

In Memoriam: Diane Bonder

Sunday, June 10, 2007 — 7:30 pm — Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Presented in association with Frameline and the MadCat Women's International Film Festival
Presented by Elizabeth Stephens and Ray Ray

San Francisco Cinematheque is honored to present a tribute to the late Diane Bonder through a retrospective of her ten years of Super-8, 16mm and video work. Diane Bonder died last year on June 23 after living nearly a year with pancreatic cancer. Tonight is a celebration of her life and work. Her narrative documentary fusions have been internationally exhibited and are framed with flawless lyrical potency. *Dear Mom* examines a girl's identity in relation to a matriarchal family and domestic fantasies. *If* transforms the common object into an emblem of an absent lover. Images of rural America in *If You Lived Here, You'd Be Home by Now* bring us into a struggle between private property and public space. In *Closer to Heaven* urban ghosts collide. *I Remember Now, We Never Danced, I Miss You, Good-bye* moves to a dance of memory and loss and *You Are Not from Here* expresses an oblique nostalgia for the pre-gentrified landscape.

Dear Mom (1996); 16mm, color, sound, 13 minutes

"*Dear Mom* is a story of the formation of a girl's identity in relation to her powerful mother, her matriarchal family, and domestic fantasies created by melodramas of the 40s and 50s. When the young girl's fantasy of matricide comes true with the untimely death of her Mother, she finds herself at a crossroads. She is left to reconstruct her own identity and find out that her Mother is more complex than she imagines." (Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution Catalog)

If (2000); 16mm, color, sound, 12 minutes

If is a story of longing and loss, taking place within the confines of a room whose objects represent the emotional perceptions of space, and the missing lovers presence. The reality of the outside world encroaches on the inner-space of daydreaming." (Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution Catalog)

If You Lived Here You'd Be Home By Now (2001); 16mm, color, sound, 15 minutes

If You Lived Here, You'd Be Home By Now is about the divisiveness over land, the relationship of public and private space in small-town America, and the concept of home. Using documentary strategies, landscape stills are juxtaposed to stories "ripped from the headlines" of a small-town newspaper. The struggle over public space described in the stories reflects universal concepts of space, privacy and property ownership. (Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution Catalog)

Closer to Heaven (2003); 16mm, color, sound, 15 minutes

"Urban Ghosts collide; abandoned umbrellas tumble down the streets, my father calls again and again to say good-bye." (Diane Bonder)

"Who can really distinguish between the sea and what's reflected in it, or tell the difference between falling rain and loneliness?" (Haruki Murakami)

You Are Not From Here (2005); 16mm screened as video, color, sound, 10 minutes

You Are Not From Here is a record of a rapidly disappearing vernacular landscape. With an oblique narration about the process of gentrification, the film explores the notions of discovery, belonging and the meanings we project on our environment. Shot in Super 8 and narrated by Philip Horowitz. (Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution Catalog)

I Remember Now, We Never Danced, I Miss You, Good-bye (2006) 16mm, color, sound, 8 minutes

"Everyday movement, woven into a dance of memory and loss." (Canadian Filmmakers' Distribution Catalog)