Mindscreen
The Toledo Media Project

Fall 1980

Exhibition Schedule

Thursday, October 2
MARK RAPPAPORT*
Winser McCoy Program and The Adventures of Prince Achmed

Thursday, October 9
Les Blank*
A Midsummer Night's Dream

Sunday, October 19
STEINA VASILK*

Thursday, October 23
Polo and Cabengo and The Marriage Broker Joke **

Sunday, November 2
The Life of an American Fireman and Secrets of a Soul **

Saturday, November 6
Xala**

Tuesday, November 15
Toledo Filmmakers

Visiting Film/Video Makers*

Mindscreen: A Film Series **

All events will begin at 8 PM in the Scott Park Student Center Auditorium, Park, in Lot 22 off Bancroft Boulevard just south of Nebraska Avenue. The Auditorium is to the right, inside the main doors of the Student Center.

All events are free and open to the public. A donation will be requested to help continue media programs in the future.

The Toledo Media Project

The sensory replication media of film, video, audio and photography have become primary means for the exploration of the electronic society. Yet the vast majority of important international, historic, documentary and avant-garde film and video work remains unknown to the general viewer, and film and video production have yet to become the open means of communication appropriate to a democratic society.

The Toledo Media Project, now in its second year of public programming, was founded to promote the making and understanding of images in these new media. TMP plans include exhibitions, lectures, symposia, and new media arts residencies. The project is supported by the State Arts Council and the city of Toledo. TMP events are programmed by Chris Nygren and Scott Nygren, Co-Directors of the Toledo Media Project.

The University of Toledo Department of Theatre

Courses in the history, theory and production of film and video are offered for credit in the Department of Theatre. Please write Film/Video, Department of Theatre, University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606, or call 537-2375 for further information.

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Visiting Film/Video Makers

The Toledo Media Project continues to bring nationally and internationally recognized independent film/video makers to Toledo, to help introduce the Toledo community to the most exciting new developments in narrative, documentary and avant-garde uses of these media.

Thursday, October 2

Visiting Filmmaker MARK RAPPAPORT, The Scenic Route (1978)

New York filmmaker Mark Rappaport makes movies that look, sound and feel like nobody else's. In one sense, The Scenic Route deliberately invokes the standard elements of melodrama — love, jealousy and revenge. The plot involves a woman, her sister, their shared lover, and a mad shotgun killer. However, the linear explanation and logical motivation of more conventional narratives are replaced by a tour-de-force of visual techniques. Thus, a surrealistic tableau of an avenging angel (complete with wings) is followed by a soap-operative confession, then by a stone-faced disco routine to the beat of "Doctor Love." Paintings come to life, walls and furniture literally move during scenes, and the color of walls and the pictures on them change between cuts or during panning shots. Produced for ZDF (German television), The Scenic Route was chosen by the British Film Institute as "the most original and imaginative film of 1978." Previous winners of this award include Fassbinder, Bresson, Bertolucci, Resnais and Antonioni.
Garlic is as Good as Ten Mothers

“You can’t get lonesome when you eat.” - Mance Lipscomb

Visiting Film/Video Makers

Continued

Thursday, October 23

Visiting Videomaker STEINA VASULKA, selected tapes including Cantalop (1980) and Urban Episodes (1980)

Steina and Woody Vasulka, who have collaborated since 1964, are arguably the most influential inventors and pioneers in the field of video art. Icelandic and Czech by birth, they co-founded The Kitchen in 1971, a New York exhibition center for the exchange of ideas and images among people working in video, sound, and movement. In 1975, they began to identify separate conceptual interests in their work to identify them as individual efforts. However, they continue to work together, each very much involved with the other’s techniques and tools. Each new group of tapes is the result of their investigation of new tools - tools they often conceptualize or invent which are invented by their friends. At the same time, they demonstrate a deep knowledge and awareness of the older and more traditional artistic media such as painting, sculpture, early photography and video. Recipients of numerous international awards, grants, and exhibitions, the Vasulkas are now based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, continuing their belief that change and movement are associated with knowledge. Steina will report on the development of real time digital imaging, present the latest in her series called “Machine Vision,” and screen her most recent tapes from 1980 among other works.

Sunday, October 19

Visiting Filmmaker LES BLANK,
Garlic is as Good as Ten Mothers (1980) presented in AromaRound and Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe (1980)

With his twin passions for regional music and local cuisine, Les Blank is less an ethnographer than a pilgrim. His films celebrate traditional cultures where family ties remain strong and work is not wholly divorced from pleasure. Garlic is his newest exploration of alternative American lifestyles, exploring the curious (and distinctly political) paradox of why allium sativum - quite possibly the greatest culinary aid and natural cure-all known to mankind - should have gotten so much bad press. The film's exhaustive foray into the garlic lore of many cultures is accompanied by a jumping soundtrack of Cajun, French Provincial, Flamenco, Swiss Italian, Moroccan, and Mexican music, and will be presented in AromaRound, with whole garlic heads roasting in the back of the auditorium.

Shoe, on the other hand, records German filmmaker Werner Herzog honoring his vow to Errol Morris, a Berkeley student, that he would eat his shoe if Morris actually made a film instead of simply talking about it.

“You can’t get lonesome when you eat.” - Mance Lipscomb

The University of Toledo Film Society

UTFS is a University of Toledo student organization open to public membership, including all residents of the Toledo metropolitan area. Everyone with an interest in bringing classic, foreign and artistic films to Toledo is invited to join. Membership dues are $15, and are used for screening ten films open only to members.

Fims proposed for the 1980-81 season are: Herzog's Fitzcarraldo, Fassbinder's The Marriage of Maria Braun, Chaplin's Monsieur Verdoux, Lloyd's Safety Last, Truffaut's The 400 Blows, Fuller's Pickup on South Street, and von Sternberg's Shanghai Express; together with The Cranes are Flying, Forbidden Planet and the original 1956 version of The Invasion of the Body Snatchers (double feature), and an evening of Independent Films.

Dues are requested by October 15, with screenings to begin one month after 100 members have joined. Films will be shown in the Scott Park Student Center Auditorium on Thursday evenings, except for breaks between quarters.

To join or request further information, please write Julie Jordan, UTFS, c/o Department of Theatre, University of Toledo, in care of the Theatre Department, UTFS, 2800 West Bancroft Street, Toledo, Ohio 43616, or call 419-372-7727.

Regional Film/Video Makers

A new series, beginning this fall, will present new work by Ohio area film/video makers. Extensive independent activity in our region has gone unnoticed because of the lack of a showcase in Toledo. Appropriately, we will begin with several filmmakers from our own community.

Saturday, November 15

An Evening of TOLEDO FILMMAKERS:
Martin Fuller, Statement (1979)
Cassandra Koka and Aretta Sevastakis, A Call for Help (1980)
Mel Schutt, The Big House (1980)

During the last half decade, a new generation of filmmakers has increasingly begun to work in Super 8mm film. The reasons for this are partly economic, after the apocalyptic rise in film prices since 1974-5 (petroleum and silver are both used in making film), and partly aesthetic, indicating a strong interest in the portability and personal control allowed by a smaller gauge medium. Many Toledo filmmakers are part of this movement, and four will be present to screen their work and discuss their enormously varied interests.

Statement is a short but intense clay animation of a self-destructing rock concert, filled with kaleidoscopic attention to detail. A Call for Help is a carefully edited documentary on the work of the Whiteford Township Fire Department rescue team, and was commissioned by them for publicity and educational purposes. The Big House is a more personal document, reconstructing the atmosphere of a particular place through the use of old photographs and architectural detail to suggest memory and emotional response. The Flier also drifts at times towards the avant-garde with its electronic soundtrack, deliberate use of scratches on the film surface, and a static shot of a closed door sustained on screen for over a minute. This evening will mark its first public screening.

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