Report on Project Session Northern Research Forum Veliky Novgorod, Russia September 19-22, 2002

Prepared by Rósa Rut Þórisdóttir Session Organized by Andrei Golovnev

Travelling Northern Film Festival Session

Before seeing the five films selected for this occasion, Andrei Golovnev explained the existence of the Travelling Northern Film Festival, how it evolved from the bi-annual Russian ethnographic film competition and became an independent unit, including collection of good films from the north.

The methodology behind the Travelling Northern Film Festival is taken from the nomads, never to stop the journey, always to continue to be on the road and collect new films that fit into the subject of the north. There is no restriction of where to go, any film festival or occasion are interesting destination.

After travelling through different regions of the Russian North, presentations of the festival will occur in France and from there to Germany in near future. Hopefully continuing to Finland, Iceland, Canada and the US.

As I said before five films had been chosen for this occasion spanning from the sixties to present day. A combination of fiction films, directed documentaries and observational cinema were on the agenda. From Canada, Russia, Finland and Iceland. Showing us the Arctic cultures both in the past and today.

The screening of these films was slightly different from the usual and past screenings of the festival as it was more conversational and theoretical than normally. The feedback from the audience was excellent and often led to long conversations.

It was obvious from this session how important a medium the film is as multidimensional language. It enriches conferences like the NRF and a suggestion for the III NRF meeting is that maybe a film screening night should be on the agenda allowing those interesting works to meet a wider audience than they would have normally when they are only shown during a session.

Another suggestion, addressed to the University of the Arctic, came up during the session to make a multimedia collection and store the films the festival has collected and possibly accompany it with a web page.

As a whole this session was a great success and very useful for both audience and filmmakers alike.

Program of the Travelling Northern Film Festival Novgorod, NRF II

At the Caribou Hunting Camp part of the Netsilik Eskimo Film Series by Asen Balikei, Canada

Pegtymel by Andrei Golovnev, Eastern Siberia

Let's Dance fiction film directed by Paul-Anders Simma, Finland

Henna lau'dd documentary directed by Heikki Huttu-Hiltunen, Finland

Sari on Ice by Rósa Rut Þórisdóttir, Iceland