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# The American Film Institute

1984 NATIONAL VIDEO FESTIVAL

The 1984 National Video Festival, presented by The American Film Institute and sponsored by Sony Corporation of America, will be held at the AFI campus in Los Angeles September 20 - 23. In its fourth year, the festival assumes an international focus. The following is a brief outline of the festival program:

## Thursday, September 20 - TELEVISION: CONFRONTING THE INEVITABLE

### "Television in Search of Itself: the 1950s"

Was television to become merely illustrated radio, motion pictures on a more intimate scale, or something distinctly new? Clips from programs as varied as "This Is Your Life," "You Are There," and Richard Nixon's "Checkers" speech, reflect TV's process of self-discovery during the formative years after WWII. Presented by Robert Rosen.

### "Britain's Channel 4: the Story So Far"

In its first two seasons, Channel 4 helped make possible a number of major independent productions. Will it continue creating an open-ended aesthetic environment? Over 20 program excerpts will suggest some answers? Presented by John Wyver.

## Friday, September 21 - WAYS OF SEEING: POINTS OF VIEW

### "Cultural Impressions"

The video artists in this program respond personally and intuitively to foreign cultures, creating a profound feeling of place, without naming dates and history. Program premieres work by Edin Velez, Dan Reeves, and Kirk von Heflin and includes tapes by Juan Downey, Shalom Gorewitz, and Ann Volkes. Curated by Marita Sturken.

### "Central America: From Whose Perspective?"

The eclectic mixture of media--video, 16mm, Super 8, bits of film stock, color and black/white--which gives Central American documentaries their particular "look" results from both an accommodation to practical limitations and a creative media synthesis: a reflection of evolving modes of distribution and production in contemporary Latin America. The program includes work from El Salvador and Nicaragua, independently produced U.S. documentaries and local television productions. Curated by Karen Ranucci and Julianne Burton.

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"Point/Counter-point: Controversy by Television"

A survey of the ways in which television is used to present different sides of controversial issues, such as gun control, nuclear power, abortion and Central America. Spots presenting opposing viewpoints will be juxtaposed to highlight the styles and tactics of controversy by television. Presented by Peter Broderick.

Saturday, September 22 - SCREENINGS: FROM THE NARRATIVE

"International Public Television: In Video"

Important new feature-length work and series produced in video for broadcast. The program features Hungarian filmmaker Miklos Jancso's first work in video, FAUSTUS, FAUSTUS, FAUSTUS; American Playhouse's extraordinary sci-fi feature, OVERDRAWN AT THE MEMORY BANK, based on a story by John Varley; and the BBC's BOYS FROM THE BLACKSTUFF; among others.

"Visual Language: Re-Definitions"

Explorations of narrative form--from the melodrama to the "metalogue." Among the artists' work included in this program are the following: WHY DO THINGS GET IN A MUDDLE? by Gary Hill; FAR FROM POLAND by Jill Godmilow; and DAS FRAUEN-ZUMMER by Claudia von Alemann.

Saturday Evening and Sunday, July 23 - MUSIC AND VIDEO: EXTENDED PLAY

"Conjuring: the Image of Music"

The music video boom rages on. Can African, Afro-Caribbean and Brazilian rhythms provide new life in this genre? How does the producer move beyond pithy narratives to find sympathetic chords upon which to base his/her work? A panel of artists, critics, musicians look at these questions. Video excerpts from Bob Marley to Sunny Ade. Moderated by Robert Wisdom.

Sunday program also includes the premiere of TALKING HEADS "ONCE IN A LIFETIME;" Dan Graham's ROCK RELIGION; and a program of African and Reggae music clips presented by Roger Steffens.

The festival programming will also include:

RETURN OF THE NATIVE, a tone poem for television by Kit Fitzgerald and Peter Gordon.

"Video: Recent Acquisitions from the Museum of Modern Art," forty-one international videotapes made between 1981 and 1984.

"Japanese Television and Video," an historical overview of video art from Japan, as well as programs on NHK and Japanese television commercials.

"The West," a video installation by Steina and Woody Vasulka.

For pre-registration and/or further information, please call 213/856-7787.