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ARTIST ELEANOR ANTIN'S FILM, "MAN WITHOUT A WORLD, WILL OPEN IN SANTA MONICA MAY 20 FOR A TWO-WEEK RUN

Artist Eleanor Antin, a performance artist, filmmaker and professor of visual arts at the University of California, San Diego, will have her latest work, "Man Without a World," screened from May 20-June 4, at the Laemmle Monica Theatre, Second Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, in Santa Monica.

The film has received critical acclaim in U.S. festivals and in Europe. It was made on the UCSD campus in August, 1990.

Among other festivals, it was shown at the Berlin Film Festival in February; the USA Film Festival in Dallas in April; the Jewish Film Festival, Boston, in November, 1991; the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival in July, 1991; the London Jewish Film Festival in October, 1991; the Australian Jewish Film Festival, and the Women in Film Festival at the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. The film has been purchased for German television distribution in Austria, Germany and Switzerland by Z.D.F. The U.S. distributor is Milestone Films.

Antin, who has created various performance art characters, has invented the Russian-Jewish filmmaker, Yevgeny Antinov, who supposedly "made" several silent films during the 1920s, including "Man Without a World." The first of Antinov's films was the 38-minute, tongue-in-cheek flicker, "The Last Night of Rasputin," supposedly "made" in 1924. It was "rediscovered" in 1988 when the then Soviet government loosened cultural reins through Glasnost, and "allowed" the film to be premiered at the Whitney Museum.

"The. Man Without a World" is a feature-length Yiddish silent film (circa 1926) that, like the film about Rasputin, employs classic silent film and acting techniques.

The film glimpses life in a small Eastern European town (shtetl) between the First World War and the Holocaust. The film's hero is a poet, in love with the town tailor's daughter. He discovers, however, the charms of the artist's life when a troupe of traveling players, led by a tough cigar-smoking ballerina (Antin), takes refuge in the shtetl for the winter.

The plot is spiked with dybbuks (lost souls), exorcisms, festivals, seductions, unwanted pregnancies, funerals and power struggles among the conflicting religious and political groups, such as one might find in an Isaac Bashevis Singer story.

Antin's art and performances have appeared worldwide, including at the Ronald Feldman Fine Arts Gallery in New York, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, the San Diego Museum of Contemporary Art in La Jolla and the Venice Biennale, Italy.

The technical crew includes Rich Wargo, cinematographer, and Lynn Burnstan, associate producer and editor, both from San Diego. The art director is Sabato Fiorello, from Los Angeles. The assistant director is Marcia Goodman, a theatre artist from New York City. Laura Andrews, hair and makeup designer, is from Los Angeles. Set construction is by Roger Sherman; Production manager is Pamela Whidden.

The cast includes actors from the UCSD community and elsewhere. UCSD faculty includes Newton Harrison, Jerome Rothenberg, Sheldon Nodelman, Sherman George, Reinhardt Lettau, Bennett Berger, Joe Gusfield, Jack Greenstein, Page DuBois and Sargon Tont.

Visiting artists are: Pier Marton, George Leonard, Ellen Zweig and Peter Frank. Merrill Cicourel, Christine Berry, Anna Henriques, Don Sommece, John Borba, Lisa Welti, Scott Kirwin and Berne Smith are former UCSD students. Members of the San Diego community are Nikolai Lennox, Larry McGilvery, Grant Taylor and Irma Gusfield. Tannen and Tali Whidden-Winter and Anthony Vinole are child actors. The cast also includes Dixie the Performing Pig.

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