

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FREDERICK WISEMAN RETROSPECTIVE LOOKS AT THE DIRECTOR'S FILMS ABOUT NEW YORK CITY

**Film series “Frederick Wiseman’s New York” to include seven feature films, an evening with Wiseman, and a sneak preview of scenes from *In Jackson Heights***

**October 9–November 7, 2015**

Astoria, New York, September 28, 2015—Although he is based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the legendary documentary filmmaker Frederick Wiseman has made nine feature-length documentaries in New York City. These films will be the subject of a retrospective at Museum of the Moving Image from October 9 through November 7, 2015.

Coinciding with the release of his latest film *In Jackson Heights*, an in-depth and intimate look at the diverse neighborhood in Queens, the Museum’s retrospective will include screenings of seven films by Wiseman made in New York City, including *Ballet*, *Central Park*, *High School II*, *Hospital*, *Model*, *Racetrack*, and *Welfare*—all to be shown in 16mm (the format in which they were made). Wiseman will also participate in a conversation on October 28 about his work and will show scenes from his new film. (Wiseman’s film *The Garden*, about Madison Square Garden, is currently out of distribution.). Schedule and ticket information are listed below.

“If there are eight million stories in New York, Wiseman has captured many of them, showing the human side of the complex institutions that make up the fabric of the city,” said Chief Curator David Schwartz.

Wiseman has made more than 40 documentaries since 1967 (when *Titicut Follies* was released). Recently, in *The New York Times*, A.O. Scott described Wiseman’s work as “one of the great monuments of modern filmmaking.”

*In Jackson Heights* will have its world theatrical premiere at Film Forum in New York City on November 4.

### **SCHEDULE FOR ‘FREDERICK WISEMAN’S NEW YORK,’ OCTOBER 9–NOVEMBER 7, 2015**

Unless otherwise noted, screenings take place in the Sumner M. Redstone Theater or the Celeste and Armand Bartos Screening Room at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue in Astoria, New York. Tickets for MOMI screenings are \$12 adults (\$9 seniors and students / \$6 children 3–12) and free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above. Advance

tickets are available online at <http://movingimage.us>. Ticket purchase includes same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

### ***Ballet***

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Frederick Wiseman. 1995, 170 mins. 16mm. *Ballet* is an intimate portrait of American Ballet Theatre. Presenting the company in rehearsal in their New York studio and on tour, Wiseman highlights the creative and administrative work. His camera weaves in and out of dance studios and offices, and into the minutiae of choreographed gestures: corporate funds are raised, elaborate sets are built, and aspiring ballerinas are enlisted and cut from the corps.

### ***Hospital***

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Frederick Wiseman. 1970, 84 mins. 16mm. Turning his unflinching lens on the brutal banality of human misery, Wiseman shows the daily activities of New York's Metropolitan Hospital, which for more than 125 years has served a diverse, mostly poor, African-American and immigrant population. Wiseman focuses primarily on the emergency ward and outpatient clinics.

### ***Welfare***

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 3:15 P.M.

Dir. Frederick Wiseman. 1975, 167 mins. 16mm. An absurdist, operatic masterpiece, *Welfare* shows the nature and complexity of the welfare system in sequences illustrating the staggering diversity of problems that constitute welfare: housing, unemployment, divorce, medical and psychiatric problems, abandoned and abused children, and the elderly. Workers as well as clients struggle to cope with the laws and regulations that govern their work and life, fittingly culminating in one man's monologue about *Waiting for Godot*.

### ***Racetrack***

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Frederick Wiseman. 1984, 114 mins. 16mm. In this panoramic portrait of the Belmont Park race track, Wiseman captures both the grime and shine of the horse-racing facility, his camera swinging from stable to grandstand, juxtaposing the everyday preparations of the horses (grooming, feeding, and shoeing) with the orchestrated spectacle of the race itself. Overrun by the laborers, buyers, sellers, performers, and spectators, *Racetrack* serves as a rich microcosm for late capitalism, as well as the business of moviemaking.

### ***Model***

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Frederick Wiseman. 1980, 129 mins. 16mm. Wiseman's Warholian look at the modeling industry reveals the expense, aspiration, and fuss that goes into selling sleek cars and couture collections. *Model*, structured around a TV commercial for pantyhose and an Oscar de la Renta runway show, also follows male and female models at work on other commercials, fashion shows, magazine covers, and advertising for a variety of products, including designer collections, fur coats, sports apparel, and cars. The film is a riveting meditation on facade and fantasy that prefigures reality shows like *America's Next Top Model*.

### ***Central Park***

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Frederick Wiseman. 1989, 176 mins. 16mm. A luscious time capsule for the famous New York landmark and the variety of ways in which people make use of it—as a grassy haven from the concrete jungle, a public commons for artists, and a laboratory for social change—running, boating, walking, skating, picnicking, singing, dancing, attending the theater, playing sports, and rallying for justice. Framed by practical concerns, the film also illustrates the complex problems the New York City Parks Department deals with in order to maintain and preserve the grounds.

### **An Evening with Frederick Wiseman**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 7:00 P.M.

Frederick Wiseman will show scenes from *In Jackson Heights*, during this discussion about the nine films he has made in New York City. His vast cinematic canvas includes people of all classes and ethnic backgrounds, and captures the worlds of work and leisure, learning and culture. The result is a multilayered, novelistic view of a diverse, dynamic city. Wiseman will show and discuss memorable moments from all nine films.

### ***High School II***

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Frederick Wiseman. 1994, 220 mins. 16mm. Made 25 years after Wiseman's exploration of a Philadelphia high school, *High School II* offers a much more optimistic view on the future of public education. Focusing on Central Park East Secondary School—a successful, racially diverse alternative high school in New York's Spanish Harlem, where 85-95% of whose graduates go on to four-year colleges—the film highlights the school's administration and progressive approach to learning, which places emphasis on intellectual curiosity, speculation, interdisciplinary study, and open discussions of race, class, and gender inequalities.

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### **MUSEUM INFORMATION**

**Museum of the Moving Image** ([movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults; \$9.00 for persons over 65 and for students with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3–12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$12 adults / \$9 students and seniors / \$6 children 3–12 / free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above. Advance purchase is available online. Film tickets include same-day admission to the Museum's galleries.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).