

## Pal Schiffer to appear as Regents' Lecturer through Communication Department

**October 14, 1986**

Media contact: Marcia Slaughter, Department of Communication, 534-0234 or Alixandra Williams, Public Information Office, 534-3120

HUNGARIAN DOCUMENTARY

FILMMAKER IS REGENTS' LECTURER AT UCSD

A Hungarian drama-documentarist will lecture on documentary approaches to social problems, showing four of his films, from Oct. 24-30, at the University of California, San Diego.

Pal Schiffer, whose award-winning filmmaking depicts the plight of people who live on the fringes of society, will appear as a Regents' Lecturer, sponsored by the UCSD Department of Communication.

The four films to be shown in the series are: "Gyuri," "The Model Gardener," "Let Me Rest in Peace," and "Cowboys." All films, with the exception of "Cowboys," will have sub-titles. Schiffer will narrate "Cowboys."

Schiffer's schedule starts on Friday, Oct. 24, with the film "The Model Gardener" (104 min), shown at 3 p.m. in room 210 Media Center. At 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, his film "Let Me Rest In Peace" (93 min), will be shown in room 104 Peterson Hall. At 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28, "Gyuri" (96 min), will be shown in the Mandeville Center Auditorium, followed at 9:30 p.m. by a public lecture on "Documentary Approaches to Social Problems."

On Thursday, Oct. 30, Schiffer's most recent film, "Cowboys" (224 min), will be screened at 7 p.m. in room 201 Media Center.

The people Schiffer focuses on in his docu-drama approach to filmmaking are gypsies, weekend commuters, alcoholics, and peasants who live in isolated farm areas. Schiffer's docu-drama techniques derive from the work of classical ethno-sociological filmmakers such as Robert Flaherty, Jean Rouch, and Pierre Perrault.

The essence of this approach, Schiffer's says, is the situation. Because the stake placed on the situation is more important for the participants than the presence of the camera, it is the contact between the participants which looms forward.

Gyuri, who re-enacts his own story, is a gypsy youth who joins up with two others to migrate from small village life to Budapest. The others leave him to return to the safety of the village, while Gyuri wrests with the decision to stay and acculturate, or return to gypsy row.

Success or failure is the theme for "The Model Gardener," as Janos Kerekes, a tomato farmer, works to save his farm. The idealist farmer strives to keep the image of his ideals intact; a different reality exists for those who slog to keep the farm together.

"Let Me Rest in Peace" embodies the struggle of an aged rural woman who shoulders her trials and misfortunes with a sense of grace. The camera courts her expressions while she describes, without self-pity, the events of her life.

"Cowboys," which won the National Feature Film Festival (Hungary) award for Best Documentary and the Special Jury Prize, involves the lives of four young men and a woman who try their luck husbanding a herd of cows in a non-arable section of Hungary. Their struggles with the local agricultural cooperative are legion, affecting every aspect of their lives.

For information about the film series or about Pal Schiffer, contact the Department of Communication, UCSD, at 534-0234.

(October 14, 1986)