

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**The Museum of Modern Art**

For Immediate Release

July 2001

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART TO PRESENT
EROTIC TALES, AN INTERNATIONAL SERIES
DIRECTED BY NEW AND VETERAN FILMMAKERS

*Erotic Tales***July 26–August 2, 2001****The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1**

The Museum of Modern Art presents 24 half-hour films, *Erotic Tales*, produced by Regina Ziegler, one of Germany's leading producers and WDR (Westdeutscher Rundfunk), a German television network, July 26 through August 2, 2001, in The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1. Filmmakers exploring the nature of sensuality include an international array of new and veteran directors such as Hal Hartley (USA), Melvin Van Peebles (USA), Bob Rafelson (USA), Susan Seidelman (USA), Susan Streitfeld (USA), Nicolas Roeg (Great Britain), Ken Russell (Great Britain), Eoin Moore (Germany), Mani Kaul (India), Mika Kaurismäki (Finland), Amos Kollek (Israel), and Antonis Kokkinos (Greece). All prints are 35mm; foreign language films are English-subtitled.

"*Erotic Tales* is a collaborative experiment with the sensual imagination," remarks Laurence Kardish, Senior Curator, Department of Film and Media, who organized the series. "It is fascinating to experience the various national interpretations and personal translations of the cinematic language of eroticism."

Ziegler Film founder Regina Ziegler was inspired to produce the stories of *Erotic Tales* by Spanish playwright Fernando Arrabal's idea that "If it is not erotic, it is not interesting." Making films for over a quarter century, Ziegler is one of Germany's most active producers. Ziegler Film, based in Berlin, has been associated with feature films, television films, and noteworthy documentaries. In Germany, Ziegler has worked with filmmakers such as Wolf Gremm, Jeanine Meerapfel, Helga Reidemeister, Helma Sanders-Brahms, Werner Schroeter, and Peter Stein, and has coproduced films by the celebrated Polish filmmakers Andrzej Wajda and Krzysztof Zanussi.

WDR became Ziegler's partner, and together they produced the 24 half-hour films that comprise the complete *Erotic Tales* program to date. Under the series title *Die schönste*

Sache der Welt (The Most Beautiful Thing in the World), Ziegler-Film aims to produce 69 of the half-hour films.

Two of the films from *Erotic Tales* are by filmmaker Jos Stelling (Netherlands), the others include films by Detlev Buck (Germany), Paul Cox (Australia), Markus Fischer (Switzerland), Fridrik Thór Fridriksson (Iceland), Hal Hartley (USA), Bernd Heiber (Germany), Mani Kaul (India), Mika Kaurismäki (Finland), Antonis Kokkinos (Greece), Amos Kollek (Israel), Janusz Majewski (Poland), Eoin Moore (Ireland), Rosa von Praunheim (USA), Bob Rafelson (USA), Nicolas Roeg (Great Britain), Ken Russell (Great Britain), Susan Seidelman (USA), Georgi Shengelaya (Georgia), Susan Streitfeld (USA), Cinzia Th. Torrini (Italy), Melvin Van Peebles (USA), and Petr Zelenka (Czech Republic).

Erotic Tales

was organized by Laurence Kardish, Senior Curator, Department of Film and Video. Thanks go to Tanja Meding and Ron Holloway at Ziegler Film for their support.

Erotic Tales

Screening Schedule:

Thursday, July 26, 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, July 29, 5:00 p.m.

Dream a Little Dream of Me

. 1999. Greece. Directed by Antonis Kokkinos. Written by Nikos Panayotopoulos and Kokkinos. With Lazaros Andreou, Viva Koka, and Kristieanne Travers. A noted documentary maker in Greece, Kokkinos's films have been about theater, music, and poetry. Here he concocts a story about an architect who, days before his wedding, has a recurring and somewhat disturbing dream. In Greek with English subtitles. 27 min.

On Top Down Under.

2000. Iceland/Australia. Written and directed by Fridrik Thór Fridriksson. With Nina Gunnarsdottir and Hilmir Snaer Gudnason. Perhaps Iceland's best known filmmaker, Fridriksson (*Children of Nature*, 1991; *Cold Fever*, 1994) imagines a young woman in a lighthouse on a cold winter's evening, and a young man, that same day in the blazing Australian outback, remembering a passionate afternoon. No dialogue. 27 min.

The Night Nurse.

2000. Germany. Written and directed by Bernd Heiber. With Paul Fassnacht, Franziska Petri, and Wilfried Hochholdinger. In his first release since graduating from film school, Heiber tells of a policeman on the German-Polish border guarding a gangster incarcerated in a sweltering emergency ward. A night nurse appears. In German with English subtitles. 28 min. Total running time 82 min.

Thursday, July 26, 6:00 p.m.; Monday, July 30, 3:30 p.m.

Angela.

2000. USA. Written and directed by Amos Kollek. With Victor Argo, Austin Pendelton, Valerie Geffner, and Mark Margolis. The Israeli-born Kollek is celebrated for his New York features, which include *Sue* (1997), *Fiona* (1999), and *Fast Food, Fast Women* (2000). This short, also set in Manhattan, is about a man, about to turn 70, who wonders if there is one more affair to be had. 28 min.

The Gas Station.

1999. The Netherlands. Written and directed by Jos Stelling. With Gene Bervoets, Ellen Ten Damme, and Martijn Bosman. What could possibly happen on the expressway during rush hour? Stelling, who in addition to making films runs a cinema and restaurant in Utrecht, has an answer that is charming, funny, and explicit. No dialogue. 28 min.

Kimono

. 2000. USA. Written, directed, and music by Hal Hartley. With Miho Nikaido, Ling, Valerie Celis, and Shen Yun. Hartley, one of New York's leading independent filmmakers (*The Unbelievable Truth*, 1989; *Henry Fool*, 1997) considers a woman in a bridal dress evicted from a car. No dialogue. 26 min. Total running time 82 min.

Friday, July 27, 3:30 p.m.; Monday, July 30, 6:00 p.m.

The Summer of My Deflowering.

2000. USA. Written and directed by Susan Streitfeld. With Beth Riesgraf and Nortin Henderson. Streitfeld, best known for her 1996 independent feature *Female Perversions*, chronicles the adventure of Megan, a Los Angeles video artist, who decides to lose her virginity. She chooses not only a divinity student with whom to do it but also the motel in which to do it, The Garden of Eden. 29 min.

Powers

. 2000. Czech Republic. Written and directed by Petr Zelenka. With Ivan Trojan, Tomas Pavelka, and Nela Boudova. Zelenka, whose 1997 feature *Buttoners* was screened in the 1999 New Directors/New Films series, returns with this tale of a magician whose powers are indeed supernatural. In Czech with English subtitles. 28 min.

Why Don't We Do It in the Road?

2000. Germany. Written and directed by Eoin Moore. With Isabelle Stoffel, Erdal Yildiz, and Thomas Morris. Moore is a young Irish graduate of the Berlin Film Academy whose 1997 diploma feature, *Break Even*, was screened in MoMA's 1998 New Films from Germany exhibition. Here he tells of Zarah, a postmodern artist, who proposes a tryst with Anton in the middle of Potsdamer Platz, Berlin's busiest intersection. In German with English subtitles. 28 min. Total running time 85 min.

Friday, July 27, 6:00 p.m.; Sunday, July 29, 2:00 p.m.

The Dutch Master.

1994. USA. Directed by Susan Seidelman. Written by Jonathan Brett and Seidelman. With Mira Sorvino, Aida Turturro, and Sharon Angela. New York filmmaker Seidelman (*Smithereens*, 1980; *Desperately Seeking Susan*, 1984; and others, including various television series) imagines a young woman seduced by a painting at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. 26 min.

The Cloud Door.

1994. India. Written, directed, and edited by Mani Kaul. With Anu Arya Aggarwal and Murad Ali. A talking parrot in ancient Rajasthan leads a young man to the bedchamber of his beloved, a princess. Kaul, whose works have been shown at MoMA and the New York Film Festival, adapts his tale from three classic Indian sources—a Sanskrit play, an epic Sufi poem, and an anonymous and popular erotic story. In Hindi with English subtitles. 28 min.

The Insatiable Mrs. Kirsch.

1994. Great Britain. Directed by Ken Russell. Written by Russell and Hetty Baynes. With Baynes and Simon Shepherd. Russell has made celebrated films for both theater and television. In this short, he describes the misadventure of one man fascinated by a beautiful and intriguing woman. 25 min. Total running time 79 min.

Friday, July 27, 8:00 p.m.; Thursday, August 2, 3:30 p.m.

Can I Be Your Bratwurst, Please?

1999. USA. Directed by Rosa von Praunheim. Written by von Praunheim and Lawrence Elbert. With Jeff Stryker, Luzi Kryn, and Karl-Heinz Teuber. The prolific von Praunheim (born Holger Mischwitzki in Riga, Latvia) is one of the best known of the generation of "New German Filmmakers" who came of age in the 1960s. The director here spins an edible tale about a young man from the Midwest, hoping to make it in Hollywood, who is invited to Christmas dinner by all the guests at his motel. 29 min.

Georgian Grapes

. 1999. Georgia. Directed by Giorgi Shengelaya. Written by Shengelaya, Levan Kitia, and Kote Djandieri. With Ya Parulava, Zaza Papuashvili, and Celina Wieczorek. Shengelaya, whose 1969 feature *Pirosmani* was banned by the Soviets and championed in America, is celebrated for his easygoing, virtually folkloric comedies about the Georgian countryside. In this tale a young woman who works in the vineyards is ignored by her husband until... In Georgian with English subtitles. 29 min.

The Red Garter

. 1999. Switzerland. Written, directed, and music by Markus Fischer, based on a short story by Juan Marsé. With Claudine Wilde and Arndt Schwering-Sohnrey. Fischer, who has directed many television programs in Switzerland and is also a composer and musician, films a story about a young woman's unpleasant encounter with a young man in her apartment building. In German with English subtitles. 29 min. Total running time 87 min.

Saturday, July 28, 1:30 p.m.; Tuesday, July 31, 6:00 p.m.

Wet.

1994. USA. Written and directed by Bob Rafelson. With Cynda Williams and Arliss Howard. Rafelson (*Five Easy Pieces*, 1970; *The King of Marvin Gardens*, 1972; *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, 1981; *Blood and Wine*, 1996) imagines a luxury bathroom showroom where sales are few. An attractive woman, Davida, arrives shortly before closing time to buy a tub for two. 25 min.

Vroom, Vrooom, Vrooom.

1994. USA. Written, directed, edited, and music by Melvin Van Peebles. With Richard Barboza, Lauren Lane, Dewar Zazee, and Kim Smith. Van Peebles, who energized American cinema with *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song* (1971), tells a timeless tale of a pimply young man who only wants two things in life. 27 min.

Touch Me.

1994. Australia. Directed and edited by Paul Cox. Written by Cox, Barry Dickens, and Margot Wilbierd. With Gosia Dobrowollska, Claudia Karvan, Chris Haywood, and Barry Otto. One of Australia's most independent and prolific filmmakers, whose works such as *Man of Flowers* (1968), *My First Wife* (1984), and *Innocence* (2000) deal with sensuality and fantasy, here imagines the friendship between two women, an artist and her model. 26 min. Total running time 78 min.

Saturday, July 28, 3:30 p.m.; Thursday, August 2, 6:00 p.m.

Sweeties

. 1995. Italy. Written and directed by Cinzia Th. Torrini. With Stefania Sandrelli, Roberto Citran, and Gea Martire. An Italian graduate of the Munich Film Academy, Torrini has been making films for television since 1982; her contribution to this series involves a woman of a certain age who misses the amorous attention of her now disinterested husband. She finds some magical sweets, but they come with a price. In Italian with English subtitles. 29 min.

Hotel Paradise.

1995. Great Britain. Directed by Nicolas Roeg. Written by Michael Allin. With Theresa Russell, Vincent D'Onofrio, and Jimmy Batten. Noted director Roeg (*Performance*, 1970; *Walkabout*, 1971; *Don't Look Now*, 1976; and others) imagines a bride-to-be on the morning of her wedding day. She wakes up in a strange hotel room, handcuffed to a naked man with whom she is not acquainted. 29 min.

Devilish Education.

1995. Poland. Written and directed by Janusz Majewski. With Renata Danciewicz, Marek Kondrat, and Anna Dymna. One of Poland's distinguished directors, Majewski has completed over forty short, television, and feature films since the mid-1960s, including *Hotel Pacific* (1975), shown in *New Directors/New Films*, 1977. His naughty tale is set at

the turn of the century: one hot afternoon, a milkmaid bathes in a river. Before introducing himself, a stranger dressed in black paints her picture. In Polish with English subtitles. 28 min. Total running time 86 min.

Saturday, July 28, 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, July 31, 3:30 p.m.

Sambólico.

1996. Brazil/Finland. Written, directed, and edited by Mika Kaurismäki. With Karl Väänänen, Andrea Bloom, and Antonio Calloni. Kaurismäki, the Finnish-born, Munich-trained filmmaker (*Zombie* and the *Ghost Train*, 1994; *Tigrero: A Film That Was Never Made*, 1995), lives part of the year in Brazil. He sets his tale of the harried meeting between a Finnish orchestral conductor and a young woman in flight in Rio de Janeiro during samba season. In English and Portuguese with English subtitles. 30 min.

Elephants Never Forget.

1996. Germany. Directed by Detlev Buck. Written by Detlef Blettenberg. With Peter Lupp, Natalia Wörner, and Leander Haussmann. First a farmer, then a graduate of Berlin's Film Academy, Buck is known in Germany for his popular comedies. His wry tale has to do with a traveling circus, a countess rescued from a traffic accident, and an elephant trainer. In German with English subtitles. 29 min.

The Waiting Room.

1996. The Netherlands. Written and directed by Jos Stelling. With Bianca Koedam, Gene Bervoets, and Annet Malherbe. What could possibly happen in the crowded waiting area of a municipal train station? Stelling, who, in addition to making films runs a cinema and restaurant in Utrecht, has an answer that is funny, charming, and explicit. No dialogue. 25 min. Total running time 84 min.

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