The Center for Media, Culture and History

the social space of media
New York University's Center for Media, Culture and History is a collaborative project, drawing on faculty from Africana Studies, American Studies, Asian/Pacific/American Studies, the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies and the Departments of Anthropology, Cinema Studies, History, and Performance Studies. We address issues of representation, social change, and identity construction embedded in the development of film, television, video, and new media worldwide. Our focus is on the role that these media play in shaping our perceptions of history and culture; in forging individual, collective, national, and transnational identities; and in mediating the direction and character of social change.
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Religion, politics & representation

Friday / January 31 / 3-5 PM
Kevorkian Center / 50 Washington Square South / Screening Room

The Men in the Tree
Lalit Vachani, 58 minutes, 2002
(In Hindi, English, Marathi, and Sanskrit with English subtitles)
In 1993, Lalit Vachani completed The Boys in the Brench, a
documentary about the indoctrination of young Hindu boys by
a branch of the RSS, India’s foremost Hindu fundamentalist
group. Eight years later, Vachani revisited the subjects of his
earlier film, illuminating the conditions enabling the rise of
the RSS and its Hindu nation ideology.
Filmmaker Lalit Vachani in conversation with Arvind Rajagopal
(Culture and Communication)
Co-sponsors: NGDP Kevorkian Center, Culture and Communication
Religious Studies

Tuesday / February 18 / 3-5 PM
Performance Studies / 721 Broadway / 6th Floor

World Trade Center
Soni Roy, 2003, 36 minutes (In Manipuri with English subtitles)
In Manipur, in the remote Uplands of north-east India, the
events of September 11 inspired an unusual response: a
traditional courtyard theater piece called World Trade Center,
performed by an all-male acting and singing troupe. With its
traditional blend of melodrama, comedy, dance and music, this
is a highly entertaining, informed and humanistic take on the
international repercussions of the catastrophe.
Filmmaker Soni Roy in conversation with Richard Schechner
(Performance Studies)
Co-sponsors: Performance Studies; NGDP Kevorkian Center; Religious Studies

Friday / February 28 / 3-5:30 PM
Kevorkian Center / 50 Washington Square South / Screening Room

Youth Under Fire:
Islam, Tribal Minorities, and the Sudanese Civil War
This trilogy follows the last decade of the Sudanese Civil War,
and the struggle between the Islamic State and Nuba, Dinka and other non-Muslim tribal communities.

3-5:30 PM
Kafi’s Story
Arthur Howes and Amy Hardie, 53 minutes, 1989
(In Nuba, Arabic and English with English subtitles)
Nuba Conversations
Arthur Howes, 55 minutes, 2001
(In Nuba, Arabic and English with English subtitles)
Kafi’s Story (1989) depicts pre-war Nuba life, while
Nuba Conversations (2001), explores its destruction
under conditions of war, focusing on the generation of young men—the “lost boys”—who have spent most of
their lives in refugee camps.
Filmmaker Arthur Howes in conversation with Meg
McLagan (Anthropology)
6:30-8 PM
Benjamin and His Brother
Arthur Howes, 87 minutes, 2002
Benjamin and His Brother is an intimate account of broth-
ers Benjamin and William Deng, young Dinka men who are
separated when one is resettled in the US while the other remains
in a refugee camp.
Filmmaker Arthur Howes in conversation with
AbdulMalik Simone (New School University)
Co-sponsor: NGDP Kevorkian Center

Thursday / March 28 / 3-5 PM
Cinema Studies / 721 Broadway / Room 656
The Odds of Recovery
So Friedrich, 65 minutes, 2002
Experimental filmmaker Su Friedrich offers a poignant and
witty chronicle of her journey through sex surgeries, and the
social, psychological and economic obstacles to heal-
ing the encounters. The Odds of Recovery weaves together
her personal narrative with video of doctors’ offices and
hospitals, and sensational footage of alternative treatments, to
tell a story that is both intimate and universal in its
insights into the so-called health care system.
Filmmaker Su Friedrich in conversation with
Faye Ginsburg (Center for Media, Culture and History)
Co-sponsors: Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality

Friday / April 4 / 3-5:30 PM
This film tells the dramatic stories of a group of refugees from the Spanish Civil War who arrived in Chile in the 1930s, eventually becoming key contributors to education, art, and history in their adopted country.

Filmmaker **David Benavente**, (Director, Centro EAC, Artes de la Comunicación Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Santiago) in conversation with **George Stoney** (Undergraduate Film & TV)

**CO-SPONSORS:** KING JUAN CARLOS I OF SPAIN CENTER; UNDERGRADUATE FILM AND TV/TSOA; CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

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**Ojo de Agua:**

**Video México Indígena**

A showcase of award-winning videos from the southern Mexican states of Chiapas, Guerrero, Michoacán, and Oaxaca, organized by the indigenous media organization Ojo de Agua Comunicación. Directors Juan José García (Zapoteco), Fabiola Gervacio Cándido (Mixe), Mariano Estrada Aguilar (Tzeltal), and José Luis Matías Alonso (Nahua) will show their work and discuss media production in their communities and their involvement in environmental, cultural and political realities.

**Ojo de Agua directors** in conversation with **Jeff Himpele** (Anthropology)

This is part of a national tour of Mexican indigenous video, sponsored by the National Museum of the American Indian, with support from the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives.

**CO-SPONSORS:** PERFORMANCE STUDIES; HEMISPHERIC INSTITUTE OF PERFORMANCE AND POLITICS; KING JUAN CARLOS I OF SPAIN CENTER; CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES

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**ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. SEATING IS LIMITED. RESERVATIONS ARE RECOMMENDED.**

Persons with a disability who may need assistance are requested to call the Center for Media, Culture and History at 212.998.3759 in advance.

*The Center for Media, Culture and History is supported by the Graduate School of Arts and Science and the Department of Anthropology.*

**STEERING COMMITTEE**

Faye Ginsburg
*Anthropology, Director*

Barbara Abrash
*History, Associate Director*

Toby Miller
*Cinema Studies*

Arvind Rajagopal
*Culture and Communications*

Robert Stam
*Cinema Studies*

**PHOTOS**

A: (front) Estate of Jules Backus
B: (front) Lila Abu-Lughod
C: Francisco Vazquez—Paco, Chiapas Media Project
D: Shannon Matlovsky
E: video still from *Xanini/Corn Stalks* by Dante Cerano, courtesy of Ojo de Agua Comunicación
F: Su Friedrich, from *The Odds of Recovery*

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