, Perry Miller Adato), a study of the celebrated writer, a lesbian and one of America's most famous expatriates in France of the 1920s.

GAYS AND FILM: GET REEL was organized by Laurence Kardish, Curator, Department of Film and Video, The Museum of Modern Art; and Alan Hertzberg, Media Consultant, Media Network, New York. It is sponsored, in part, by a grant from The Rockefeller Foundation.

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

The Museum of Modern Art

GAYS AND FILM: GET REEL
June 17 - July 12, 1994

Exhibition Schedule

Friday, June 17

- 6:00 p.m. *Portrait of Jason*. 1967. Shirley Clarke. 105 min.
8:00 p.m. *The Price of a Ticket*. 1990. Karen Thorsen. 90 min.

Saturday, June 18

- 2:30 p.m. Avant-Garde Film Program.
*Un chant d'amour.*** 1950. Jean Genet. 26 min.
Scorpio Rising. 1963. Kenneth Anger. 15 min.
*Blow Job.*** 1964. Andy Warhol. 31 min.
A Comedy in Six Unnatural Acts. 1975. Jan Oxenbourg. 26 min.
5:00 p.m. *Word is Out*. 1978. The Mariposa Film Group. 130 min.

Sunday, June 19

- 2:30 p.m. *Before Stonewall*. 1986. Greta Schiller and Robert Rosenberg.
87 min.
5:00 p.m. *Gay Youth*. 1992. Pam Walton. 40 min.
Fighting in Southwest Louisiana. 1993. Peter Friedman and Jean-Francois Bronet. 27 min.
Greetings from Out Here. 1993. Ellen Spiro. 58 min.

Monday, June 20

- 3:00 p.m. *Taxi zum Klo*. 1980. Frank Ripploh. In German with English subtitles. 92 min.
6:00 p.m. *Nitrate Kisses*. 1992. Barbara Hammer. 88 min.
Both films contain sexually explicit material.

Tuesday, June 21

- 3:00 p.m. Videotapes by Pratibha Parmar.
Khush. 1991. 24 min.
Warrior Marks. 1993. With text by Alice Walker. 58 min.
6:00 p.m. Videotapes by Richard Fung.
Chinese Characters. 1986. 22 min.
The Way to My Father's Village. 1988. 38 min.

Thursday, June 23

- 3:00 p.m. *Fighting for Our Lives*. 1992. Elaine Valesquez. 19 min.
Kiev Blue. 1992. Heather MacDonald. 28 min.
The Hunting Season. 1989. Rita Moreira. In Portuguese with English subtitles. 22 min.
Stop the Church. 1991. Robert Hilferty. 24 min.
6:00 p.m. *Silent Pioneers*. 1984. Lucy Weiner. 42 min.
Turnabout: The Story of the Yale Puppeteers. 1992. Dan Bessie. 58 min.

Friday, June 24

- 6:00 p.m. *Color Adjustment*. 1991. Marlon Riggs. 88 min.

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8:00 p.m. *Tongues Untied*. 1989. Marlon Riggs. 55 min.
No Regret (Non, Je ne regrette rien). 1992. Marlon Riggs. 45 min.

Saturday, June 25

2:30 p.m. *Tiny and Ruby*. 1988. Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss. 30 min.
Choosing Children. 1984. Debra Chasnoff and Kim Klausner. 45 min.
Women Like Us. 1950. Suzanne Neild. 49 min.
5:00 p.m. *I Never Danced the Way Girls Were Supposed To*. 1992. Dawn Suggs. 8 min.
It Wasn't Love. 1992. Sadie Benning. 20 min.
The Potluck and the Passion. 1992. Cherly Dunye. 21 min.
Rules of the Road. 1993. Su Friedrich. 30 min.

Sunday, June 26

2:30 p.m. *A History of Violence*. 1991. Danny Acosta. 8 min. Video.
Green on Thursdays. 1993. Deidre Heaslip and Dean Bushala. 80 min. Video.
5:00 p.m. *Sex and the Sandinistas*. 1991. Lucinda Broadbent. 25 min. In Spanish and English with English subtitles. Video.
The Salt Mines. 1990. Susanne Aiken and Carlos Aparicio. 45 min. In Spanish and English with English subtitles. Video.

Monday, June 27

3:00 p.m. *This is Not an AIDS Advertisement*. 1988. Isaac Julien. 10 min.
Absolutely Positive. 1990. Peter Adair. 90 min.
6:00 p.m. *We are Not Republicans*. 1988. Adam Hassuk and Robert Huff. 10 min. Video.
Voices from the Front. 1991. Testing the Limits Collective. 90 min. Video.

Tuesday, June 28

3:00 p.m. *Metamorphosis: Man into Woman*. 1989. Lisa Leeman. 58 min.
Split. 1992. Ellen Fisher Turk and Andrew Weeks. 58 min.
6:00 p.m. *Paris is Burning*. 1990. Jennie Livingston. 78 min.

Thursday, June 30

3:00 p.m. *The Times of Harvey Milk*. 1984. Robert Epstein and Richard Schmeichen. 87 min.
6:00 p.m. *Gertrude Stein: When This You See Remember Me*. 1971. Perry Miller Adato. 89 min.

Friday, July 1

6:00 p.m. *Gay Youth/Fighting in Southwest Louisiana/Greetings from Out Here*. See Sunday, June 19, at 5:00.
8:00 p.m. *Before Stonewall*. See Sunday, June 19, at 2:30.

Saturday, July 2

2:30 p.m. *The Times of Harvey Milk*. See Thursday, June 30, at 3:00.
5:00 p.m. *Gertrude Stein: When This You See Remember Me*. See Thursday, June 30, at 6:00.

Sunday, July 3

- 1:00 p.m. *Paris is Burning*. See Tuesday, June 28, at 6:00.
 3:00 p.m. *The Price of the Ticket*. See Friday, June 17, at 8:00.
 5:00 p.m. *Portrait of Jason*. See Friday, June 17, at 6:00.

Monday, July 4

- 2:30 p.m. *Turnabout: The Story of the Yale Puppeteers/Silent Pioneers*.
 See Thursday, June 23, at 6:00.
 5:00 p.m. *Fighting for Our Lives/Kiev Blue/The Hunting Season/Stop the Church*.
 See Thursday, June 23, at 3:00.

Tuesday, July 5

- 3:00 p.m. *We are Not Republicans/Voices from the Front*.
 See Monday, June 27, at 6:00.
 6:00 p.m. *This is Not an AIDS Advertisement/Absolutely Positive*.
 See Monday, June 27, at 3:00.

Thursday, July 7

- 3:00 p.m. *Tongues Untied/No Regret (Non, Je ne regrette rien)*.
 See Friday, June 24, at 8:00.
 6:00 p.m. *Color Adjustment*. See Friday, June 24, at 6:00.

Friday, July 8

- 6:00 p.m. *Nitrate Kisses*. See Monday, June 20, at 6:00.
 8:00 p.m. *Taxi zum Klo*. See Monday, June 20, at 3:00.

Saturday, July 9

- 1:00 p.m. *Metamorphosis: Man into Woman/Split*. See Tuesday, June 28, at 3:00.
 3:00 p.m. *I Never Danced the Way Girls Were Supposed To/It Wasn't Love/The
 Potluck & the Passion/Rules of the Road*.
 See Saturday, June 25, at 5:00.
 5:00 p.m. *Tiny and Ruby/Choosing Children/Women Like Us*.
 See Saturday, June 25, at 2:30.

Sunday, July 10

- 1:00 p.m. *Sex and the Sandinistas/The Salt Mines*.
 See Sunday, June 26, at 5:00.
 3:00 p.m. Videotapes by Richard Fung. See Tuesday, June 21, at 6:00.
 5:00 p.m. Videotapes by Pratibha Parmar. See Tuesday, June 21, at 3:00.

Monday, July 11

- 3:00 p.m. *A History of Violence/Green on Thursdays*.
 See Sunday, June 26, at 2:30.
 6:00 p.m. Avant-Garde Program. See Saturday, June 18, at 2:30.

Tuesday, July 12

- 3:00 p.m. *Word is Out*. See Saturday, June 18, at 5:00.

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** Silent, without piano accompaniment