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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FILMS: CINEMATHEQUE TO PREMIERE FILMS IN HONOR OF JAMES BROUGHTON

SEPTEMBER 27, 1981 - 8 PM

ART INSTITUTE AUDITORIUM, 800 CHESTNUT STREET

ADMISSION: \$2.50 GENERAL; \$1.25, ART INSTITUTE MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

The Cinematheque will present a special program of films honoring James Broughton, on Sunday, September 27, beginning at 8 pm in the Institute's auditorium at 800 Chestnut Street. Broughton is the 1981 recipient of the San Francisco Art Commission's Award of Honor for outstanding achievement in film. Featured on the program will be two premieres: Broughton's just completed Shaman Psalm, and Portrait of the Poet as James Broughton, a film by John Luther. General admission is \$2.50.

Made in collaboration with Joel Singer, and with music by Lou Harrison, Shaman Psalm has been described as a "self-portrait of the poet as shaman, as he evokes an erotic revolution for mankind." Luther's Portrait of the Poet... is a forty-minute film, six years in the making, that depicts Broughton as the archetypal poet of magic and myth. Other films tentatively scheduled on the program include Broughton's Testament (1974), Together (1976), and Song of the Godbody (1977).

A pioneer in avant-garde cinema, James Broughton is a poet, teacher, and the author of many books and plays. His achievements include The Potted Psalm (made in 1946 in collaboration with Sidney Peterson), a film that helped to launch post-war experimental film in the United States; the founding of Centaur Press, with Kermit Sheets; and more than a dozen books, among them The Playground (1949), A Long Undressing (1971), Seeing the Light, and Odes for Odd Occasions.

In 1968, Broughton resumed active filmmaking with The Bed, commissioned by the Royal Film Archive of Belgium. Since then, he has made a new film annually, including such well-received works as The Golden Positions,

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This Is It, and Erogeny. His films have merited critical acclaim and won numerous prizes at film festivals throughout the world. Broughton retrospectives have been screened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the National Film Theatre in London, the Danish Filmmuseum, and the Centre Pompidou (Beaubourg), Paris.

James Broughton was born in Modesto and graduated from Stanford University. He has been the recipient of grants from the Avon Products Foundation (1969) and the National Endowment for the Arts (1976), and of two Guggenheim fellowships (1971, 1973). In 1974, he received the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's SECA Award. A filmmaking instructor at the Art Institute for thirteen years until his retirement last spring, Broughton also taught at the School of Creative Arts, San Francisco State University.

San Francisco mayor Dianne Feinstein will present the Arts Commission award to Broughton during the opening-day ceremonies of the City's Thirty-Fifth Annual Arts Festival, at 12 noon on Wednesday, September 23, at City Hall. Broughton will also participate in the Honors Award Exhibition at the Art Commission's Capricorn Asunder Gallery and give a film history lecture at the Art Institute on Tuesday, September 29, beginning at 6 pm.

For further information:

James Curtiss

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