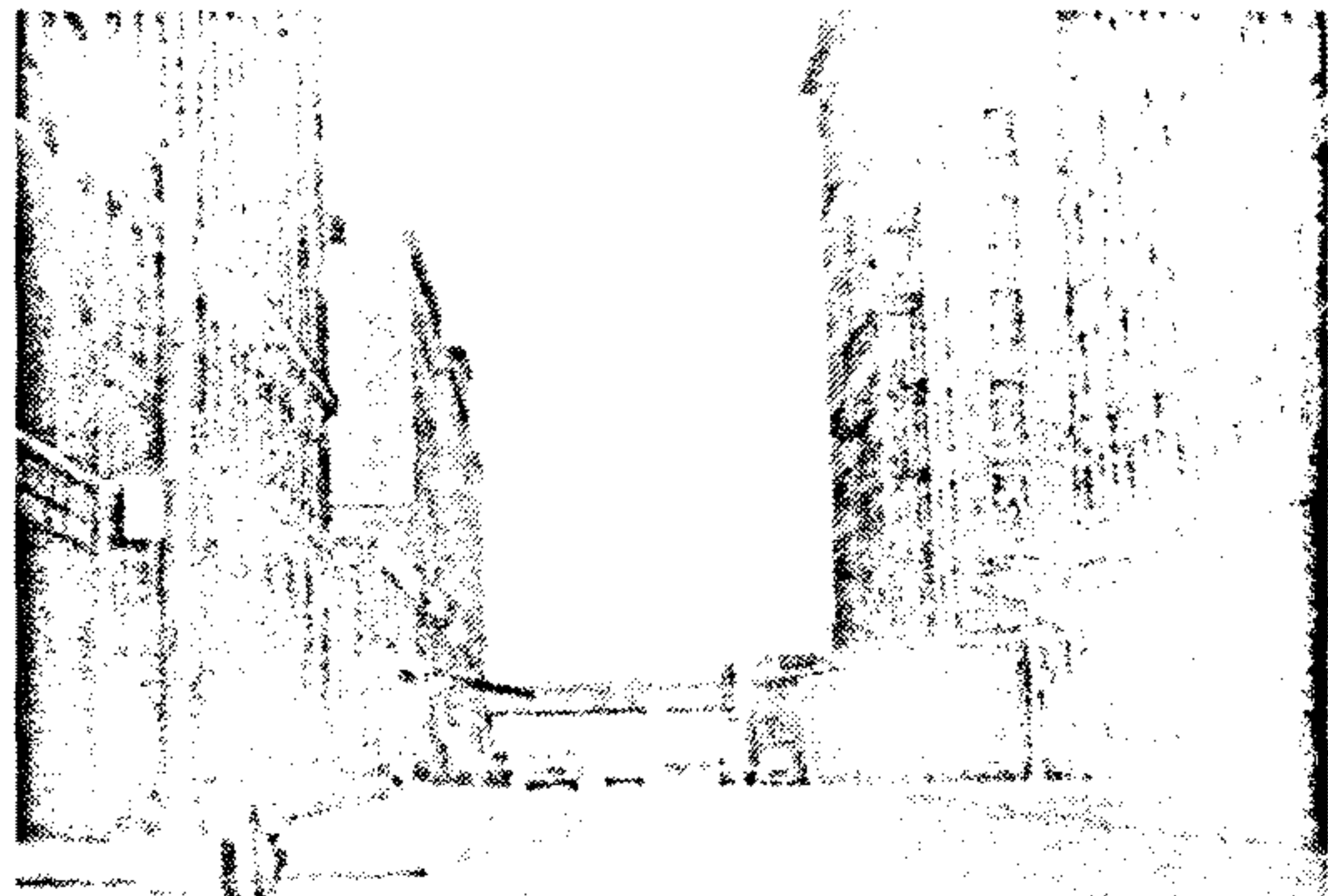


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News from Home

BELGIUM/FRANCE/WEST GERMANY
1976

Sat 26 Nov 4.15. 6.30. 11.15 p.m.

Director: Chantal Akerman

Production Company: Paradise Films/INA/Unité Trois/ZDF

Screenplay: Chantal Akerman

Photography (Colour 16mm): Babette Mangolte

Editor: Francine Sandberg

Sound Recording: Dominique Dalmasso, Larry Haas

International Distributor: Unité Trois, 49 rue Liancourt, Paris 75014, France

Running Time: 85 mins

Cannes/Berlin/Locarno/Edinburgh Festivals 1977

Chantal Akerman follows the success of the radical *Jeanne Dielman* (shown at the London Film Festival in 1975) with *News from Home* which combines stunning visuals influenced by American avant-garde cinema with a more "European" concern with the family romance. The images of the film are of the "underside" of New York - traffic, street corners, the cavernous spaces between warehouse blocks, the subway: all theatrical spaces, mesmerisingly constructed by the film. Akerman says: "When you see the images you realise that New York has nothing to do with European ideas about it. The myth doesn't connect at all with the reality of the city." The different views of New York in turn contradict the place evoked by her mother's letters: "The soundtrack is partly composed of letters my mother sent me from Brussels. They're love letters. My mother was asking when I'd come back, giving me news of the family, telling me she'd been ill. Some of it towards the end outlines the daily life of Belgium and the critical status for Europeans of the American Myth". "A lyrical film, constructed according to feelings," the film presents an attempt at dialogue through separation, in which the words constantly draw the viewer back into a familial space, but one which is never validated by the images, which insist that the film maker is keeping her distance from home. - *Mark Nash*.