

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

SIXTH STREET AT CONSTITUTION AVENUE NW WASHINGTON DC 20565 • 737-4215 extension 224

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY PREMIERES

JEFFERSON FILM WEEK OF JULY 12

WASHINGTON, D. C. June 24, 1977. A half-hour film based on the National Gallery of Art's major Bicentennial exhibition, The Eye of Thomas Jefferson, has been produced by the National Gallery and will be screened before an invited audience on Tuesday evening, July 12. It will be shown to the public in the Gallery Auditorium on Wednesday, July 13, and Saturday, July 16, at 2:30 p.m.

The film was produced with funds from Exxon Corporation. The Gallery's Extension Service will distribute it free of charge to schools, colleges, universities, and civic groups across the country.

Produced by Charles Guggenheim, under the supervision of W. Howard Adams who organized the Gallery's exhibition, the film was directed by Werner Schumann and is narrated by actor Richard Kiley. The script was written by Harry Muheim.

In the fall, the film will have its European premiere in Paris. French and Spanish versions of the film have also been produced for world-wide distribution. In French, the narrator is Charles Duvall, and, in Spanish, Carlos Montalban.

Jefferson's influence on American architecture, design and the arts was monumental and far-reaching. The film visualizes the artistic and

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intellectual milieu in which Jefferson's eye and imagination developed and shows the contributions he made to his own and the new nation's aesthetic environment.

Complementing a number of works which were in the exhibition, the film explores Jefferson's Paris and other parts of Europe that he visited as American Minister to France after the Revolution. Following intensive research conducted by Mr. Adams on location preceding shooting, the camera faithfully and accurately records much of the art and architecture which attracted Jefferson during his influential European stay. Using many of the exact locations which they visited together, several scenes recall Jefferson's infatuation with the beautiful English artist, Maria Cosway. Scenes of Monticello, Jefferson's mountain home, and the University of Virginia, the last and perhaps the greatest of the buildings he designed, along with a selection of Jefferson's own architectural drawings and designs, bring the film to a close.

Eighteenth-century music, another of Jefferson's passions, is played throughout the film, including works by Carlo Antonio Campioni, Henry Purcell, David Purcell, Arcangelo Corelli, Jean Phillippe Rameau, and Jean-François Dandrieu, in addition to compositions by contemporary musician Robert Wykes.

The exhibition, on view at the Gallery last summer for the Bicentennial celebration, included more than 600 paintings, sculpture, drawings and prints, books, and examples of decorative arts, architecture, and landscape design lent by more than 150 collections in Europe and North America.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Katherine Warwick, Assistant to the Director, or Pamela Jenkinson, Information Office, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. 20565 area code 202, 737-4215, ext. 224.