**ROUTLEDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MODERNISM**

Entries by Mal Ahern, 1/3

***CLOSE UP***

The journal *Close Up*, published between 1927 and 1933 in Territet, Switzerland, was one of the first English-language periodicals to address film theory and avant-garde cinema. Its diverse contributors included H.D. (neé Hilda Doolittle, 1886-1961), Sergei Eisenstein, John Grierson, Dorothy Richardson, and Gertrude Stein; and its influential subscribers included G.W. Pabst, Iris Barry, and Sylvia Beach.

*Close Up* was published by Bryher (neé Annie Winnifred Ellerman, 1894-1983), the English novelist and heiress to a shipping fortune; the Scottish painter and filmmaker, Kenneth Macpherson (1902-1971), was its editor. Bryher and Macpherson lived with the poet H.D, who was also a contributor. The trio also made *Borderline* (Macpherson, 1930), a feature film starring H.D. and Paul Robeson, and the short film *Monkey’s Moon* (Macpherson, 1929).

Rather than proffer a definition of cinema’s unique ontology, *Close Up* sought, in Macpherson’s words, to “open the gate and let it out over the hills.” It explored an eclectic range of genres like surrealism, UFA modernism, the Soviet avant-garde, and Hollywood melodrama. The journal also mediated many debates about the transition from silent to sound cinema. For instance, *Close Up* was first to publish a widely-reprinted statement on sound cinema by the Soviet filmmakers Sergei Eisenstein, Vsevolod Pudovkin, and Grigori Alexandrov, who famously argued for a contrapuntal use of sound and image. Finally, *Close Up* raised the issue of film’s relationship to psychoanalysis, in a series of essays by practicing analysts Hans Sachs and Barbara Low.

Bibliography:

Friedburg, A., Marcus, L., and MacDonald, J. (1998) *Close Up 1927-1933: Cinema and Modernism*. London: Continuum.

Guest, B. (1984) *Herself Defined: The Poet H.D. and Her World*. New York: Doubleday.

Paratextual Materials:

**Video:**

*Monkey’s Moon* (Macpherson, 1929) and accompanying website by Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library:

<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/collections/highlights/monkeys-moon-pool-films>

*Website describing the making of the film* Monkey’s Moon*, and*

**Images:**

Image of Bryher, publisher of *Close Up*, on the set of the film *Borderline*, 1929:

<http://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3472745>

Image of Bryher’s press ticket for *Close Up*, undated:

<http://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3482016>

Image of a subscription form for *Close Up*, 1931:

http://brbl-dl.library.yale.edu/vufind/Record/3482017

**Websites:**

Bryher Papers, Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library:

<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/collections/highlights/bryher-papers>

*Website that contains photographs, letters, and manuscripts from the collection of Bryher, editor and publisher of* Close Up*.*

H.D. Papers, Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library, Yale University:

http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/collections/highlights/hd-papers

*Website that contains photographs, letters, and manuscripts from the collection of H.D., a major contributor to* Close Up*.*

MAL AHERN

Yale University