

HALLWALLS

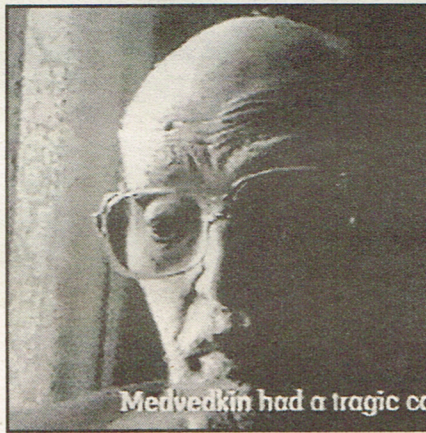
CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

OCTOBER
1994

CONTROLLING INTERESTS: FILM/VIDEO

CONTROLLING INTERESTS ...

is a pre-election day film and video series which explores the persuasive use of media as a way of maintaining power, encouraging or discouraging particular behaviors, eliminating cultural, sociological, and political difference, stressing patriotism and nationalism, and, in the U.S. in particular, selling products and encouraging consumption. Watch it before you vote on November 8



Medvedkin had a tragic career



ABOVE: *The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Reifenstahl*
LEFT AND COVER: *The Last Bolshevik*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 8:00 pm

Rick Prelinger in Person

Film archivist Rick Prelinger will present a series of short educational and propaganda films from the 1940s and 1950s concerning Persuasion and Propaganda, including: *A Day of Thanksgiving* (1951, 14 min.), in the midst of the Cold War a family too poor to afford a Thanksgiving turkey counts its blessings and decides that it's not what's on the dinner table that is important but the freedom under which we eat it; *Destination Earth* (1954, 14 min.), a Martian visitor to Earth discovers the secret to the planet's prosperity is free enterprise and cheap oil; when the information is disseminated around Mars, with its centrally located command economy, a revolution ensues; *The Door to Heaven* (ca. 1940, 10 min.), a religious film produced for the Scriptures Visualized Institute; *Conquer By The Clock* (1943, 8 min.), three parables about laziness, carelessness, and malfeasance on the homefront, equating patriotic conduct with industrial productivity; *My Japan* (ca. 1945) is introduced and narrated by a grinning Caucasian who pretends to be Japanese and employs racist polemics, disturbing imagery and distanced irony to spur Americans toward greater production and a more bloodthirsty fighting spirit; *Preversion for Profit* (ca. 1962, 28 min.), an anti-pornography film produced by Charles Keating (of the S&L scandal) for Citizens for Decent Literature, links homosexuality, violent crime, the Communist conspiracy, and Satan!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 8:00 pm

Rick Prelinger In Person

Prelinger presents another series of archival films dealing with Politics. *Despotism* (1945, 10 min.) uses a sliding, thermometer-like animated scale to indicate the degree of democracy or despotism in a country; *Inside Crackle Corner* (1951, 10 min.), a cartoon on the essential goodness and freedom associated with free enterprise and the evils of collectivism; *Tuesday in November* (1944, 17 min.), a pseudo documentary of the 1944 general election made for overseas audiences, dramatizes both the participation of citizens in the electoral process and the campaign for the Presidency, linking the two threads into a quasi-religious quest characterized by unchallenged belief, ritualistic behavior and culminating in a mass announcement before a large crowd; *What it Means to be an American* (1951, 20 min.), one of Emily Benton Frith's many films dealing with what we would now call "family values"; *How to Lose What We Have* (1953, 14 min.), a vision of a communist takeover of America; *Social Class in America* (1957, 16 min.), this sociology lesson breaks through educational film taboo by speaking directly about social class ("these three babies are equal under the law, but they are not equal in terms of class..."), thus shocking the ears with frankness.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 8:00 pm

The Last Bolshevik (Chris Marker, 1993, 116 min., video)

In *The Last Bolshevik*, French filmmaker Chris Marker (*Le Jetée, Sans Soleil*) incorporates his rueful, witty letters to the marginalized Soviet director Alexander Medvedkin, and captures the commitment, energy, struggles, illusions, and disillusion of a believing—but never naive—Bolshevik. Although the Soviet bureaucracy suppressed and smeared his works, Medvedkin believed to the end that communism held the hope of happiness for all people. Marker collages clips from Medvedkin's films and interviews with friends, young filmmakers and scholars for whom his work is a revelation.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 8:00 pm

The Last Bolshevik (Chris Marker, 1993, 116 min., video)

(See October 14)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 8:00 pm

The Diamond Empire (Co-produced by WGBH-TV and BBC, Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC), 1994, 90 min., video)

Central to the diamond's role as a romantic symbol is the belief that diamonds are a rare and precious commodity. This myth was strategically cultivated and maintained for over a century—initially through the rapid colonization of diamond mines and later through advertising campaigns aimed at the American middle class. *The Diamond Empire* tracks the global reach of one family, the Oppenheims of South Africa, who cornered the international supply of diamonds and developed one of the world's most powerful cartels to control the marketing and pricing of the gem-stones.

Consuming Passions
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 8:00 pm

Satellite Dreaming

(Ilvo Burum, Tony Dowmut, 1993, 60 min., video)

Saputi (Fish Traps)

(Zacharias Kunuk, 1992, 30 min., video)

Television is increasingly seen as a homogenizing global force, a threat to cultural difference, and as a colonizing tool. *Satellite Dreaming* documents the experience of an Australian Aboriginal group which challenged this paradigm, won a commercial satellite license against heavy political odds, but has since been unable to sustain programming for economic reasons. The tape features Aboriginal work on the city-based national networks and at local stations in remote desert communities where indigenous people are using T.V. to maintain and extend their own culture. Part of the award winning series, *Channels of Resistance*, produced for Channel 4 in the U.K.; *Saputi (Fish Traps)*: In the 1930s, motion picture technologies were introduced to Northern Alaskan peoples who were to become the subjects of Western documentaries/dramas. Assisted by members of his community, Kunuk reflects back upon this ethnographic moment with humor and vitality, reenacting traditional fishing episodes from a contemporary Inuit perspective.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 9:15 pm

Strictly Propaganda

(Wolfgang Kissel, 1992, 94 min., video)

Through official newsreels, educational films, and other materials produced by the East German government, *Strictly Propaganda* presents forty years of Communist propaganda in the German Democratic Republic from World War II to the fall of the Berlin Wall four years ago. The now-hilarious, cold war-era footage features beaming workers and happy children, including the Young Pioneers, the youth branch of the Communist Party; one film has border guards "running to embrace refugees as they flee across the border from the 'mercenary' West;" another explains the Berlin Wall as a means of "self-protection" against capitalist decadence.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 7:15 pm

Strictly Propaganda

(Wolfgang Kissel, 1992, 94 min., video) (See October 28)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5,

2:30, 6:00 & 9:30 pm

The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Reifenstahl

(Ray Müller, 181 min, 1993)

Ray Müller's acclaimed documentary of German filmmaker Leni Reifenstahl, the creator of the most effective propaganda film ever made, *Triumph of the Will* (1934), which chronicled the sixth Nazi Party Congress at Nuremberg. Although she received the full support of Adolf Hitler, Reifenstahl never actually joined the Nazi Party, and, at age 90, she finally addresses on film her association with the Third Reich.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2:30 & 6:00 pm

The Wonderful, Horrible Life of Leni Reifenstahl

(Ray Müller, 181 min, 1993) (See November 5)

CONSUMING PASSIONS: FOOD • ART • CULTURE

EXHIBITIONS:

This exhibition is a collaborative, two-site exhibition which brings together contemporary artists and folk artists to look at the world of food. Continuing through October at Hallwalls and the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University.

FILM/VIDEO:

In conjunction with the gallery show, Consuming Passions: Food • Art • Culture, Hallwalls and the Castellani Art Museum will host this film and video program.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 8:00 pm

Screening at the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University

FREE ADMISSION

Consuming/Passion (Elise Friedman, 1984, 6.5 min., 16mm)

Eat (Michael Hoolboom, 1989, 15 min., 16mm)

Fruit-i-cide (Jody Lafond, 1983, 10 min., video)

Production Notes (Jason Simon, 1986, 60 min., video)

This film and video component of *Consuming Passions*, held in conjunction with the gallery exhibition, features four works which probe issues surrounding food and consumption. Elise Friedman's *Consuming/Passion* is a semi-autobiographical, experimental narrative about a young woman who turns to food when her searches for love and happiness are unsuccessful. Michael Hoolboom's *Eat* "is a commentary on the consumptive aspects of North American culture" layering images of food, advertising, pornography, explosions, and early Lumiere films with two distinct narrative audio threads and other sounds. (Continued next column)

(Continued from previous column) Buffalo video maker Jody Lafond's *Fruit-i-cide* is a simple satire on the slice and dice of genre film. Every day millions of pieces of fruit are chopped, cut, sliced and smashed. The traditional fruit-women comparison cannot be ignored. Jason Simon's *Production Notes* deconstructs seven television ads by means of repetition, slow motion and the reading of "production notes," memos sent from the advertising agency to the production company prior to filming the spots—notes that describe the intentions, desires, strategies, and ideology of the commercials and their creators. Co-sponsored by Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 9:00 pm

Screening at Hallwalls, \$6 general public, \$5 students/seniors, \$4 members

Consuming/Passion (Elise Friedman, 1984, 6.5 min., 16mm)

Eat (Michael Hoolboom, 1989, 15 min., 16mm)

Fruit-i-cide (Jody Lafond, 1983, 10 min., video)

Production Notes (Jason Simon, 1986, 60 min., video)

(See October 28 for film and video descriptions)

PLUS: BAKE OFF AND EXHIBITION CLOSE-OUT PARTY

FOLLOWING THE SCREENINGS

CALL SARA KELLNER AT 835-7362 FOR DETAILS ON ENTERING THIS EXCITING CONTEST!

Hallwalls through October 29

Michael Bramwell
Millie Chen
Susan Eder
Eva Melas
Rebecca Howland
Sarah E. Webb
Annie Lopez
Stephen J. Shanabrook
Christina Daphne Tryforos
Jill M. Birschbach
Ted Gibson
Gordon Simpson

Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University through October 30

Biff Henrich
Johnathan Rosen
Peter Anton
George Ancona
Madonna Dunbar
Marion Faller
Nancy Ghertner
Tom Huff
Jolene Rickard
Loren Tent
Andy Yoder

Hallwalls is supported in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, the City of Buffalo, and the County of Erie, and by grants and contributions from The John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The Lamm Foundation, The Margaret L. Weid Foundation, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, The Buffalo Foundation, The Cameron Baird Foundation, The Nicholas Patterson Perpetual Fund, M & T Bank, the Buffalo News, Independent Health, and the Members of Hallwalls. Hallwalls is a member of NAAO, the National Association of Artists' Organizations.

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Exhibitions Curator
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Don Metz
Development Director
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Development Associate
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Film Curator
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Festival Director, Ways In
Margaret Smith
Technician
Being Gay 1994
Ed Sobhan

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STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hallwalls staff wishes a fond farewell to video curator **Chris Hill** and welcomes her successor, **Julia Dzwonkoski**. During her eleven-year tenure Chris developed Hallwalls' video program into one of the most respected and influential in the country. She is recognized internationally for her curatorial initiatives and has been tireless in her dedication to the field of alternative media. As well as nurturing and promoting local production through Hallwalls' various media arts service projects, Chris helped found area media arts organizations Squeaky Wheel (aka Buffalo Media Resources) and BCAM (Buffalo Cable Access Media). Thanks to Chris's efforts, Hallwalls was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant from The John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to fund an ambitious new media project which she conceived. Fortunately—in addition to having more time to spend on her own production projects, teaching at the U.B. Department of Media Study, and continuing to develop a major video history project for Video Data Bank—Chris will continue to serve Hallwalls in an advisory capacity on both the MacArthur-funded project and several others, including the video component of the Hallwalls 20th-anniversary show and the new video library.

Matt Schwonke, who has served as film curator on an interim basis since February of this year, has been hired for the position permanently. **Margaret Smith** will be the Festival Director for the 1994 Ways In Being Gay during the month of November.

HALLWALLS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

In the spring of 1995, Hallwalls, the Burchfield-Penney Arts Center and the Castellani Art Museum will present alternatives: 20 Years of Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, 1975-1995. A series of exhibitions, performances, screenings, and lectures throughout Western New York. A major catalogue will be published in conjunction with the exhibition, and will include several scholarly essays on the history and development of Hallwalls; a variety of statements by artists, curators, critics and community members; and a 60 page chronology. The editors are currently working on the latter two sections of the book. We want your input! To help create this document please send your statements, stories, anecdotes and Hallwalls memorabilia to the Burchfield-Penney Arts Center, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222. Please send all materials to the Burchfield no later than November 15 and write Attention: Hallwalls Project on the envelope. Approximately 30 of the collected statements will be included in the publication.



MUSIC

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 8:00 pm

New Jazz Symphonia

Hallwalls' resident ensemble, the New Jazz Symphonia, is one of the few groups in the U.S. to use a full string complement in a jazz setting. In addition to violin, viola, cello and bass, the group also uses woodwinds, brass and percussion. The Symphonia was founded in Fall 1991 by composers Rey Scott, John Bacon, Jr. and Don Metz. The performance will feature the music of **Greg Millar** and **Reynold Scott**. In addition, Greg Millar will perform a guitar concerto written especially for him by John Bacon, Jr. This concert is made possible through funding from the New York State Council on the Arts' Artist Development Project.

CHAMPAGNE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 3:00-7:00 pm

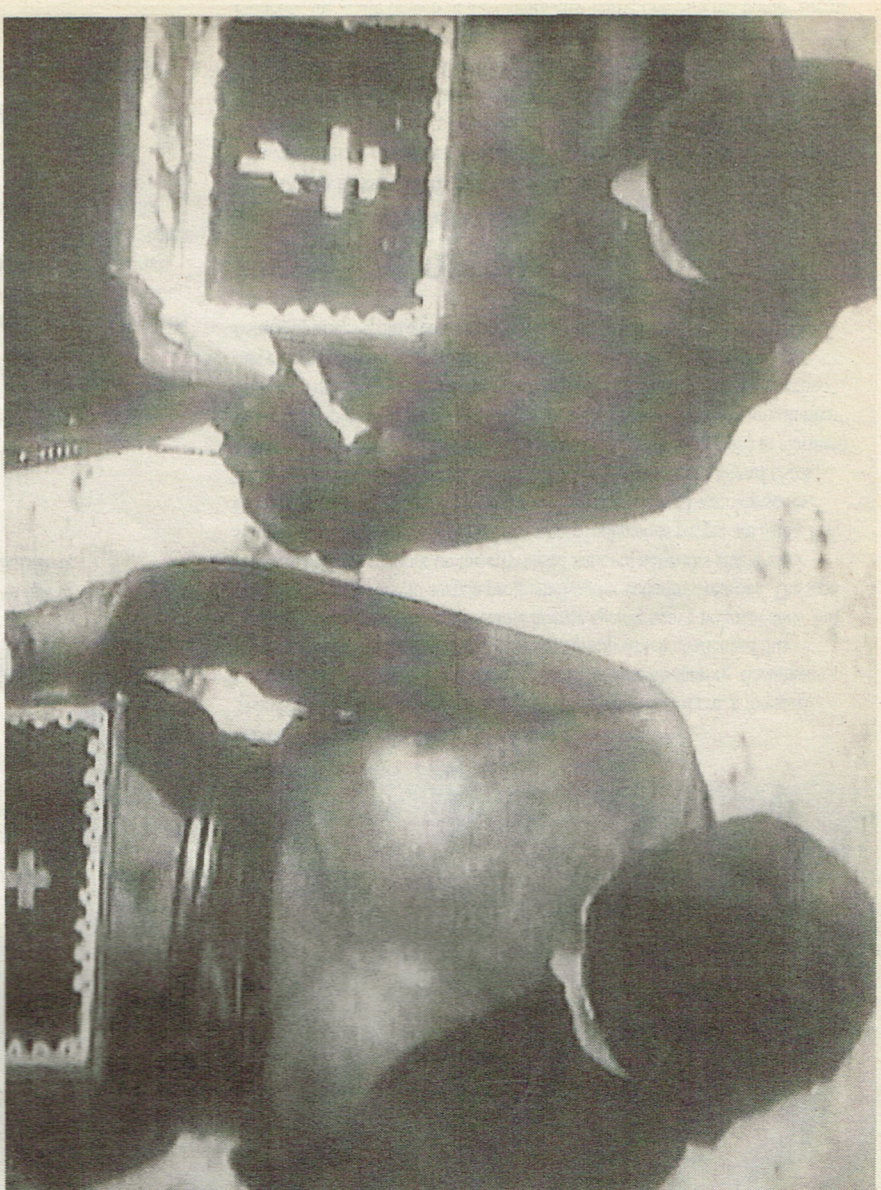
CONSUMING PASSIONS CHAMPAGNE TASTING

Buffalo's finest restaurants will offer champagnes, wines, hors d'oeuvres and desserts to provoke your senses in this taste-sampling event to support Hallwalls' unique, thought-provoking programming. Please join us in the gallery to passionately consume.

DYKE TV IS COMING TO BUFFALO:

NOVEMBER 2-12

As part of this year's Ways in Being Gay Festival, Beth Trimarco, associate producer and head of distribution for DYKE TV, will be producing two episodes of DYKE TV during her residency with the Hallwalls video program. DYKE TV is a half-hour weekly magazine show produced by and for lesbians with the goal of "creating a blueprint for community-oriented lesbian television, broadcast throughout the country to enhance lesbian visibility and empowerment." Trimarco is looking forward to working with members of the lesbian community here in Buffalo with the hope of enlisting future DYKE TV correspondents. Hallwalls will provide production and post-production training to those interested in working on this project. For more information contact Julia Dzwonkoski 835-7362 or Cyd Cox 884-6318.



Controlling Interests Consuming Passions
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HALLWALLS OCTOBER 1994

HALLWALLS CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER

JOIN NOW! HELP BUILD OUR FUTURE

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

CHECK CATEGORY & SEND PAYMENT. YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD WILL FOLLOW.

Adult/Family \$40 Supporting: \$60 Sustaining \$100

Artist/Student/Senior: \$20 Individual: \$30

Present your membership card at the box office to receive discount.

Mail to: HALLWALLS, 2495 Main Street, Suite 425, Buffalo, NY 14214 (716) 835-7362

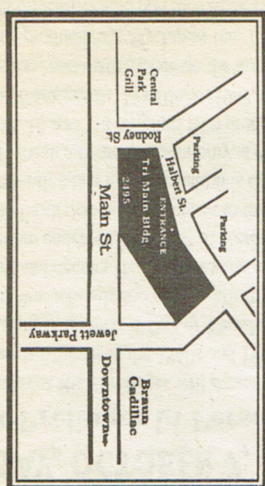
ALL EVENTS LISTED WILL BE HELD AT HALLWALLS' NEW FACILITY IN THE TRI-MAIN BUILDING UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

TICKET PRICES: \$6 General Public, \$5 Students/Seniors, \$4 Hallwalls Members

HALLWALLS

CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTER
2495 MAIN STREET
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- VISUAL ART
- FILM
- VIDEO
- NEW MUSIC
- JAZZ
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- WRITING



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