



# SUPER EIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MELBOURNE SUPER-8 FILM GROUP NO. 38 JULY 89

THIS MAN  
IS  
DAVID WELM  
COX

Next  
Month:-  
articles by  
M. REES  
M. LA ROSA  
H. BOEK



So far I've only seen four super 8 cameras actually in use on my travels. Two German duds on a platform before the Eastern border - looked like they'd tripodded - up for some Oustrokiis - style time lapse; Another German dude filming Wang gliders flying around Neuswanstien castle, and an American good-as-gold clean cut young dude getting on a boat in Venice. And my trusty little Canon, of course. Truth is comrades, S8 aint as popular as video 8. Old news I hear you say? Sure. But the filmstock is available - especially in Germany where Agfa reigns supreme at around A\$9.00 per reel (in packs of 3). The Germans take photography very seriously, and not everyone has succumbed to the apparently all-too-easy option of that other big "eight" - video. American 'Ethels' and 'Buds' tote their black brick-type video 8s, the owners of the newer ones sneer self confidently at the early buyers who still have the early massive shoulder type cam-corders. They wield them like slow motion shot putters. In Leni Riefenstahl's "Triumph of the Will" - Great sweeping pans soaking up all that city, perhaps standing in for the experience of being there at all - a la Susan Sontag's essay "On Photography" - the tourist - middle class tourist - is guilty about "not doing anything" on his vacation, so lives the experience via the viewfinder - an effective barrier or filter - even more so when the family's in frame - then the video or S8 is the authorising identity machine, affirming every member accounted for and present - except Dad - legs out of frame. He's in control. Good old Sontag. How easy it would be for me to exclude myself from her analysis. But it's true. My "trusty" Canon does the same thing for me too. I validate - authorize my trip with super 8. But I can't afford film for everywhere so I'm shooting quick bursts - so that when I return + do a video transfer - every other "pause" will reveal an effective still shot. Here in Florence like Vicenza,

news of the Chinese massacres of students has been met <sup>LR3</sup> with  
wholesale sit-ins in campuses everywhere - spray ups, posters  
by every communist group around. Very exciting. So I've been  
getting bits of footage here and there. But if Video 8 has  
been useful for anything except a symbolic "consuming machine"  
it's been in being small enough and effectively easy to conceal  
to be of use to the students and their allies in China. What  
little T.V. I've seen of the event looks like it was shot  
on video 8 or some such other lowband format. So.  
A word of advice from Coxy on the continent - make the  
Super 8 group incorporate video 8 too. All gauges, all forms  
- not that a tape would be refused now. But if gauge  
is anything to go by why worry about the magnetic versus  
chemical debate? I've got to actually use the damn things and  
they do cost an arm and a leg, but I wouldn't say no  
if a particularly progressive government started handing  
them out. Maybe a future Chinese government will recognize  
the importance of video in the struggle of the students +  
one day hand them out like small arms? Now there are video  
8 walkmans - self contained portable T.V.s and video 8 recorders -  
all the size of a 1/2 pound box of chocolates. Far out.  
As for super 8 - I was in the observation tower in East  
Berlin and my little Canon got quite a bit of attention.  
"Video?" I heard them mutter to each other looking around at  
the video 8 cameras other tourists were carrying "No... no,...."  
I heard them say, perhaps noticing the tiny tell-tale window  
showing the "footage remaining" and recognising the format as the  
one they were familiar with "Noo.... - is film!"

Dave Cox,

Florence, June 7

1989



As i had difficulty in reading some of this  
and as time was against me, I have decided to  
print Davids article as I received it. SARAH

FILMS AT LAST OPEN SCREENING -  
The Lawnmower - Mark Freeman

NEXT OPEN SCREENING - GLASSHOUSE MEETING ROOM  
7.30 - 8.30 - Bill Mousoulis - the early years  
plus an early Chris Windmill

WE NEED YOU - CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED  
We are starting to get desperate - if you don't  
phone us, we may phone you!!!

~~4th SUPER 8 FESTIVAL FAST APPROACHING~~

~~4th INTERNATIONAL MELBOURNE SUPER  
8 FILM FESTIVAL AUGUST 30, 31 SEPT 1 1989  
GLASSHOUSE CINEMA~~

~~CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED~~

COMPILATION VIDEO OUT SOON - STAY TUNED

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EDITORIAL (?) - SARAH

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