

Recent Restorations

8mm Films by George & Mike Kuchar

Thursday, December 10, 2009 — San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

presented in association with Frameline

George & Mike Kuchar In Person

“George and Mike Kuchar are the twin darlings of the experimental film world, makers of hundreds of films and videos and legends in their own time. But back in the ‘50s and ‘60s they were just a couple of brothers from the Bronx who shared an 8mm camera. As delirious as they are dramatic, as colorful as they are campy, these rarely seen short films are laugh-out-loud funny and overwhelming prove that the Kuchars are the eighth and ninth wonders of the world.” (Anthology Film Archives)

Pussy On A Hot Tin Roof (1961) by George and Mike Kuchar; 8mm screened as 16mm, color, sound, 14 minutes, print from Anthology Film Archives

Featuring Donna Kerness, Bob Cowan, Terry Brunetti, Sarah Kelly, Bill Piles.

“It glows with the embers of desire! It smokes with the revelation of men and women longing for robust temptations that will make them sizzle into maturity with a furnace-blast of unrestrained animalism. A film for young and old to enjoy.” (George Kuchar)

A Woman Distressed (1962) by George Kuchar; 8mm screened as 16mm, color, sound, 12 minutes, print from Anthology Film Archives

“The brothers’ first public screenings took place at the 8mm Motion Picture Club, which met regularly in the function room of a Manhattan hotel. ‘It was run by fuddy-duddies,’ George recalls. ‘Everybody got dressed up and they showed their vacation footage. There’d be old ladies, and the old ladies would be sitting next to old men, and their stomachs would be acting up and making noises. And the old ladies would get offended at my movies because they were “irreverent,” I guess. I was looking for... subject matter... and I’d pick anything out of the newspaper. That was after the Thalidomide scare came out and ladies were giving birth to deformed babies, and I made a comedy out of that (*A Woman Distressed*)—that was the last time I was at the 8mm Motion Picture Club, and it was the only time they ever gave a bad review to a movie.” (Jack Stevenson: “The Day the Bronx Invaded Earth: The Life and Cinema of the Brothers Kuchar.” *Bright Lights Film Journal*. www.brightlightsfilm.com/26/kuchar1.html)

Tootsies In Autumn (1963) by George and Mike Kuchar; 8mm screened as 16mm, color, sound, 12 minutes, print from Anthology Film Archives

“[A] cautionary tale about past-their-prime thespians caught up in a typically Kucharian vortex of madness.” (Anthology Film Archives)

The Lovers Of Eternity (1964) by George Kuchar; 8mm screened as 16mm, color, sound, 36 minutes, print from Anthology Film Archives

“The last 8mm Kuchar production is an all-too-tragic tale in which we find underground icon Jack Smith, experimental filmmaker Dov Lederberg and one giant cockroach intermingling in the squalor of the Lower East Side.” (Anthology Film Archives)

“A lonely, bohemian poet befriends the good, the bad and the ugly in this rooftop drama set in New York’s lower East side of Eden.” (George Kuchar)

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