

# INDIECOLLECT



## MoMA Celebrates Mothers with IndieCollect's Restoration of NANA, MOM AND ME by Amalie R. Rothschild



### "Look, Mom!" Three Shorts on Motherhood

Why not head into the winter holidays by remembering our mothers? We salute the Museum of Modern Art for doing just that, and for including IndieCollect's new 4K restoration of NANA, MOM AND ME by Amalie R. Rothschild with two screenings this month. Amalie will attend the December 29 screening in person!

**Museum of Modern Art**  
Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1  
11 West 53 Street, NYC  
Dec 18 and Dec 29, 2019  
4pm

[Tickets on sale now](#)



Film descriptions courtesy of MoMA's film department.

### **Happy Mother's Day (1963), directed by Richard Leacock & Joyce Chopra**

16mm, 26 minutes

Assigned by the Saturday Evening Post and ABC News to cover the first surviving quintuplets born in the United States, Richard Leacock and Joyce Chopra traveled to Aberdeen, South Dakota, to capture the newly 10-child Fisher family. With a noticeably sarcastic narrator, *Happy Mother's Day* mostly focuses not on the recent mother of five, nor the quintuplets, but on the tourism and celebratory opportunities the birth brought to Aberdeen. Remarkable for becoming a film it was not intended to be (ABC eventually aired a different edit of the film that was deemed more appropriate), Leacock and Chopra inject subjectivity into a document intended for mainstream news broadcast, affording knowing gazes to Mrs. Fisher and highlighting the absurdity of American capitalism.



### **Joyce at 34 (1972), directed by Joyce Chopra**

16mm, 28 minutes

Just nine years after codirecting *Happy Mother's Day* with Richard Leacock, Joyce Chopra turned the camera on herself during her first pregnancy. An incredible document of second-wave American feminism, *Joyce at 34* juxtaposes Joyce's desire to be a mother and a filmmaker at once with the somewhat traditional expectations of her family and, most revealing, her husband. Originally showcased in MoMA's experimental and avant-garde Cineprobe series, *Joyce at 34* is a candid document of personal cinema that reveals the distinctive subjectivity made possible by documentary form.

### **Nana, Mom, and Me (1974), directed by Amalie R. Rothschild**

DCP. New 4K digital restoration courtesy of IndieCollect, 47 minutes

In a sort of filmed oral-history project, Rothschild combed her family's archive for photographs and home movies as she interviewed her grandmother and mother. What results is a portrait of three generations of women, each with their own philosophies on life, womanhood, and motherhood. Indicative of how radical this sophisticated, unapologetic approach to discussing and criticizing societal pressures on women is, the film was shown at MoMA in 1974's edition of *What's Happening*, a film series co-organized by MoMA and the New York Public Library, conceived as a "weekly program of highly controversial film essays on current social and political issues."

### **New Day + IndieCollect**

This is also an occasion to salute two feminist filmmakers and "documentary mothers" — Amalie Rothschild and Joyce Chopra. Amalie was a co-founder of New Day Films in 1971 — with Julia Reichert, Jim Klein & Liane Brandon — and Joyce joined two years later.



New Day Founders Amalie Rothschild, Julia Reichert, Jim Klein and Liane Brandon with Joyce Chopra (far right).

New Day Films is a unique cooperative of independent filmmakers whose body of work includes many of the most important documentaries made in the last 50 years. IndieCollect has created new 4K restorations of these titles by coop members:

- Julia Reichert & Jim Klein - *Seeing Red*
- Amalie R. Rothschild - *Conversations with Willard Van Dyke, It Happens to Us, Woo Who? May Wilson, Painting the Town: The Illusionistic Murals of Richard Haas* (in progress)
- Jacki Ochs - *Vietnam: The Secret Agent* (in progress)
- Josie Dean - *Joint Custody: A New Kind of Family* (in progress)
- Nancy Kelly - *Thousand Pieces of Gold*

I was invited to join in 2014 with my restoration of *Nuremberg: Its Lesson for Today*. If you're curious, you can check out who is a New Day member [here](#). With Amalie, Liane, Nancy, Jacki, Christie Herring, Bev Seckinger, Elizabeth Seja Min, Robbie Leppzer and others, I am helping to coordinate celebration of the coop's 50th Anniversary with a commemorative book and film tour in 2021.

Stay tuned!

Sandra Schulberg and the IndieCollect Team

PS: Kudos to Julia Reichert & Steve Bogner on their IFF Gotham Award for the audience not to forget American workers, including all those working the room that night.



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