

San Francisco Cinematheque presents

Adele Horne's *The Tailenders*

Adele Horne In Person

Sunday, April 2, 2006 — Yerba Buena Center for the Arts — 7:30 pm

San Francisco Cinematheque presents tonight's screening of *The Tailenders* as part of our series of films emerging from or engaging with areas around the Pacific Rim. Indeed, this new documentary moves around the world examining one of the major forces of historical and contemporary globalization: missionary zeal. Shot in Los Angeles, the Solomon Islands, and Mexico, Los Angeles-based Adele Horne's first feature-length work explores the work of an evangelical missionary group, Gospel Recordings, known not only for their numerous conversions but for their recordings and translations of over 5,500 languages since their inception in 1939. Working in regions where indigenous communities face crises caused by global economic shifts, and using amazingly efficient low-tech audio recording devices, the missionaries seek out displaced and impoverished people, ostensibly in need of some kind of enlightenment. Elegantly structured and photographed, *The Tailenders* explores both the material and ideological means and meanings of these linguistic translations and spiritual transformations, while linking the expansionist complacency of evangelical Protestantism to that of global capitalism. (*Irina Leimbacher*)

***The Tailenders* (1998); digibeta, color, sound, 76 minutes, tape from the artist**

"In a clear, crisp voiceover, Horne describes American Protestantism as a synchronism of Christianity and modern technology. Indeed, Gospel Records has not only translated the Bible into the languages of Third World peoples, but has spearheaded and manufactured many forms of ingenious machinery to help spread the Word in areas with no electricity. For the "tailenders," or last peoples to be reached by global evangelism, the disembodied voice issuing from a "magic" box and speaking to them in their own language resonates powerfully. [...]

"The political ramifications of evangelism are most fully explored among the migrant laborers in Mexico. Thousands of miles from home, in extreme poverty and yearning for a recognizable voice, they are the preferred subjects of missionaries who admit that people outside of their familiar environment are more open to prerecorded preachments. [...]

"Audio recordings of Bible stories often qualify as the only surviving remnants of disappeared or disappearing languages. Yet, Horne points out, since the missionaries themselves have not mastered the exotic tongues involved and cannot be sure of their speakers' command of the languages, much may be lost or distorted in translation.

"With a visual clarity equal to her intellectual discourse, Horne explores the myriad contrasts offered by her subject, alive to many epiphanies and ironies along the way." —excerpt from Ronnie Scheib's review in *Variety*

• • • • •

Adele Horne is an independent filmmaker. *The Tailenders*, her first feature-length film, was supported by grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, The California Council for the Humanities, and fiscal sponsorship from Film Arts Foundation. Adele's previous films include *The Point of True Beginning*, a 16mm essay film about the early exploration of Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, and *At Home*, a short experimental documentary about suburban lesbian families. Adele received an M.F.A. in film from the University of California, San Diego in 1998. *The Tailenders* will be broadcast nationally as part of the PBS program P.O.V. on July 25, 2006.

**IF YOU ARE NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE SIGN UP TO RECEIVE CALENDARS BY MAIL OR EMAIL & PLEASE PICK UP A FLYER ABOUT OUR PACIFIC RIM SERIES.
NEXT SUNDAY'S PACIFIC RIM: EXPERIMENTAL VIDEOMAKER MICHELLE DIZON IN PERSON**

