

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
BIRKBECK COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF ART, FILM AND VISUAL MEDIA
MA in Film and Visual Media

Summer Term Series of Invited Speaker Talks, 2003

During this summer term we are holding a series of Tuesday evening lectures and screenings for the Birkbeck MA in Film and Visual Media in the new Basement Lecture Theatre, 43 Gordon Square, London WC1. The opening of the new Lecture Theatre allows us to invite other postgraduates from the School to the lectures and we would be delighted if you were able to attend. We hope that the Tuesday evenings will not only offer a stimulating and unusual series of lectures but that they will also provide a chance for you to meet up with fellow students from the School's other postgraduate courses.

We look forward to seeing you on summer Tuesdays!

MA History of Film and Visual Media Summer Term Lecture Series:

Tuesday, 29th April to 1st July 2003, from 6.00 pm

Location: Basement Lecture Theatre, 43 Gordon Square

During the summer term, there will be a series of lectures on Tuesday evenings designed to expand the range of subject areas covered by the course. The first three lectures will be about the representation of art on British television and will be given by John Wyver, Director of Illuminations and currently Visiting Professor in the School of History of Art, Film and Visual Media. The rest of the lectures will concentrate on aspects of world cinema, bringing in specialists to present key issues in contemporary film culture through a film or topic of their choice.

The series will be supported by a new collection of specially purchased videos and DVDs which will be available to view in the Self-Access Centre. Most lectures will normally last about 75 minutes; some may begin or be followed by screenings. Please note that the following programme is subject to alteration.

Attendance at the Tuesday lectures is mandatory for MA History of Film and Visual Media students. If you are unable to attend please will you notify the Course Director, Dr Mike Allen or the Course Administrator, Penny Brown.

Modern Art on Television: John Wyver

The first three screenings and discussions will be about the presentation of the visual arts on television, each focussed on a key film highlighting dominant approaches from the 1950s,

1960s and 1970s. In part, the aim is to explore ideas of populism and popular culture in television against the background of thinking about the arts and broadcasting today.

Tuesday, 29th April: John Wyver: *Barbara Hepworth* (John Read, BBC)

From 1951 onwards, John Read made an important series of documentary profiles of British modern artists, including this one with Barbara Hepworth, filmed in her studio in St Ives. The film, which remains surprising and moving, mixes what has come to be regarded as a conventional presentation of an artist's ideas and work with bolder, arguably modernist strategies for showing Hepworth's sculptures.

Tuesday, 6th May: John Wyver: *Pop Goes the Easel* (Ken Russell, BBC)

One of the first film documentaries to showcase younger, less established artists. Russell's free-wheeling film showcases four of the key figures of British Pop just as they were attracting critical acclaim and media attention. The film's playful style locates the work in the popular culture of the day.

Tuesday, 13th May: John Wyver: *The Private Life of the Ford Cortina* (Nigel Finch, BBC)

This 'Arena' film embraces popular culture in a completely different manner to Russell's film, and represents one of the earliest attempts to bring the interest (if not the analysis) of cultural studies to television.

Aspects of Contemporary World Cinema

Tuesday 13 May, Screening: *City of God* (Katia Lund and Fernando Meirelles, Brazil 2002) to follow John Wyver's talk and discussion.

Tuesday, 20th May: Lucia Nagib (Leverhulme Lecture): *City of God: Perspectives on Brazilian Contemporary Culture*

Lucia Nagib is a film critic and Associate Professor at the State University of Campinas, Sao Paulo, currently based in the School of History of Art, Film and Visual Media, Birkbeck, as Leverhulme Visiting Professor. She will analyse the interface between literature, music and film in *City of God*, a recent international success for Brazilian cinema.

Tuesday, 27th May Rachel Moore: *Magical Death: International comedies of Reburial*

Rachel Moore is the author of *Savage Theory: Cinema as Modern Magic* and is currently Visiting Lecturer in the School of History of Art Film and Visual Media, Birkbeck. Using four films, Ousmane Sembene's *Guelwaar* (Senegal, 1992), Tomas Alea's *Death Of a Bureaucrat* (Cuba, 1966), Abuladze's *Repentance* (SU, 1987), Oshima's *Death By Hanging* (Japan, 1968), she will argue that the period between burial and reburial exposes the tension between history and mourning, as realised in the tension between the person and the state.

In both cases, this space between is presented in the form most congenial to liminality, the ironic.

Tuesday 27th May: Screening: *The Turning Gate* (Hong Sang su, Korea, 2002)
to follow Rachel Moore's talk and discussion.

Tuesday, 3rd June: Tony Raynes: The Far Eastern 'new wave': how do film festivals contribute to the critical reception and international distribution of new 'world' cinemas?
Tony Raynes is a leading British film critic whose current interests include the new cinemas of the Far East. He is a programmer for the London Film Festival and writes regularly for *Sight and Sound*. He uses his wide knowledge of international film festivals as critical forum and market place to discuss the ways in which global cultures and world cinemas might, or might not, meet.

Tuesday, 10th June: To be announced.

Tuesday, 17th June: Nasreen Munni Kabir: Indian film, song and dance: Is this the secret of 'Bollywood's' success?

Munni Kabir is a documentary filmmaker/writer who has made several series for Channel Four on Hindi cinema. She has published five books on Indian film including *Guru Dutt, A life in Cinema* (OUP, INDIA) and *Bollywood, the Indian Cinema Story* (Channel 4 Books and PanMacmillan). She is currently working on Channel Four's 2003 season of films *Bollywood Celebs* and is also a Governor of the BFI. Munni Kabir analyses the unique importance of music and dance that has been at the heart of popular Hindi/Urdu cinema.

Tuesday 17th June: Screening to follow Munni Kabir's talk and lecture to be announced.

Tuesday, 24th June: Sheila Whitaker: The enigma of the New Iranian Cinema: women behind the camera in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Sheila Whitaker was former Head of Programming at the National Film Theatre and Director of the London Film Festival. She is co-editor (with Rose Isa) of *Life and Art: the New Iranian Cinema*, (London: National Film Theatre, 1999).

Tuesday, 1st July: Ian Christie: *Russian Ark*, and the Mystery of the Missing Russian Avant-Garde

Ian Christie places Alexander Sokorov's latest acclaimed film in its historical context. He is a Professor of Film and Media History at Birkbeck and is at present researching the cinema of R W Paul supported by a Paul Mellon Foundation Fellowship.

--

Administrator, MA History of Film and Visual Media

School of History of Art, Film and Visual Media
Birkbeck College, University of London
Room 205, 43 Gordon Square, London, WC 0PD
Tel: 0207 631 6112
Email: p.luker-brown@bbk.ac.uk