

≡ FILM FORUM

PREVIOUSLY PLAYED

MOANA WITH SOUND

6:00

Final Day - Thursday, November 19

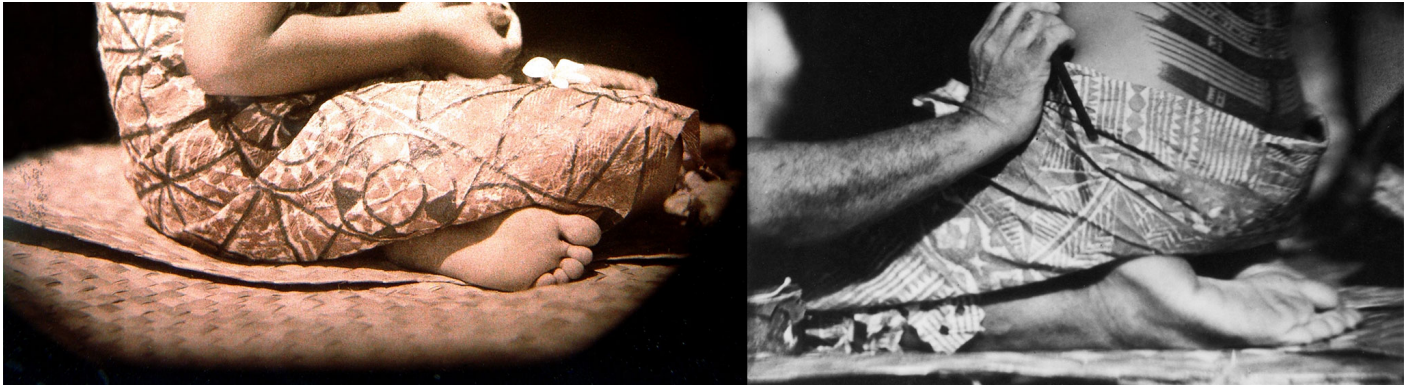
Directed by Robert Flaherty, Frances Flaherty and Monica Flaherty

NEW RESTORATION

(1926/ 1980) Originally touted as “The Love Life of a South Seas Siren!,” with accompanying bare bosom artwork, documentary pioneer Flaherty’s second feature after *Nanook of the North* is actually a serene look at the lives of the lovely and gentle Samoans, made entirely on location in the island paradise of Savai’i. In 1923, Flaherty journeyed with his wife Frances and their children to the South Seas island to film the exotic lifestyles of the Samoan people, resurrecting their recently vanished customs and capturing them before modernization permanently altered their way of life. Over fifty years later, Flaherty’s daughter Monica returned to the island with verité legend Ricky Leacock, recording authentic location sound, dialogue and folks songs to complement her father’s exquisite images. *Approx 98 min. DCP. Restored by Bruce Posner.*

A KINO LORBER RELEASE





REVIEWS

"CRITIC'S PICK! The imagery, in scenes that always unfold slowly, is truly startling, particularly given that the film is almost 90 years old... In synchronization with the original film, [Monica Flaherty's soundtrack] works better than it ought to. Matters of fact and fiction aside, sights like the undulating, near-transparent sea, where the village men pursue their catches, are ultimately their own justification here."

– Glenn Kenny, *The New York Times*

[Click here](#) to read full review

"The film on which much of Flaherty's reputation rests... the power of his images speak with an eloquence the intertitles lack."

– Dave Kehr

"A FILM OF INCOMPARABLE CALM AND BEAUTY...remains a document of great historical truth. A lush and lively soundtrack!"

– Alan Scherstuhl, *Village Voice*

"Life on this island is pictured so captivatingly that one feels like shouting with glee that it is not just another movie."

– Mordaunt Hall, *The New York Times* (original 1926 review)

"Your soundtrack is a masterpiece... as if it had been recorded with the picture and belonged there."

– Virgil Thomson to Monica Flaherty in 1981

"The new soundtrack is astonishing... the best job of post-synchronization I have seen."

– Kevin Brownlow

FILM FORUM

FILM FORUM

209 WEST HOUSTON ST. NEW YORK, NY 10014 BOX OFFICE: (212) 727-8110

[Now Playing](#) [Email Us](#) [Map & Directions](#) [Site Credits](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

© 2023, Film Forum, Inc. All rights reserved. Not to be reprinted without permission.

We at Film Forum stand against violence, oppression, and racism.

We join all those who mourn the senseless loss of life and who work to build a more just world.

Black Lives Matter.

Film Forum acknowledges the Lenape peoples, the original native New Yorkers, on whose land our theater is located. This acknowledgement reflects our commitment to shedding light on the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism and forced migration.

Film Forum is committed to accessibility. If you are using assistive technologies like a screen reader or magnifier and are experiencing difficulties accessing this website, please let us know by emailing filmforum@filmforum.org