


FILM ON FILM FOUNDATION & ODDBALL ARCHIVES present...

BRICKS IN THE WALL:



HUMANS AND THEIR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

\$10



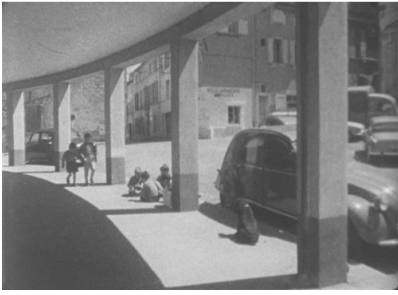
**8PM
SATURDAY,
MAY 15
275 CAPP ST.
SAN FRANCISCO**

**(2 BLOCKS FROM 16TH & MISSION BART;
ENTER UNDER THE "SUTTER FURNITURE MFG" SIGN)**

www.filmofilm.org

In this program we explore how we construct our urban milieu... and how it constructs us. It is said necessity is the mother of invention and the converse is just as true. We are shaped by and made dependent on the environment we build around us. First **Lewis Mumford** sets the tone with his as-relevant-as-ever views on urbanism. Then we examine methods of construction from the ultra-primitive to the super-modern. After a personal and poetic detour into lyrical city-history by future Oscar-winner **István Szabó**, we conclude with a couple of films delving (somewhat ham-fistedly) into the psychological fallout of our urban obsession.

Attendees: Please RSVP to (415) 558-8117 or info@oddballfilm.com to ensure sufficient seating.
Complimentary home-baked gingerbread with admission! (While supplies last.)



Heart of the City (1963) B+W 28 min.

Lewis Mumford, one of the 20th century's canniest and most well-spoken intellectuals, shares his thoughts on livable, human-scale cities in this outstanding **National Film Board** production. With brilliant narration and some of the most stunning urban photography from around the world you're ever likely to see, evoking the best of classic European art cinema.



Building a House on the Niger (1967) Color 7 min. d: **Hermann Schlenker**

Bozo tribesmen of Mali build a simple house with the tools and materials at hand: namely hands, and spindly tree limbs and rushes. This beautifully simple ethnographic film features no voiceover, just the images and sounds of men at work, adapting their environment to their needs.



Building a Skyscraper... and the Careers Involved (1970's) Color 11 min.

We move on from the sparse African hinterland to a dense metropolis and that modern symbol of urbanism: the skyscraper. Pitched at gradeschoolers, this film takes us on a whirlwind tour of all the various trades involved in this massive construction project. The lively jazz/funk score will set your toes tapping.



A Dream About a House (1972) Color 21 min. d: István Szabó



Part of Szabó's trilogy **Budapest, Why I Love It**, this bizarre poetic paean to his birth city starts out with a fish-eye travelogue of classic edifices before happening upon a strangely choreographed street scene. Time and space are compressed and the distinction between indoors and outdoors eradicated as assorted personages eat, sleep, marry, die, and chop wood, all out in the open. The camera pans and zooms fluidly to follow various figures, who not infrequently turn to wave back at us.

Walls and Walls (1973) Color 10 min. d: **Ben Norman**

After a brief history of walls ("they keep undesirables out, or they keep undesirables in"), the concept is abstracted and extended to the social and ideological walls we build. Metaphors and psychoanalyses are stretched to an absurd degree until it seems pretty much everything is some sort of wall. All this is made quite palatable by an inventive and entertaining presentation, including a charmingly precious interpretive dance sequence.



Our Cities Must Fight (1951) B+W 9 min. d: **Anthony Rizzo** (U.S. Civil Defense Film)



From the people who brought you **Duck and Cover** comes this classic scare-propaganda piece that trades on our addiction to urbanism. Thinking of heading for the hills when the bomb drops? Think again. That's tantamount to treason, and in the Army you'd be court-martialed! This film aims to guilt and shame you into sticking around to help defend your hometown and rebuild its infrastructure. And after all, nuclear contamination will dissipate after a day or two. *"Have you got the guts?"*



All films will be presented in 16mm.

www.filmsonfilm.org