

UNCONVENTIONAL

In the lead up to this year's Democratic convention being held in Chicago this August, HotHouse is presenting its second election- themed film series, UNCONVENTIONAL.

Replete with odds and ends commenting on the "democratic process", curators Marguerite Horberg and Peter Kuttner have put together a series looking at the excluded, the corrupt, the righteous, the activists, and the paranoid.

This mix-tape gives light to often dark material as well as arc- bending moments from the recent past . Filmmaker Kuttner and HotHouse's Executive Director, Horberg enjoy virtual "crate digging" and coming up with lists of rarely seen films, documentaries and guerilla camera work from street sources and dustbins of history.

With recent campus sit-ins reminiscent of the 1960's, some of the flicks may be unintended instructive primers. And with Chicago again as the host city, our opening offering, *Medium Cool* is the hands-down record of the culture clash from that era.

In this program, the films have mostly been unearthed from public domain files and all are presented here free for CAN TV Channel 21 as well as via online links for "watch at your leisure".

UNCONVENTIONAL is as a cultural companion to the summer circus wherein the next candidate for US President will likely be chosen from the Democratic caucus.

HotHouse's commitment to presenting film and video as a regular part of its multi-arts programming launched with PATCHWERX- the directors -of- color series curated by Russell Watson in our space on Balbo. Since the 2010 instigation "*From the Lions Point of View, An African Jubilee*" (which celebrated the 50th anniversary of liberation for 19 countries in Africa) we have presented some 75 screen gems for free as part of the quest to include elevate documentary work along with less known commercial films.

UNCONVENTIONAL

SATURDAYS JUNE 8 THROUGH JULY 6 at 7pm

FREE ON CABLE ACCESS TV CHANNEL 21

AND VIA LINKS TO WATCH ANYTIME

SATURDAY JUNE 8 AT 7PM

BETTY BOOP FOR PRESIDENT 1932 Max Fleischer 6 min.

Betty Boop for President is a 1932 Fleischer Studios animated short film starring Betty Boop. It was released by Paramount Pictures on November 4, 1932

THE GREAT DICTATOR 1940 Charlie Chaplin 2 hrs. 5min.

After dedicated service in the Great War, a Jewish barber (Charles Chaplin) spends years in an army hospital recovering from his wounds, unaware of the simultaneous rise of fascist dictator Adenoid Hynkel (also Chaplin) and his anti-Semitic policies. When the barber, who bears a remarkable resemblance to Hynkel, returns to his quiet neighborhood, he is stunned by the brutal changes and recklessly joins a beautiful girl (Paulette Goddard) and her neighbors in rebelling.

SATURDAY JUNE 15 at 7pm

BALLOT OR THE BULLET 1964 5min.

"The Ballot or the Bullet" is the title of a public speech by human rights activist Malcolm X. In the speech, which was delivered on April 3, 1964, at Cory Methodist Church in Cleveland, Ohio, Malcolm X advised African Americans to judiciously exercise their right to vote, but he cautioned that if the government continued to prevent African Americans from attaining full equality, it might be necessary for them to take up arms.

FREEDOM ON MY MIND 1994 Connie Field 110 Min

Documentary of the civil rights movement and the events surrounding the Mississippi Voter Registration Project of the early 1960's. Combines archival footage with contemporary interviews.

NATIONTIME 1972 William Greaves 1 hr. 30 min

The film chronicles the 1972 National Black Political Convention held in Gary, IN. NATIONTIME-GARY is the only film record of the historic 1972 National Black Political Convention. Featuring Jesse Jackson, Shirley Chisholm, Dick Gregory, Coretta Scott King, Richard Hatcher, Betty Shabazz, Amiri Baraka, Congressman Charles Diggs, and many political leaders, artists and activists representing a broad spectrum of Black political thought. Narrated by Sidney Poitier and Harry Belafonte.

SATURDAY JUNE 22 at 7pm

VIVA LA CAUSA 1972 Produced by Robert Newman 23 min.

Viva La Causa focuses on one of the seminal events in the march for human rights - the grape strike and boycott led by César Chávez and Dolores Huerta in the 1960s. Viva la Causa shows

how thousands of people from across the nation joined in a struggle for justice for the most exploited people in our country-the workers who put food on our tables.

ALL THE KINGS MEN 1949 110 min. Robert Rossen

Drama about the rise and fall of a corrupt southern governor who promises his way to power. Broderick Crawford portrays Willie Stark, who, once he is elected, finds that his vanity and power lust prove to be his downfall.

SATURDAY JUNE 29 at 7pm

HARVEY MILK

INTERVIEW AT CASTRO CAMERA, MARCH 1978 16 min.

Harvey Milk was a visionary civil and human rights leader who became one of the first openly gay elected officials in the United States when he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. Milk's unprecedented loud and unapologetic proclamation of his authenticity as an openly gay candidate for public office, and his subsequent election gave never before experienced hope to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people everywhere at a time when the community was encountering widespread hostility and discrimination. His remarkable career was tragically cut short when he was assassinated nearly a year after taking office.

Media collective Optic Nerve interviews San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk at Castro Camera, a camera shop operated by Milk since he opened it in 1972 and center of the neighborhood gay community.

NIXON, I AM NOT A CROOK 37 sec.

As the Watergate scandal gathered force, President Richard Nixon told newspaper editors who were attending their annual convention at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, that he was "not a crook."

It was a sound bite and a headline that would reverberate widely. Less than nine months later, Nixon would find himself deeply embroiled in a political scandal with criminal overtones that would doom his presidency.

THE PARALLAX VIEW 1974 Alan Pakula 1hr. 42 min

After a presidential candidate is assassinated, political reporter Joe Frady (Warren Beatty) begins to suspect that the mysterious Parallax Corporation may be involved. As he investigates, others who share his suspicions start turning up dead, including his editor, Bill Rintel (Hume Cronyn). Eventually, Frady uncovers a conspiracy bigger than anyone expected and must race to prevent the corporation's next big hit as this political thriller plays out in an explosive game of cat and mouse.

COMMUNISTS ON CAMPUS 1970 40 min Produced and Written by Sidney Fields

"Let the revolutionaries themselves tell it like it is"

Part of the industry of "Red Scare Films" this "anti-woke" American propaganda documentary created "to inform and impress on American citizens the true nature and the true magnitude of those forces that are working within our nation for its overthrow ... and the destruction of our educational system." Film covers the July 1969 California Revolutionary Conference and other demonstrations, warning against the activities of Students for a Democratic Society, the Black Panthers, student protestors and Vietnam War demonstrators as they promote a "socialist/communist overthrow of the U.S. government," taking as their mentor Chairman Mao Tse-Tung".

SATURDAY JULY 6 at 7pm

ANGELA DAVIS & GUS HALL 1984 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN 25 min. History of the Texas Communist Party

Home made video documenting third party candidates for 1984 Presidential election

Gus Hall was an American political organizer who was the general secretary of the Communist Party of the United States of America (CPUSA; 1959–2000) and a four-time candidate for U.S. president (1972, 1976, 1980, 1984).

Hall's parents were members of the militant Industrial Workers of the World, and in 1927 he was recruited by his father to join the CPUSA. From 1931 to 1933 he studied at the V.I. Lenin Institute (renamed the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute) in Moscow, and after returning to the United States, he engaged in union-organizing activities, occasionally getting arrested. In 1949 he was one of 11 party leaders convicted of conspiring to overthrow the U.S. government by force and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. Free on bail during an appeal, Hall and three others fled to Mexico when the appeal was rejected in 1951. They were recaptured, however, and Hall's sentence was extended; he was incarcerated until 1957.

Elected to the CPUSA's leadership position in 1959, Hall ran for U.S. president as the party's candidate in four elections and earned his best result in 1976, when he received nearly 60,000 votes.

Angela Y. Davis is an American Marxist and feminist political activist, philosopher, academic, and author; she is a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Davis was a longtime member of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) and a founding member of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS). She was active in movements such as the Occupy movement and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign. During the 1980s, Davis was twice the Communist Party's candidate for vice president

JESSE JACKSON FOR PRESIDENT - JESSE JACKSON

Speech by Jackson at 1988 Convention during his run for President

The 1988 Jesse Jackson presidential campaign was Jesse Jackson's second campaign for President of the United States. This time, his successes in the past made him a more credible candidate and he was both better financed and better organized. Although most people did not seem to believe he had a serious chance at winning, Jackson once again exceeded expectations as he more than doubled his previous results, prompting R. W. Apple, Jr. of The New York Times to call 1988 "the Year of Jackson"

COVER UP — BEHIND THE IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR 1988 Barbara Trent 1hr. 12 min

Cover Up — Behind The Iran-Contra Affair is a thorough investigation into information suppressed during the Iran-Contra hearings in 1987 where it was found that senior officials in the United States government secretly facilitated the sale of arms to Iran. The film reveals a shadow government of former CIA operatives, drug smugglers, top US military personnel and others, revealing evidence of the history of CIA involvement in drug running from the Vietnam heroin era to the Central American cocaine epidemic — raising serious questions about the so-called “war on drugs” and other government movements since the 1980s...

INDEPENDENT VIEWING / SHOWN WITH LINK

MEDIUM COOL HASKELL WEXLER 1969 1hr. 59 min.

John Cassellis (Robert Forster) is a hardened TV news cameraman who manages to keep his distance while he captures daring footage of a nation in the throes of violent change. He maintains this professional detachment when he covers the social unrest in Chicago surrounding the 1968 Democratic National Convention. But, when he discovers that the TV network has been

quietly cooperating with the FBI, the enraged Cassellis realizes that he too must join the fight against the establishment.

EL GRITO LEOBARDO LÓPEZ ARETCHE 1968 1 hr 42 min

In the summer of revolt 1968, student Leobardo López Aretche captured the protests in Mexico City, and the state's brutal response, up close – and like many of his subjects and fellow comrades, would pay a high price for his audacity. Fifty years later, his movie is no longer a secret.

[El Grito: the film banned for revealing the truth about Mexico in 1968](#)

PUNISHMENT PARK 1971 PETER WATKINS 1 hour 31 min

In this fictional documentary, U.S. prisons are at capacity, and President Nixon declares a state of emergency. All new prisoners, most of whom are connected to the antiwar movement, are now given the choice of jail time or spending three days in Punishment Park, where they will be hunted for sport by federal authorities. The prisoners invariably choose the latter option, but learn that, between the desert heat and the brutal police officers, their chances of survival are slim.

A GRIN WITHOUT A CAT 1977 Chris Marker 2 hours 57 min.

From the young anti-war protesters in America to the death of Che Guevara and the rise of leaders like Fidel Castro and Mao Tse-Tung, this documentary examines the rise and fall of the lefty movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The first segment delves into the beginnings of this liberal faction, focusing on 1967, when anti-Vietnam fervor sweeps the United States and invigorates the political debate. In part two, the disintegration of the movement, dubbed the "new left," is laid out.