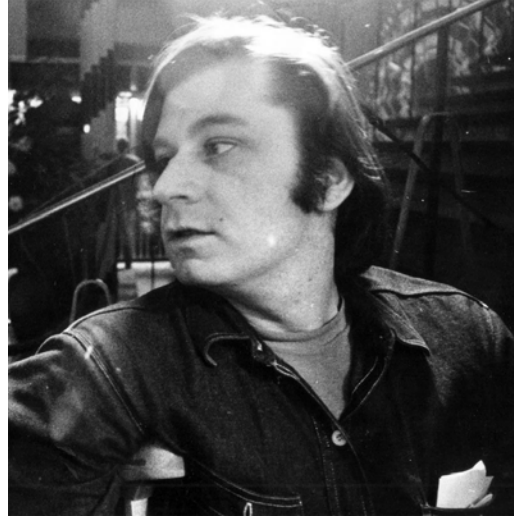


AN INTIMATE CINEMA: THE FILMS OF STEPHEN DWOSKIN



This month, to compliment the DVD release of *Central Bazaar* on 25 May, the BFI Southbank will offer a rare opportunity to see the distinctive work of the artist, director and advocate of independent film, Stephen Dwoskin, in a season of films, workshops and a special *in conversation* event.

Stephen Dwoskin began his career as a graphic designer and art director for CBS Records in New York, before embarking on film-making in 1961 a few years before Andy Warhol, an artist with whom he is often compared. He left the underground US film scene in the mid-Sixties and, on moving to England, co-founded the **London Filmmakers' Co-op** where he quickly gained recognition with a series of short films for which he won the **Solvay Prize** at the **Knokke Experimental Film Festival** in 1967. Since this time, Dwoskin has produced a prolific body of work and has gained a reputation for being one of the most visually rich and emotionally intense filmmakers in British cinema whilst being an important figure, through his very personal explorations into his own disability (having contracted Polio as a child) in his ongoing fight for rights for disabled people.

This programme provides a rare opportunity to appreciate his work both within the immersive context of the cinema and in the Atrium, where a recent three-screen piece – **Dream House** – demonstrates his versatility as an artist and his ongoing productivity. This season also marks **Stephen Dwoskin's** significant film donation to the BFI National Archive.

For further information please contact:

Tim Mosley on 020 7957 8918 or email tim.mosley@bfi.org.uk
www.bfi.org.uk/releases

- END -

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The BFI Southbank Stephen Dwoskin season runs from 1 to 31 May

Central Bazaar will be released on BFI DVD on May 25

For further information about the DVD release please contact Jill Reading:

Jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

Booking information

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £8.60, concs £6.25 Members pay £1 less on any ticket. Website www.bfi.org.uk/southbank

PROGRAMME:

From the Underground: Early Dwoskin Shorts

Asleep (USA 1961, 4min); **Alone** (USA 1963, 13min); **Dirty** (UK 1967, 10min); **Moment** (UK 1968, 13min); **Trixi** (UK 1970, 30min)

Some of the first experimental films to be made in counter-cultural London, **Dirty** and others explore the dynamics of sound and image replication to play with our feeling of involvement and to alter our sense of time. These poetic portraits of women won accolades in the 60s and remain powerful and inspiring examples of what can be done with limited means. Features sound from the experimental musician and Pink Floyd collaborator, **Ron Geesin**.

Fri 1 May 18:20 NFT2- Introduced by William Fowler Sat 9 May 18:20 NFT2

Stephen Dwoskin in Conversation

Stephen Dwoskin has discussed his work, its critical reception and the evolution of independent film-making with insight and eloquence. It is with great pleasure that we welcome him to speak with **Paul Willemen**. Editor of *Screen* in the 1970s, Willemen has written extensively on many aspects of cinema. His essay *The Fourth Look* remains an exciting examination of the politics of cinema spectatorship and the key text for any discussion of Dwoskin's work.

Wed 6 May 18:10 NFT3

Dyn Amo

UK 1972. 120min

Dwoskin's camera follows a series of striptease acts performed for a seedy audience in a dirty club, moving more fluidly with each turn. The tension, supported by **Gavin Bryars'** compelling drone score, heightens as the film approaches the devastating abuse of the shows' final acts. This mesmerising and challenging film offers no hand to hold as we, the viewers, journey into its landscape of sexuality and personal confrontation.

Sat 2 May 15:45 NFT2

Thu 7 May 20:20 NFT2 - Introduced by Jackie Holt (Lux)

Screen Tests: The Cinematic Gaze A 16mm camera workshop inspired by the art of Stephen Dwoskin

Dwoskin's work is often likened to that of Andy Warhol in its concerns with the gaze and voyeurism. This weekend workshop will introduce the Bolex camera, with practical exercises alongside explorations of work by Dwoskin and Warhol, leading to a multi-projection performance in the spirit of the Exploding Plastic Inevitable. No prior knowledge of film-making required. **Price includes entry to**

Dwoskin in Conversation.

Sat 9 May 13:00-17:00 & Sun 10 May

10:00-18:00 Delegate Centre 15 places,

£60 per person. Presented by no-where-

lab: www.no-w-here.org.uk

Behindert

West Germany-UK 1974. 96min

From the sexually charged early encounters to the practical problems experienced in everyday life, this emotionally riveting film tells the complete story of a sexual relationship from the perspective of a disabled man. Taking the lead and presenting his disability on film for the first time (having contracted

polio as a child), Dwoskin blurs fact and fiction with great power. The use of point-of-view camera shots renders the relationship's decline even more devastating.

Mon 4 May 16:00 NFT2,

Tue 12 May 20:45 NFT2 - Introduced by Maxa Zoller

Central Bazaar

UK 1976. 156min

Dwoskin gathered together a group of strangers and filmed them as they explored their fantasies over a period of five days; a project that now sounds like TV's Big Brother. The ceremonial gowns and make-up here not only evoke the eroticism of European horror movies but also highlight the film's interplay between performance and intimacy. Jonas Mekas called it 'theatre of life'.

Wed 13 May 18:00 NFT3 - Introduced by Stephen Dwoskin

Trying To Kiss the Moon

UK 1994. 96min

On entering the 1990s, Dwoskin's films looked increasingly to the personal life of their maker to determine their content and scope. Featuring home movies from 1940s New York, a sound recording of Allen Ginsberg reading Howl plus numerous excerpts from Dwoskin's many films, this radical re-imagining of autobiography remains his most thorough examination of moving image, narrative and self. Intellectual reflection and intimacy cross to smother that age-old binary of art and life.

+ **Grandpère's Pear**

(UK 2003, 5min).

Sun 24 May 16:15 NFT2, Tue 26 May 20:40 NFT2

Pain Is...

France-Germany-UK 1997. 80min

'Is it possible to make an image of pain?' asks Stephen Dwoskin in his most acute exploration of internal feeling. Using interviews, archival footage and actuality, he considers the lines between suffering and sadomasochism, sickness and pleasure and asks, are we at our most human. when we feel pain? The film also poses the question, how do we experience pain when we think we see it in front of us?

Sat 16 May 18:40 NFT2, Wed 20 May 20:45 NFT2

Recollection: Recent Dwoskin Shorts

Dear Frances (UK 2003, 18min); **Dad** (UK

2003, 15min); **Mom** (UK 2008, 15min);

Some Friends (Apart) (UK 2002, 25min)

These patchworks of memories and different moving-image formats evoke a warm melancholia as they move through Dwoskin's archive of 50-years-plus. The lovely portraits Mom and Dad explore archetype through personal biography. The intimate moments with friends and fractured beautiful music in Some Friends (Apart) create symbols of humanity and feelings of tender sadness.

Fri 15 May 18:30 NFT2

Sun 24 May 20:45 NFT2

The Sun and the Moon

UK 2007. 60min

Both of these videos mesh the domestic space with a zone of otherness to disrupt the familiar and introduce a sometimes startlingly revealing sensuality. Dwoskin's intensive hospital care and images of sadomasochism blur in Intoxicated By My Illness, while in The Sun and the Moon – a personal interpretation of Beauty and the Beast – beautifully textured video images depict two very different characters and their search for a place to meet.

+ **Intoxicated By My Illness**

(Parts 1 & 2 'Intensive Care')

UK 2001. 41min

Fri 29 May 18:40 Studio

Sun 31 May 15:50 Studio

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank