

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
September 1990

## FALL FILM HIGHLIGHTS

### **N.B. (NOTA BENE): TWO FILMS FROM TADZHIKISTAN, U.S.S.R.** September 13, 1990

As part of the ongoing N.B. (NOTA BENE) series, two rare films from the Soviet republic of Tadzhikistan are featured in this one-day program. *The Roof of The World* (1928) is a documentary made by a Russian-German expedition as it explores the desert, mountain, and glacial regions of Pamir, an unknown part of Central Asia. It is introduced by Naum Kleiman, film historian and curator at the Central Museum of Cinema Art, Moscow. Davlat Khudonazarov's *First Spring of Youth* (1979) is set in a remote mountain village and explores the relationship between a young woman and the man who years earlier killed her mother. Khudonazarov, the new head of the Union of Filmmakers of the U.S.S.R., will be present. Organized by Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancia, curators, and Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film. N.B. (NOTA BENE) is an eclectic series of programs designed to present films of special interest, selected by members of the Department of Film.

### **AMERICAN PLAYHOUSE: TEN YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENT FILMMAKING** September 14 - 22, 1990

Over the past ten years, American Playhouse has been involved in producing a significant number of American independent films of artistic and social consequence. Founded in 1980, American Playhouse encourages the creation of programming that explores the human experience within an American context. Its contribution to distinguished filmmaking is recognized with an exhibition of ten original and provocative feature films. Included are *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez* (1983), *Eat a Bowl of Tea* (1989), *El Norte* (1984), *Longtime Companion* (1990), *Smooth Talk* (1985), *Stand and Deliver* (1987), *Testament* (1983), *The Thin Blue Line* (1988), *Waiting for the Moon* (1987), and *The Wash* (1988). Organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film.

### **SELECTIONS FROM THE VIDEO STUDY CENTER** Through September 25, 1990

Featured in this exhibition are contemporary videos made since 1972 by artists from the United States and abroad. The works cover a wide range of subject

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matter and styles including performance pieces, personal documentary, image processing, and narrative. Twenty individual artists and the video collective Ant Farm are represented. Early works include Joan Jonas's *Vertical Roll* (1972), Richard Serra's *Television Delivers People* (1973), and Nam June Paik's *Global Groove* (1973). More recent acquisitions include Beth B. and Ida Applebroog's *Belladonna* (1989), Marlon Riggs's *Tongues Untied* (1989), and Laurie Anderson's *Personal Service Announcement* (1990). Organized by Barbara London, assistant curator, Video, Department of Film.

### **GRETA GARBO: FROM THE ARCHIVES**

September 23 - 27, 1990

This memorial tribute to Greta Garbo (1905-1990), the cinema's most celebrated and enigmatic actress, features five films from the Museum's archive. Born Greta Louisa Gustafson in Stockholm, Garbo was cast by Mauritz Stiller in the silent Swedish classic, *Gosta Berling's Saga* (1923). She went with Stiller to Hollywood, where between 1926 and 1941, she was under contract at MGM and starred in twenty-four feature films. This program includes Clarence Brown's *Flesh and The Devil* (1926), Jacques Feyder's *The Kiss* (1929), Robert Z. Leonard's *Susan Lenox: Her Fall and Rise* (1931), George Cukor's *Camille* (1936), and Ernst Lubitsch's *Ninotchka* (1939). Organized by the Department of Film.

### **MIKLOS JANCZO**

September 27 - 30, 1990

Miklós Jancsó is a preeminent Hungarian filmmaker and one of contemporary cinema's most rigorous stylists. Rich in interpretive possibilities, his films are characterized by their fluid, choreographed camera movements which have influenced a generation of filmmakers. This series features Jancsó's films from the 1980s and includes the New York premieres of *Season of Monsters* (1987) and *Jesus Christ's Horoscope* (1988). Organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film.

### **ARCHIVES WEEK**

October 1 - 5, 1990

Four films, newly restored by the Museum's Department of Film, are presented in conjunction with the second annual New York Archives Week. The program features *Satan in Sables* (1925), *Yellow Ticket* (1931), *Zoo in Budapest* (1933), and *Talk of the Town* (1942). New York Archives Week includes performances, lectures, symposia, film programs, walking tours, and exhibitions which celebrate the city's vital and diverse archival work. Participating archives range from the Chinatown History Project and the New York Stock Exchange to the Bronx Zoo and the Museum's film archive. Organized by Eileen Bowser, curator, Department of Film.

**THE CIVIL WAR**

October 5 - 9, 1990

Ken Burns's eleven-and-one-half hour epic, *The Civil War*, is an ambitious and comprehensive documentary of the war between the states. In its first New York theatrical screening, the film is shown twice over two two-day periods. It combines archival photos, period paintings, and lithographs with newsreel clips of Civil War veterans, recent footage of battle sites, and interviews with distinguished historians. *The Civil War* airs on PBS from September 23 through 27, launching the network's 1990-91 primetime season. Organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film.

**IN MEMORIAM: PAULETTE GODDARD**

October 11, 1990

Actress Paulette Goddard (1911-1990), is honored by the Museum with two screenings of a nitrate print of B.C. Potter's *Second Chorus* (1940). A sophisticated send-up of the college musical genre popular in the late thirties, *Second Chorus* also stars Fred Astaire, Artie Shaw, and Burgess Meredith. During the thirties, Goddard starred with Charlie Chaplin in the classic films *Modern Times* and *The Great Dictator*. Throughout the forties, she remained a popular star, appearing in films with directors as diverse as Cecil B. DeMille and Jean Renoir. Organized by John Johnson, senior cataloguer, Department of Film.

**MINNELLI IN STEREO**

October 12 - 15, 1990

During the 1950s, four of Vincente Minnelli's most characteristic films, *Lust For Life* (1956), *Gigi* (1958), *Kismet* (1955), and *Brigadoon* (1954) were originally recorded and released in stereophonic sound. These versions essentially disappeared after the films' initial releases and were still unavailable at the time of the Department of Film's DIRECTED BY VINCENTE MINNELLI retrospective last winter. Since then, the Turner Entertainment Company has meticulously restored these soundtracks from the original materials. The results, both literally and aesthetically, bring an added dimension to each of the films, which underscores Minnelli's own sensitivity to the nuances of film music. Organized by Stephen Harvey, associate curator, Department of Film.

**N.B. (NOTA BENE): THE WRITER/DIRECTOR TEAM OF MINDADZE/ABDRASHITOV**

October 15 and 16, 1990

Russian writer Alexander Mindadze and director Vadim Abdrashitov present two of their films. *Parade of the Planets* (1984) is the story of six forty-year-

old reserve soldiers who are called on to participate in wargames and are killed. *Servant* (1989) explores the dialectic between master and slave when the roles are reversed. Part of the N.B. (NOTA BENE) series, organized by Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film.

#### **CINEPROBE**

October 15, 1990 - January 28, 1991

The twenty-third season of this forum for independent and avant-garde filmmakers begins on October 15 with Sharon Greytak's *Hearing Voices* (1989). Held on Mondays at 6:30 p.m., CINEPROBE is a forum in which independent and avant-garde filmmakers present and discuss their work. The series focuses on experimental works as well as on personal and unusual narratives. The fall season includes Jerry Barrish's *Shuttlecock* (1989), Liza Bear's *Force of Circumstance* (1990), Elias Merhige's *Begotten* (1989), and animated films by Emily Hubley and Stacey Steers, among others. Organized by Laurence Kardish and Adrienne Mancina, curators, and Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film.

#### **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

October 18, 1990 - January 31, 1990

This series showcases films on social and political issues made by independent filmmakers from the United States and abroad. They are shown on Thursdays at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. Featured in the fall season are Gei Zantzinger's *Susumu* (1990), Robby Henson's *Trouble Behind* (1990), Helena Solberg's *Forbidden Land* (1989), and Anne Johnson's *Minnie Black's Gourd Band* (1988). Organized by William Sloan, librarian, Circulating Film Library, Department of Film.

#### **INASMUCH AS IT IS ALWAYS ALREADY TAKING PLACE**

October 19, 1990 - January 6, 1991

Gary Hill works with video as a tool to explore the relationship between image and language. His video installation, *INASMUCH as it is Always Already Taking Place*, which premieres at the Museum, refers to Maurice Blanchot's novel *Thomas the Obscure*. It consists of sixteen cathode ray tubes, the light-emitting elements of television monitors, piled in a random fashion on a large table. The tubes, varying from one to twenty-four inches in size, are stripped of their casings and emit images of body parts. Organized by Barbara London, assistant curator, Video, Department of Film.

**IN MEMORIAM: KARL BROWN**  
October 19 and 25, 1990

A tribute to cinematographer and director Karl Brown features screenings of James Cruze's *The Covered Wagon* (1923) and Brown's *Stark Love* (1927). Organized by the Department of Film.

**IN MEMORIAM: ED EMSWILLER AND SERGEI PARADJANOV**  
October 20, 1990

This tribute to Ukranian director Sergei Paradjanov presents two screenings of his film *Shadows of Our Forgotten Ancestors (Tini Zabutikh Predkiv)* (1964) and is preceded by a memorial screening for Ed Emshwiller with his shorts *George Dumpson's Place* (1965) and *Thanatopsis* (1962). Organized by the Department of Film.

**IN MEMORIAM: MARGARET LOCKWOOD**  
October 21 and 22, 1990

In this two-day homage to actress Margaret Lockwood, the Museum presents two screenings of Alfred Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes* (1938) and Marcel L'Herbier's *The Late Matthew Pascal (Feu Mathias Pascal)* (1926). Organized by the Department of Film.

**BRITISH AWARD-WINNING COMMERCIALS -- BABA 1990**  
October 26 - 28, 1990

A program of the 1989 award-winning British advertising films is presented in association with the British Advertising Broadcast Awards organization in London. The works, which demonstrate technical skill and clever understatement, were chosen from all of British advertising for films and television made during 1989. The over 100 ads in this seventh annual presentation were selected to receive gold, silver, bronze, diploma, and special category awards. Organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, Department of Film.

**NUCLEAR DISTRESS, 1945-1986: FILMS FROM THE COLLECTION**  
October 28 - November 9, 1990

From the explosion of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima to the Chernobyl disaster, filmmakers from around the world have vividly depicted the destructive potential of nuclear power as both a war menace and an alternative energy source. Cutting across a variety of genres, this program includes political

dramas, black comedies, science fiction, animation, documentaries, and experimental works. Drawn exclusively from the Museum's archive and circulating collections, the series features, among others, Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove: Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964), Alain Resnais's *Hiroshima, Mon Amour* (1959), and Vladimir Shevchenko's *Chernobyl, Chronicle of Difficult Weeks* (1986). Organized by Jon Gartenberg, assistant curator, Department of Film.

#### **VIDEO VIEWPOINTS**

October 29, 1990 - January 14, 1991

The thirteenth season of Video Viewpoints, a series in which independent videomakers present and discuss their works, begins on October 29. The programs take place at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays unless otherwise noted. The fall season includes work by Teiji Furuhashi, Helen De Michiel, Shelly Silver, Richard Foreman, Annie Goldson, and Chris Bratton. Organized by Barbara London, assistant curator, Video, Department of Film.

#### **N.B. (NOTA BENE): ANTIGONE/RITES FOR THE DEAD**

October 30, 1990

*Antigone/Rites for the Dead* (1989), Amy Greenfield's first feature film, brings the legend of the daughter of Oedipus to the screen in an emotionally intense film which incorporates dance movements and an unusual soundtrack. Along with Greenfield, the film stars actress Janet Eilber and former Martha Graham dancer Betram Ross and features the music of Glenn Branca, Diamanda Galas, Elliot Sharp, Paul Lemos, and David Van Tieghem. Part of the ongoing N.B. (NOTA BENE) series, organized by Laurence Kardish, curator, and Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film.

#### **KIESLOWSKI'S DECALOGUE**

November 2 - 15, 1990

Originally produced for Polish Television, Krzysztof Kieslowski's *The Decalogue* is a mini-series of ten films, loosely based on the Ten Commandments. These modern parables, which range from tragic to comic, are imaginative, perceptive, and compassionate insights into the human psyche. Also included are *A Short Film About Killing* (1988), the brutal death of a cab driver and subsequent trial of his murderer, and *A Short Film About Love* (1988), a portrait of an obsessive relationship between a repressed voyeur and an aggressive older woman. Organized by Adrienne Mancina, curator, and Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film.

**LASLO BENEDEK**

November 2 - 4, 1990

Best known for his film adaptation of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* (1951), Laslo Benedek can be credited with establishing himself as a director with a keen eye for stark visual realism within a sometimes artificial framework. Included in this retrospective of works selected from the archive of the Department of Film is *The Wild One* (1953), which pits an iconoclastic Marlon Brando against Eisenhower-era establishment sensibility. Laslo Benedek will be present to introduce the series. Organized by Anne Morra, curatorial assistant, Department of Film.

**ANIMATION PLUS: A WEEK OF ANIMATED FILMS**

November 5 - 11, 1990

The popular art of animated film is highlighted during a week of diversified programs, including works by contemporary American artists Emily Hubley, Stacey Steers, Tom Yasumi, and Joanna Priestly; a tribute to Max Fleischer's incomparable Betty Boop on the occasion of her sixtieth birthday; and a series of international shorts selected from the recent Zagreb Festival of Animation. Organized by Adrienne Mancina, curator, and Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film.

**IRWIN WINKLER AND WINKLER/CHARTOFF**

November 16 - December 6, 1990

In anticipation of his directorial debut with *Guilty by Suspicion* (starring Robert DeNiro and Martin Scorsese), the Museum pays tribute to Irwin Winkler with a program of over a dozen feature films. One of America's most adventurous and thoughtful film producers, Winkler has been making films on his own for five years, following a nearly twenty-year partnership with Robert Chartoff. His productions range from John Boorman's *Point Blank* (1967) to Costa-Gavras's *Music Box* (1989) and Martin Scorsese's most recent film *Goodfellas* (1990). Films featured in the exhibition include Sydney Pollack's *They Shoot Horses Don't They?* (1969), Karel Reisz's *The Gambler* (1974), Scorsese's *Raging Bull* (1980), Philip Kaufman's *The Right Stuff* (1983), and Bertrand Tavernier's *'Round Midnight* (1986). Organized by the Department of Film.

**TESTIMONY: CZECHOSLOVAKIAN SHORTS AND DOCUMENTARIES**

November - December 1990 (please call for details)

In this exhibition, over a dozen short films offer a rare look at Czechoslovakia in the 1960s. This was a fruitful period for Czech and Slovak documentary cinema, yet very few of these films have ever been seen. Many

were never allowed to be shown to the public; others were immediately withdrawn by the authorities after the Prague Spring in 1968. Organized by Jytte Jensen, assistant curator, Department of Film.

**RIPSTEIN & HERMOSILLO**  
December 7 - 31, 1990

Two talented filmmakers from Mexico are the focus of this three-week retrospective. The films of Arturo Ripstein often revolve around Mexican families and small towns and the frequently oppressive social conditions and traditions that govern daily life. Ripstein's first film, *Time to Die* (1965), and the New York premiere of *Merciful Lies* (1988) are included in the retrospective. Jaime Humberto Hermosillo is known for his sexual farces and works which underscore the ironies, hypocrisies, and foibles of the middle class. The series premieres Hermosillo's *Bathroom Intimacies* (1989) and *Homework* (1990), and includes such earlier works as *Matinee* (1976) and *Doña Herlinda and Her Son* (1984). Organized by Adrienne Mancina, curator, Department of Film. Presented in conjunction with MEXICO: A WORK OF ART, a celebration taking place throughout New York this fall.

**SELECTIONS FROM A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN CINEMA: THE SILENT YEARS**  
December 14, 1990 - January 15, 1991

A multi-volume history of the American cinema is currently in the process of publication by Macmillan. For this exhibition, the authors of the first three volumes will select a series of week-long programs to illustrate the periods covered in their works that extend to the end of the silent era. The curators are Charles Musser, author of *The Emergence of Cinema: The American Screen to 1907* (vol. 1); Eileen Bowser, author of *The Transformation of Cinema: 1907-1915* (vol. 2) and curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art; and Richard Koszarski, author of *An Evening's Entertainment: The Age of the Silent Feature Picture, 1915-1928* (vol. 3). Under the general editorship of Charles Harpole, the history will encompass ten or more volumes and will represent the most extensive scholarly investigation of the history of American film to date.

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For further information or film stills, contact Sarah Eaton, Film Press Representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.