



# U.S. CONFERENCE FOR AN ALTERNATIVE CINEMA

192 BROADWAY RM. 708 NEW YORK, NY 10038

## PROSPECTUS

The U.S. Conference for an Alternative Cinema will be an intensive five day meeting on the campus of Bard College (north of New York City) beginning the evening of June 12, 1979 and ending on the afternoon of June 17.

It will bring together people *actively involved* in the production, distribution use or criticism of films, videotapes and slideshows *whose primary purpose is to address social issues and concerns* rather than entertainment or personal expression. The Conference will consist of workshops, screenings and panel discussions (with encouraged audience participation) on areas of practical and theoretical concern to those of us engaged in the development of social-change media in the U.S. It is hoped that the meeting will help us overcome our relative isolation, share experience, define areas of mutual cooperation and support, and aid us in developing an historical and analytical framework for our work.

The Conference is open to participation by any U.S. media activist who shares the goals stated above; we are actively seeking participation by Third World people in the U.S., women and gays. Due to the specific national focus of the Conference, only a few representatives from abroad (including Canada) will be attending, as observers.

We are now in the process of planning workshops and panels for the Conference. A national Advisory Panel has been established and we also hope to consult with many groups and individuals in order to assure that the Conference is representative of the diversity of concerns within the alternative media community. A *tentative* listing of suggested topics for workshops and panel discussions follows. *This is subject to change, so we encourage comments and suggestions.*

### TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SESSIONS (major topics in capitals)

1. WHAT KINDS OF FILMS & TAPES SHOULD THE LEFT BE MAKING? (Panel with general discussion, then followup practical workshops)
2. Building a unified alternative media movement. (Panel and general discussion on uniting blacks, chicanos, women, white males, etc. on points of common issue)
3. Video -- unique potentials and social applications of the medium (Panel + workshops)
4. Access to TV; the impact of new technologies (Panel + workshops)
5. Legal questions (educational workshop)
6. Form/aesthetics/politics -- workshop/discussion of the relationship between the three
7. Workstyles -- workshop/discussion on working individually, hierarchically, and collectively on projects. Some discussion on relationships to film unions.
8. DISTRIBUTION/DIFFUSION -- (Panel discussion with audience followup, + practical workshops)
9. USING MEDIA/EXHIBITION -- (Panel discussion with audience followup, + practical workshops)
10. Criticism and theory -- Panel and general discussion
11. How we relate to the film and TV industries-- workshop/discussion on working from within
12. Fundraising -- "how to" workshop;
13. Slideshows -- workshop on making and using slide shows
14. NATIONAL ORGANIZATION -- report and discussion of subcommittee work, gathering ideas for and testing interest in an organization for media activists.

In addition, there will be scheduled and unscheduled film and tape screenings in several categories: Recent works; minority media; feminist media; gay media; films of the '30s and '40s; films of the '60s.

There will also be time for caucusing, small-group meetings, etc.

# CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS

This is a sampling of the several hundred groups and individuals who have given the Conference permission to use their names as supporters. We'd like to thank those people with a \* next to their name for making financial contributions to the Conference.

Appalshop  
Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers (AIVF)  
Pat Aufderheide, In These Times  
Ed Bennett, I.M.A.G.E.  
\*Stewart Bird  
Linda Blackaby, Neighborhood Film Project  
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\*Karen Cooper, Film Forum  
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\*Eduardo Diaz, Third World Media  
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New Day Films  
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Pacific Street Film Collective  
Andre Paquet, Comite d'Action Cinematographique  
\*Harvey Quintal, Film Elements  
\*Julia Reichert/Jim Klein  
\*B. Ruby Rich  
Kalamu ya Salaam, Ahidiana  
\*Richard Schmiechen  
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\*Helena Solberg Ladd  
\*Stolar, Alterman & Giulielmetti  
\*George Stoney, Alternate Media Center (NYU)  
\*Helene and Bill Susman  
\*Clyde Taylor, African Film Society  
Third World Newsreel  
Carlos A. Torre, Cinta Boricua  
Tricontinental Film Center  
Amos Vogel  
\*Dana and Phil Weldon, October Films  
\*Jack Willis  
\*Pamela Yates, Women Make Movies  
Denise Zaccardi, Alternate Schools Network  
Video Project

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## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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The Film Fund

## CONSULTANTS

International Film  
Seminars  
Barbara Van Dyke,  
Administrative Director;  
Jay Ruby, President

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Please note that these are supporters -- most have registered, but some have not, so we can't be sure yet whether they'll attend.