

PRESS COVERAGE
for the
1986 NATIONAL VIDEO FESTIVAL



Woody Vasulka's *Art of Memory*, left, and Bernar Hebert's *Exhibition* will be shown at the 1986 National Video Festival, December 4-7 at the Los Angeles campus of The American Film Institute.

Erika Suderburg

1986 AFI NATIONAL VIDEO FESTIVAL

December 4-7
 The sixth annual National Video Festival, presented by The American Film Institute and sponsored by Sony Corporation of America, will present over 160 hours of international television, video, and film, plus panels, presentations and demonstrations of new technologies. The festival will be held at the AFI's Los Angeles campus

with reprises scheduled for Washington, New York, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Paris, and Turin.

As in the past five festivals, the core of the event will be the United States premieres of independently produced videos by such leading artists as Jean-Luc Godard, Marcel Odenbach, Juan

Downey, Woody Vasulka, Dan Reeves, Doug Hall, and Branda Miller. These works will be accompanied by groundbreaking television projects from such program innovators as England's BBC and Channel Four, France's INA, Italy's RAI-e, Japan's NHK and West Germany's ZDF. Member Discounts. For more information, call 213/856-7787.

NATIONAL VIDEO EVENT SET AT FILM INSTITUTE

Video productions from more than 18 countries will be showcased at the sixth annual National Video Festival Dec. 4-7 at the American Film Institute, 2021 N. Western Ave. The festival's program of premiere screenings, retrospectives, video installations, panel discussions and award presentations will be reprised in Washington, New York, Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Paris and Turin.

Marcel Odenbach, Juan Downey, Woody Vasulka, Dan Reeves, Doug Hall and Brenda Miller are among the artists whose videos will be

premiered at the festival. Television projects from Britain's BBC and Channel Four, France's INA, Italy's RAI-3, Japan's NHK and West Germany's ZDF will accompany the screenings.

In addition to these videos, the festival will focus on three programs. The first, "The Sound of Video," will feature tapes that expand sound in videos, music jukeboxes from the last four decades and a six-hour documentary produced by John Archer for the BBC titled "The History of Rock Video."

The second program, "Cultural

Identities and Regional Styles," will explore international video styles and includes a tribute to the Canadian Broadcasting System and screenings of recent German videos and local productions funded through the National Endowment for the Arts.

"Video Channels: Television Alternative," the third program in the series, consists of a retrospective of Orson Welles' television work, a showcase of high-definition television and premieres of non-traditional British television programs by John Lloyd, Alex Graham, Alan Fountain and Tariq Ali. A panel discussion with the producers will follow the screenings. The packaging of independent videos will also be discussed by a panel of experts in this program.

Winning entries in a student video competition will be screened at the festival.

Information: (213) 856-7787.

■ PREMIERES *continued from page 28*

footage of burnt-out Britain, plus clips of Tory politicians and horror films as the Dynamic 3MCs' rap-song against the drudgery of dead-end jobs, *Lo Pay No Way!* is an unabashedly leftist bash against the destructive nature of capitalist value exchange. It uses two handy images — vampires and conveyor-belt prepared food. For the average American white male, unemployment is almost an abstraction, but in the U.K. it's reaching crisis proportions, especially for young blacks, who are juxtaposed here with shots of Colonel Sanders restaurants presented as a kind of plantation environment. Although predictable in

its approach and limited in its cause-and-effect viewpoint, this Vulture Video conveys to America a youthful enthusiasm across the Atlantic that is fast turning to rage.

—Steven Mikulan

Art of Memory: The Legend

(Fri., Dec. 5, 12:15 p.m.; rerun 7:30 p.m.)

The four-odd-minute section of this work available at press time was intended as a teaser for a longer piece, but I have the feeling Vasulka said everything he had to

offer in the segment. A winged-woman figure stands above a Southwestern canyon and soon gives way to chopped-up war footage and images of atomic blasts. The A-bomb was first developed and tested in New Mexico (Vasulka's home), and it's not long before the computer-disfigured face of J. Robert Oppenheimer is telling us for the millionth time that the first atomic test at Alamogordo reminded him of apocalyptic passages in *Bhagavad-Gita*. This video is very pretty in parts, but at the same time seems an anthology of late-'60s and early '70s excesses — endless computer-generated dissolution of imagery and New Age mythology that get in the way of making a coherent political state-

ment.

—Steven Mikulan

Open the Box

(*"Part of the Furniture"*; Fri., Dec. 5, 12:30 a.m.; rerun 8 p.m.) (*"Take the Money and Run"*; Fri., Dec. 5, 7 p.m.; rerun Sat., 7 p.m.) (*"Real People"*; Sat., Dec. 6, 10 a.m.; rerun Sun., 2 p.m.)

Open the Box, a six-part series produced by Michael Jackson for London's great Channel 4, aims to explore new ideas about television. Mostly, though, it tends to talk about television's demystification, while shows like *Moonlighting* actively accomplish it. Rather too well manneredly, the first show, "Take the Money and Run," explores the hype behind the extremely non-eventful rematch between Olympic runners Mary Decker Slaney and Zola Budd at London's Crystal Palace, a race created by and for American television. But anybody in Los Angeles who followed the wheeling and dealing behind the 1984 Olympic Games will find the Budd-Slaney extravaganza small potatoes. The second show, "Real People," which investigates the way TV and the people who make it manipulate other people's reality, juxtaposes slivers from a six-hour interview with Fred and Vivian Drain, an unfortunate couple whose house had been burgled three times, with backstage scenes of would-be contestants for *The Price Is Right* day-coaching down from Manchester and making complete idiots of themselves in the hopes that game show host Lesley Crowther (a dead ringer for Caspar Weinberger) would tell them to "Come on down!" Though many of the producers fretted about the way their shows altered reality for entertainment value, all of the so-called "Real People" seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely. Despite the fact that the piece was never used, Fred and Vivian Drain's interview looked to be one of the highlights of their lives. Everybody may stand up be famous for 15 minutes, even 15 seconds, but more important, it seems we want someone to pretend to listen to us.

—Lewis MacAdams

State of the Art

(Fri., Dec. 5, 4 p.m., and Sat., Dec. 6, 8:30 a.m. 1 of 2)

State of the Art Program 1 starts behind a canvas where a serious-looking girl slices through the cloth with a lotus-shaped leaf. We hear air raid sirens and howling dogs. We see water reflected in a high-tech aluminum ball, while a sexy girl lying on her back with her skirt hiked high above her knees raises a 35mm camera to shoot. These are only some of the cascade of images that introduce *State of the Art*. Taped in France, Italy, Germany, Britain, the United States and Australia, this six-part documentary, subtitled *Ideas and Images in the '80s*, is an ambitious and passionate look at contemporary Euro-American painting, sculpture and photography. It attempts to show not only who and what is going on, but why. Chock-full of apt quotes from the likes of Marx and Goethe, Jean-Francois Leotard and Susan Sontag, who interviews with artists such as Joseph Beuys, Jean-Michael Basquiat, Cindy Sherman and Eric Fischl, as well as art-world movers and shakers like MOCA's Richard Koshalek and collector Douglas Cramer, this is as contemporary a cultural survey as you're going to get. Produced

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ELECTRONIC MEDIA COVERAGE

1. VOICE OF AMERICA
Interview with Festival Director on Nov. 18.
2. KPFK Radio
Interview with Festival Director taped on Nov. 19
and aired at 2 p.m. on Nov. 26 -- half-hour show:
"Poetic License."
3. KCBS-TV
Live coverage on Dec. 5 by the KCBS news team
at 7:25 p.m. and repeated at 11 p.m.
4. KCBS-TV
Interview with a festival presenter at 5:50 p.m.
on Dec. 6.
5. KLON Radio (Long Beach)
Recorded telephone interview the morning of Dec. 4
was aired that afternoon.