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English Dept Requests Support for Su Friedrich Event

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UNIVERSITY OF
RHODE ISLAND

To: Bill Bartels, Chair, Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia
From: Jean Walton, English and Sheri Wills, Art
Date: January 4, 1998
Re: Visiting Scholar

PREAMBLE

We are writing to request funding to bring acclaimed independent filmmaker Su Friedrich to campus in April. We are applying for a Visiting Scholar Grant from the Honors Program, and co-funding from Women's Studies, English, Art, Film Studies, The Committee to Eliminate Heterosexism and Homophobia, and the GLBTA. Friedrich has been an influential presence in the experimental film community since the late 70s, was a friend of the late Marjorie Keller's, and shared Marjorie's commitment to making experimental film available and accessible to diverse audiences. Last summer, I (Jean) saw Friedrich's most recent feature-length film, "Hide and Seek," which uses a mixture of documentary and narrative style to meditate on girlhood and coming-of-age in the 1960s. At the time, I was struck not only by the beautiful black-and-white cinematography and the sensitivity with which Friedrich treated issues of sexuality, but also by what I perceived to be a kinship with one of Marjorie's most moving films, "Daughters of Chaos." I wrote to Friedrich and asked about whether she had been influenced by Marjorie's work, and she wrote back saying she had often thought about the links between her latest film and "Daughters." This gave me the idea to invite Friedrich to come and screen her film with Marjorie's, and to follow the screening with a discussion of both films, and of independent filmmaking in general. Friedrich is quite enthusiastic about coming, and would love to show her film in conjunction with Marjorie's. I (Sheri) often show Friedrich's films in my filmmaking classes, and would like to have Friedrich do student critiques while she is visiting. It is always important for students to meet filmmakers in person, and in this case, it would be invaluable for them to receive critical feedback on their work from a leader in the field. Such an experience helps our already very talented students to feel validated as artists. We are very lucky that Friedrich has expressed interest in doing critiques as well as showing her film.

RESUME:

Please see attached resume for Su Friedrich, as well as a description of her film, "Hide and Seek."

PROGRAM, PROPOSED DATES, AND POTENTIAL AUDIENCE:

We are requesting funding for the following two-day event:

Wednesday, April 15: In the evening, Screening of "Daughters of Chaos" (20 min) and "Hide and Seek" (65 min), followed by discussion with Friedrich

Thursday, April 16: Day-long critiques of film and video projects by students in Sheri Wills' video and film editing course