

## Ian Breakwell

### Films, Videos and Performance

It is impossible to pigeonhole Ian Breakwell. Visual artist, writer, filmmaker and performer, his work is personal, evocative, eccentric, humorous, even blasphemous. For 15 years he has sustained the well known Diaries but his film work is equally as impressive and innovative. The word and sound share primary importance with the visual. This retrospective gives audiences a chance to see *The Institution*, made with musician and poet Kevin Coyne, the controversial *The Journey*, his new and hilarious video works and a host of early films, which now look, to coin a phrase, ahead of their time.

(See also Video)

Wednesday 28 April – Sunday 2 May at 8.30

**The Institution** GB 1978 Directed by Ian Breakwell and Kevin Coyne. With Kevin Coyne (50 mins) Premiere London run of Breakwell's riposte to the orthodoxy regarding insanity and loneliness in which Coyne gives an extraordinary performance as a man in an apparent state of advanced schizophrenia. Why is his wardrobe full of womens' clothes? Who owns the house he stumbles around in from morning to night? There are questions at every level and the results are both disturbing and riveting.

Plus

**In The Home** GB 1981. Written and Directed by Ian Breakwell. With Keith Klein, Elspeth Charlton (10 mins) Breakwell's hilarious video about the traumas of a wedding night with scenery construction and acting style straight out of *Crossroads*. Plus

**The News** GB 1981. Written and Directed by Ian Breakwell. With Eric Wallace (11 mins) A television newsreader recounts the minutiae of small town life, revealing increasingly regular anarchic behaviour amongst the town's O.A.P.'s, Milton Keynes Cable TV par excellence.

Wednesday 28 April – Sunday 2 May (excluding Friday 30 April) at 6.30

**The Journey** 1 B 1975 Written and directed by Ian Breakwell (30 mins) A man and a woman sit opposite each other in a train compartment. Their knees almost touch. Are they strangers? She seems not to know him and yet he is increasingly overcome by images of her in different situations at different times. Gradually these images give way to erotic intrusions, perhaps memories of sensual lovemaking, and finally more ugly and demented sexual fantasy. Plus

**Repertory** GB 1973 (10 mins) A camera completely circles a locked and empty theatre in one long tracking shot, whilst witty, absurd and fantastic stories about past theatre productions are heard on the soundtrack. Plus

**The Continuous Diary** GB 1977 Directed by Alan Yentob (13 mins) Ground breaking documentary about Breakwell on which he collaborated, ensuring that it was constructed like his work rather than about it. Plus

**Sheet** GB 1970 Directed by Ian Breakwell and Mike Leggett (21 mins) A film of architectural and indoor countryside locations in which a 3-metre square white sheet appears within each location as a focal point. Plus

**Nine Jokes** (10 mins)

Friday 30 April at 6.30 only

### Ian Breakwell Performance

An evening of film – tape – slide – live reading performance comprising *Growth*, *Family*, *The Artist's Dream* and *Bad Waiters*.

Cinematheque screenings £1.75. Bookable. (S) indicates subtitles

# ICA

## GALLERY CINEMA THEATRE EVENTS

APRIL 1982





# VIDEO SCREENINGS

The ICA Video Screenings programme for April has a distinctly international feel with representations from Italian, Yugoslav and British artists in the tape and performance programme from Galleria del Cavallino in Venice, exemplary in its pioneering and creative collaborations with video artists; transatlantic style and technical complexity in the work of New Yorker Alex Roshuk; more New York work but this time dealing with issues painfully close to home in James Nares and Jackie Crawford's interview with a provisional IRA gunman; and the idiosyncratic, bizarre and evocative style of British artist Ian Breakwell.

## VIDEO LIBRARY

Now open six days a week (Tuesday – Sunday, 12.00 to 5.30) the ICA Video Library continues to add new titles to its rapidly growing collection with artists' tapes from Chris Andrews and Alex Meigh; film work by Chris Monger and John Jost; the extraordinary and successful Tibet – A Buddhist Trilogy; plus the Katha Kollowitz film by Ron Orders following on from the immensely popular exhibition in the ICA Gallery.

In June the Video Library and Cinematheque presents the second IVA National Independent Video Festival, an open submission festival of screenings of the best of recent British independent video, including artists' work, documentary, community and political video and seminars. Festival dates: Tuesday 1st to Sunday 6th June. For festival details and/or application forms write to: Alex Graham, ICA The Mall, London SW1.

VIDEO SCREENINGS: Tickets £1.00. Bookable (ICA Day Pass 40p).

VIDEO LIBRARY: 50p per half hour programme (ICA Day Pass 40p).

## 1 Tuesday April 6 at 7.45

### ITALIAN VIDEO AND PERFORMANCE FROM GALLERIA DEL CAVALLINO

The Cavallino Gallery in Venice is one of the most progressive and creative production sites in Italy for artist's video and performance, both by Italian video makers and visiting artists from Yugoslavia, America and Britain including David Hall, Tina Keane and Marc Chaimowicz. This programme includes a representative selection of the Cavallino output with short pieces by Ambrosini, Sambin, Sartorelli, Cardazzo/Stuffi, Sillani, Viola, Celli, Fassetta, Ivekovic, Martini and Pagnacco. The tapes will be introduced by gallery director Paolo Cardazzo who will explain the work and the processes leading to their realisation. Piccolo Sillani will present a performance piece to open the programme with a recording of a two part performance by Marc Chaimowicz providing the final item. The Cavallino tapes illustrate the intriguing possibilities of a creative collaboration between the artist and the gallery and must be seen by everyone interested in video production.

## 2 Tuesday 13 April at 6.30 and 8.30

### NEW YORK VIDEO: ALEX ROSHUK

Rapid-fire, razor-sharp editing, dense and dramatic visuals overlaid with complex soundtracks characterises a distinctive breed of artist's video from New York. Alex Roshuk's work completely engages the attention, taking us on a fantastic voyage of the senses and making us laugh at the same time. As is increasingly the case with much of the new wave of US video, music plays a central role. Epiphany, a visualisation of the music of Greg Jones, ingeniously interprets the complexities of the composition which utilises the phase cancelling properties of stereo sound. Binary Death is a not too serious tale of terminal technology; Lunar Voyage explores the terrifying terrain of a surprisingly familiar object; plus Trans/Form/Her, Travels and Sudden Garden stretching the video technology in new directions.

## 3 Tuesday 20 April at 6.30 and 8.30

### NO JAPS AT MY FUNERAL; JAMES NARES AND JACKIE CRAWFORD

The seemingly endless conflict in Northern Ireland is the backdrop to the second of a series of programmes to present an alternative view of the struggle and its chief protagonist, the provisional IRA. We Ourselves Speak examined the political and emotional involvement of a range of Republican supporters, whereas No Japs at My Funeral homes in on the experiences of a single 'Provo'. Recorded in exile in a New York apartment he openly describes IRA policy and strategies, the Long Kesh internments and interrogation methods and states his yearning for a return to the 'battlefield'. Interspersed with American newsreel footage from Northern Ireland, No Japs is a fascinating and disturbing testimony to determination of the Provisional cause.

## 4 Tuesday 27 April at 7.45

### IAN BREAKWELL: VIDEO

Heralding the start of a week long series of events focusing on Ian Breakwell's work in video, film, poetry, text and performance, the video programme provides an ideal introduction to the range of his work: a wry, sardonic humour; the hilarious pursuit of the absurd in representation, melodrama and style; the documentation of personal experience in text and image; and the debunking of deadpan power syndromes of news presentation and content. Extracts From the Diary UK 1975 B&W (50 mins) and The Continuous Diary UK 1977 Colour (13 mins) reflect the collage technique of the diary itself, a daily record of images and impressions drawn directly from his experience of the immediate environment. The News UK 1980 Colour (11 mins) explores with degenerating solemnity the news bulletin which announces an old-age pensioners' revolt, whilst In the Home UK 1980 Colour (10 mins) reveals the emotional trauma of the wedding night in a melodrama dedicated to the acting style of Noele Gordon.

This evening opens a week long season of Ian Breakwell's video, film and performance in the ICA Cinematheque, continuing on Wednesday 28 April until Sunday 2 May at 6.30 and 8.30