

Quirk Ethic of Ericka Beckman

Ericka Beckman's Super-8 labyrinthine movies, which screen Sunday at 8 p.m. at the Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art (LAICA), 2020 S. Robertson, are fascinating and violent nightmare dances, movies obsessed with the wrong ways of learning and quirky movement.

"White Man Has Clean Hands" is at war with language. To show the contradiction between watching and listening to a movie, the film-maker keeps asking the audience subtitled verba! demands that interfere with watching the screen.

The predominant image is that of someone playing blindman's bluff and the film conveys the frustration and anxiety experience either by a person who can't see, or one who perceives incorrectly and stumbles into furniture. Despair and dramatic tension are evoked by drum music.

In "We Imitate: We Break Up," Beckman appears as the dancer-protagonist who is persecuted and perplexed by what seems to be her own fantasy creations.

In this colorful, surreal psychodrama the film-maker is chased off the screen by the disembodied legs of a life-sized puppet because she is running away with "the loot." Once again Beckman is concerned with the wrong ways of learning. In this frenetic high school-level universe, winning means competition, coy sexuality and disembodied athletic performance.

Beckman's films are presented by the Los Angeles Independent Film Oasis. She will be present to answer questions. Information: 559-5033.

—LINDA GROSS

Film-Maker to Lead Workshop

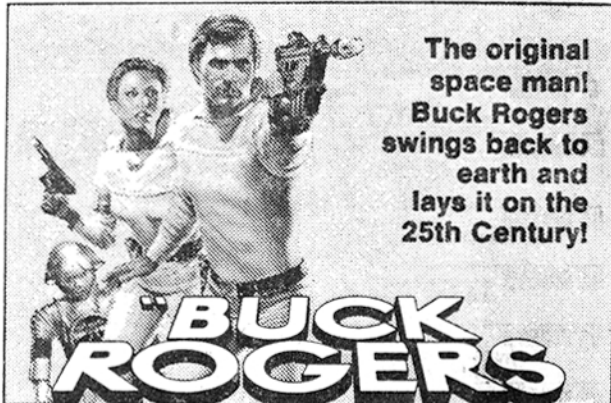
Documentary film-maker Eric Sherman, author of "Directing the Film," will lead a workshop in writing, directing, acting, camera work and editing for UCLA Extension, Saturdays from April 28 to May 19 at the graduate school of management, UCLA. Information: 825-7064.

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