This film being what it is, i.e. a series of personal notes on events, people (friends) and Nature (Seasons) — the Author won't mind (he is almost encouraging it) if the Viewer will choose to watch only certain parts of the *work (film)*, according to the time available to him, according to his preferences, or any other good reason. To assist the Viewer in this manner, particularly in cases of repeated viewings (forgive the Author this presumption), the following Contents, a list of scenes and their time tables, reel by reel, have been prepared.

A note in the beginning says, that this is the First Draft of the Diaries. Why should the Author permit then, one may ask, the unpolished or half-polished edition to come out? His answer is, he thought that despite the roughness of sound and some parts of the images, there is still enough in them — he felt — to make them of some interest to some of his friends and a few strangers In order to go to the next stage of polishing, he felt, he had to look at the footage as it is, many many more times, and gain more perspective to it — that's why this edition. There is another reason. A few months ago, suddenly he saw his room filling up with smoke — he couldn't even see the film cans — and only a very lucky coincidence stopped the fire next door which would have consumed five years of his work. So he gave himself word to bring out as soon as he can this First Draft version, and there he stands, and hopes that some of you will find some enjoyment in what you'll see.

December, 1969

The Author

Jonas Mekas

1

street & subway noise
DEDICATED TO LUMIERE
DIARIES NOTES AND SKETCHES
ALSO KNOWN AS WALDEN
Close up of the Author
IN NEW YORK WAS STILL WINTER
Central Park, scattered snow
BUT THE WIND WAS FULL OF SPRING
naked branches in wind
the Author playing accordion

Chopin
BARBARA'S FLOWER GARDEN
Barbara planting flower seeds on the window sill

Film-Makers' Cinematheque, 4th St.

1 min. SITNEY IS FINGERPRINTED BY THE POLICE, AS DIRECTOR OF THE CINEMATHEQUE
Sitney, CU of his hand
I CUT MY HAIR, TO RAISE MONEY, HAVING TEAS WITH RICH LADIES
the Author showing his haircut, turning around
daily expense notes
SUNDAY AT STONES
the Author eating; also, David & Barbara Stone

street & subway noise
2 min. I WALKED ACROSS THE PARK. THERE WAS A PHANTASTIC FEELING OF SPRING IN THE AIR.
apple blossoms
a group of boys, in sport shirts, jumping up and down, in Central Park
TONY CONRAD AND BEVERLY GRANT AT THEIR SECOND AVENUE HOME
we see Tony Conrad and Beverly Grant in the doorway
they look at the yard, at the trees
PHOTOGRAPH THE DUST FALLING ON THE CITY, ON THE WINDOWS, ON THE BOOKS, EVERYWHERE
the Author, in bed, can't sleep, turns around
I THOUGHT OF HOME
Central Park lake

3 min. WALDEN

madrigal
Bibbe Hansen, in Central Park, with books in her arms
she studies a tiny flower in her fingers
the ground, grass, Bibbe, clover blossom
a sunlit tree
Bibbe runs across the road and sits on a bench
she watches a yogi type, standing on his head
THE GIRL WITH THE BICYCLE & BLUE SHIRT
the girl with the bike
the Author (shadow from a bridge in Central Park)

street & subway noise
6 min. a letter from Naomi
Diane, in Central Park, touching grass with her foot
MORBID DAYS OF NEW YORK & GLOOM
the Author, eating in dingy luncheonette, self-filmed (in the mirror wall)
Central Park

dialogue about dreams
BURNED, HOT GRASS
WALDEN
Central Park, John Brockman with guitar

street & subway noise
7 min. the girl in blue, in Central Park, in the grass
General Post Office
Barbara combs Alexandra by the window
David Brooks, John Palmer, Harry Smith
Stone's baby sitters having good time

organ music
8 min. A WEDDING
wedding images; church lights; people outside
comes the bride (Pola)
wedding ceremonies (Adolfas) (Gantt)

Author sings and plays accordeon
IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH
Emshwiller; Frank Kuentstler; Leo Adams; the street
Algirdas Landsbergis and the Author, walking along the street
10min. THE WEDDING PARTY
the wedding party; Gretchen Weinberg; Barbara Rubin; Stones
SITNEY CATCHES THE GARTER, WILL HAVE TO MARRY NEXT
Sitney, the garter
Povilas Mekas (father)
Elzbieta Mekas (Mekiené) (mother)

12min. AL MOVES OUT
empty room, the bed, bedsheets in laundry bags
BREAKFAST IN MARSEILLES
the Author, between trains, eating breakfast; a cat joins in

Ocean waves
13min. CASSIS
Cassis from sunrise to sunset, the lighthouse
SITNEY DECIDES TO LEAVE NEW HAVEN, GOES TO NEW YORK
Sitney in New Haven, in front of his old house, looking at the trees, at the street

subway noise
16min. FIRE ON 87TH STREET
fire images
BRAKHAGE CROSSES CENTRAL PARK
Brakhage, the park, the trees, grass
COMING HOME FROM ST. VINCENT COLLEGE
sunrise on way home; the smoke stacks of Newark

Author singing
18min. BREAKFAST AT STONES
Jordan; David on phone; Alexandra, finger in mouth, teeth are growing
the Author, at home, on 89th St., standing by the window, looking out

subway noise
19min. CARL TH.DREYER
a few central park images, then Carl Th. Dreyer, in New York Hotel (Fifth Ave & 62nd St.), Sept.18, 1965

Chopin
WALDEN
CU of the Author
Central Park lake & Amy Taubin

subway noise
20min. WALDEN text
lake images; Author's shadow on the grass
A TRIP TO MILLBROOK
the Author, on the train

Author sings and plays accordeon
TIM'S PLACE
Timothy Leary's place, just after the rain, a glimpse of Tim in red shirt
21min. grass and the dog, as he runs through wet grass
Hm, it's nice, says dog
the dog in the wet grass field
the porch, close up of a boy, the road
the porch, the road, grass, trees
on the porch, Dr. Alpert walks back and forth
the dog in the fields, in far distance; the dog is inspecting the fields after the rain
the dog on the porch, the girl with the cat; dog tries to get the cat, as he should
a girl on the trampoline, jumping up and down
a monkey jumping around the porch; Miss Leary the Author, jumping up and down, on the trampoline
Shep Sherbell, the girl in red dress, the *mansion*

Baghavagita
24min. *LAUKAS*, A FIELD, AS WIDE AS CHILDHOOD
the girl, jumping up and down
a quiet field just before sunset
Shep, with the dog, on the porch
the bell on the porch, the field
Dr. Alpert, on the porch
the girl, jumping up and down
the evening, the porch, Dr. Alpert and the girl, walking into the misty distance of evening
red evening skyline, from the roof, all quiet
a small animal in the dark branches of night
yellow flowers in the garden (the flower of St.Jean)
Dr. Metzner & wife
a little boy holding a puffy grass in front of lens

26min. Tim's studio, the monkey, books, painting
green, dark green grass, the ground
the pool, Shep

organ music
FLOWERS FOR MARIE MENKEN
flowers

27min. GREGORY MARKOPOULOS SHOOTS BACKGROUNDS FOR *GALAXIE*
Gregory setting up the tripod, winding up the camera, shooting

street noise
Lionel Rogosin and Louis Brigante on Bleecker Street
Mike Jacobson and Sitney, by the table

28 1/2 min. *END OF REEL ONE*

2

Jim Kweskin's jug band
MAY 16TH 1966
NOTES ON THE CIRCUS
Circus images

Kreplach voices
12min. KREEPING KREPLACHS MEET TO DISCUSS WORLD PROBLEMS
Kreeping Kreplachs - at the Village Gate - June 7,'66
Tuli Kupferberg, Ed Sanders, Al G. Aronowitz, Barbara Rubin, Allen Ginsberg, Peter and Julius Orlovsky, Andy Warhol

Ginsberg & Orlosky sing
14min. Storm De Hirsch, Gérard Malanga, Ronna, Walter Bowart, The Capitalist Press, etc.

Hare Krishna
16min. SEPTEMBER
Hare Krishna group singing and dancing in Thompkins Park

17min. a crowd of people, singing and dancing, as they walk uptown (Nov.6,1966) singing Hare Krishna all the way; Philip Corner beating the gong, Marty Greenbaum playing harmonica; Barbara dancing as they move along the street, uptown

subway noise
19min. AUTUMN CAME WITH WIND AND GOLD
trees, leaves, N.Y. skyline
autumn park, children playing with leaves
two girls in red dresses, Central Park
children, loads of leaves
STREET WORKS
street workers digging on Fifth Avenue
JEROME, TRYING TO PEEK INTO LARRY RIVERS' SHOW
Jerome Hill, peeking thru the window into the Jewish Museum
Walden text, from the book

20min. Stones, crossing the park, looking at autumn trees & wind

Chopin
ALEXANDRA AND JORDAN
Alexandra, sitting on the window sill, laughing at Jordan on the floor
the cat in window, washing face

subway noise
21min. SITNEY'S WEDDING
Wedding (just before the wedding) party -- Barbara Rubin, Brakhage, Kelman, the Author, Sitney (Dec. 19, 1965)

Chopin
a glimpse of Julie and Sitney, leaving the church
NEW YEAR'S EVENING IN TIMES SQUARE
Times Square images, at night, lights

22min. Sitney blows a trumpet, Julie joins in on subway

subway noise
BARBET SCHROEDER
Barbet Schroeder having breakfast at Stones
23min. Jordan; Alexandra, all dressed up, ready to go out; Jordan playing with his foot
Walden text from the book
New York skyline, looking from Central Park, evening
GOOFING ON 42ND STREET

camera clicks
42nd Street, at Grant's -- Kelman, Bob Cowan, Jerry Hiler, John Cavenaugh, Nick Dorsky, Gretchen Weinberg, eating frankfurters, goofing

subway noise
COAL DELIVERER
a black coalworker unloading a coal truck, 41st Street

25min. AN UPTOWN PARTY
Gerard Malanga dancing, Jack Smith & Mario Montez on the floor, Nico, Eddie Sedgwick, etc, at Steve Shore's place

Velvet Underground (rearranged)
26min. VELVET UNDERGROUND'S FIRST APPEARANCE
psychiatrists' convention; Andy Warhol; Velvet Underground plays, Gerard & Eddie dance

27min. ALEXANDRA AND JORDAN
Jordan on the floor; Alexandra pressing a doll to her breast; Barbara by the window; David, Chaplin's poster
West River Drive
WALDEN
people skating in Central Park, the pond

28min. *END OF REEL TWO*

3

DEEP OF WINTER
fire lights, the cat washing face, the mime
THE SWEET, MAD NAOMI, OUT OF BELLEVUE, VISITS KEN AND FLO
Naomi in a cold winter street
Ferry Street
Ken Jacobs throws a flag out the window, Naomi rolls in snow & flag

Velvet Underground (rearranged)
Ken, by the window, showing us the city; he is pointing at Brooklyn Bridge, on doubt
FLO WAS SICK AND IN BED, AND WAS LOOKING AT THE WINDOW, KEN'S NECKTIE, AND HER FRIEND CAT
the window, the necktie, the cat

2 min. more guests arrive; shots down, from the window, snow by the table, eating, Naomi, and friends
Naomi and Ken in the street, dancing in snow
WALKING NAOMI BACK TO BELLEVUE, ON MY WAY TO THE TEK, IN SNOWSTORM
snowstorm, Times Square
A FLASHBACK: SEVEN YEARS AGO

text on Becks
Judith Malina with friends, in Times Square, standing
VIGIL; snowing, cold
WINTER SCENE
children by the river, with sleigh; city streets in snow

5 min. WINTER SCENE
street workers, in cold and snow; flowers in window; Central Park

6 min. Walden text, from the book
Central Park, a squirrel, and a bird
Tek's secretary, lights

Velvet Underground (rearranged)
MAILING FILM CULTURE
mailing Film Culture; winter streets
AMY STOPS FOR COFFEE

7 min. Amy in the street; Amy in a drugstore, having coffee
frankfurter man; a black man with his horse; the hoof
STREET WORKS
street workers in yellow raincoats, in snow, keeping fires burning in barrels
PEACE MARCH AT NIGHT

8 min. marchers, on 42nd Street, at night
9 min. POLICE VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN TIMES SQUARE, MARCHERS JAILED
violent commotion, police, marchers dragged, lights

subway noise
10min. BLACK POWER
demolition workers, blacks, tearing down a building on 88th Street
WHAT LESLIE SAW THRU THE COOP WINDOW
city streets
Walden text, from the book
Alexandra in the window, playing with the shade
CHINESE NEW YEAR
Fire crackers exploding in the streets; in a restaurant (Kelman, Hiler, Dorsky, Cavenaugh)

voices at the Coop
12min. COOP DIRECTORS MEET
the Coop; Christopher Rice (age six months); Amy Rice, the Author, Ken Jacobs, David Brooks, Gregory Markopoulos, Storm De Hirsch

13min. WEINBERGS IN WIND AND SLUSH
Weinbergs, H.G. & Gretchen, in a windy slush street, Broadway & 86th Street

song from radio
SPARROWS FOR FLO WHO IS STILL SICK
sparrows in cold branches
WINTER SCENE
children with sleigh, by the Hudson
wet city streets, lights, at night
daytime snow scenes, in the park; window cleaner on Columbus Ave;
demolition workers

15min. DREAMS OF JEAN COCTEAU
snow fight in Central Park
the *lovers*, the *poet*; snow fight continues

Cocteau's voice
IN CENTRAL PARK
Sitney, in the Park, looking at trees; tracks in snow of some animal; Author's shadow
LATE WINTER SLUSH
wet snow streets
Tina & Hannelore, on their way to Olmsted

subway noise, birds & skating rink music
18min. OLMSTED HIKE
groups of people moving across the cold woods towards Olmsted (Lindsay, Hoving, Javits)

19min. windy hilltop
people moving across the woods, blown by wind
at Holmsted, end station, coffee, warming up, bee hive, Tina & Hannelore, a brief glimpse of the Author, CU

22min. *END OF REEL THREE*

4

subway noise
ON THIRD AVENUE
the Author, by his working table, drinking coffee; Barbara editing
the Author, reading a book, in bed

1 min. Barbara & Ronna, shooting, under a Christmas tree

organ music
Ronna and friends singing Christmas songs driving thru the snowing street, from the car
CHRISTMAS EVE
3 min. Alexandra under a Christmas tree, opening gifts, blowing soap bubbles
OPENING CHRISTMAS GIFTS
Al & Pola & Mother, opening Christmas packages

train music
4 min. A VISIT TO BRAKHAGES
on way to Colorado, from the train
on way to Colorado; Author, in a mirror

voices of Brakhages; Author plays accordion
6 min. ONE DAY LIKE ANY OTHER
at Brakhages; children in snow; Stan in front of his house

7 min. PONIES
children & ponies

8 min. ROSCOE
Roscoe, the donkey

9 min. STAN GOES TO TOWN
Stan driving to town;

Boulanger
STAN LISTENS TO LILI BOULANGER
10min. the dog; Stan on bed, listening to music, looking out into the woods;
Jane goes to Post Office
IN THE WOODS
the Author and Jane, in the woods; the Author running around, jumping, like crazy; the dog

12min. NEOWYN AND CRYSTAL RETURN FROM SCHOOL
Neowyn and Crystal, returning from school
DOG STEALS BIRD'S FOOD, RUNS AWAY, AS WE SHOUT THRU THE WINDOW,
SHAME ON YOU, SHAME ON YOU!
dog steals bird's food, runs away; children watch thru the window

voices of Brakhages; Author plays accordion
ON THE MELTING PORCH
Stan watching the melting mountains; full view of the house
JANE CLEANS THE ROOF
Jane on the roof
SUDDENLY IT LOOKED LIKE SPRING
melting porch, Stan, children, animals, the sun
JANE & JONAS DECIDE TO RIDE THE DONKEY
Jane and the Author riding the donkey, which isn't that easy to do; children film the event

STAN & THE CHILDREN
Stan on the porch, children, with 8mm cameras

16min. JANE
Jane with the horse
NEOWYN: *I'M NOT AFRAID, I'M NOT AFRAID*
Neowyn on the donkey (or pony?), very very proud & daring

17min. EVENING
evening shots at Brakhages, table
THE BREAKFAST
morning at Brakhages, huge amounts of pancakes consumed, children around the table, or helping at the sink

18min. A VISIT TO THE BEAVERLAND
Jane and the Author wade thru the snow & woods; stumps of trees, cut down by beavers
AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO GET DOWN A TREE CUT DOWN BY BEAVERS BUT STUCK IN THE WOODS
the Author, trying to get the tree, with little success

Boulanger
19min. I FIND RABBIT SHIT!
shots of rabbit shit in snow
NEXT MORNING
last shots at Brakhages; on way to Denver; sunset shots from train

Author's voice, a Lithuanian folk song
AT TABOR FARM LITHUANIANS DANCED TILL SUNRISE
dancing; dawning sky
at Monroe, the girl with flowers, at the railroad station
GULF COAST UNDERGROUND IN SPRING FEVER
Austin film-makers, shooting in the park, fooling around

subway noise
22min. sunrise on way back to New York
New Jersey skyline, smoke stacks, chimneys

23 1/2min. *END OF REEL FOUR*

5

RICHARD & AMY WATCH SPRING COME TO THE HUDSON
apple trees in blossom, Central Park
Amy and Richard by the Hudson
the Author, his shadow

Chopin
Amy & the kids of Amsterdam Avenue

subway noise
1 min. ONE DAY IN NEWPORT...
Author, in a boat

Chopin
POLA & MOTHER IN THE COUNTRY
Pola & mother gathering blooming branches, walking down the road, Leo's house

2 min. A VISIT TO HANS RICHTER
Hans Richter's place; the meal; Al & Pola walk into the distance; the road; water lillies; Hans' working room; Author's feet;

Richter's voice, etc.
Author shoots the fly; Standish Lawder with his Arri; the bug; Hans' studio; Hans leaves his room;
5 min. the Author, changing tape on Nagra;
the pond, the road, the bucolic scenes...
with everybody standing, gazing very romantically...
Herman G. Weinberg, standing
alone by himself, gazing into distance, thinking about Renoir;

6 min. Pola & Al walk down the road; Hans, pruning the dead branches, everybody joins in; Hans resting in his studio room; 8x8 tree.

author's voice
7 min. IN CENTRAL PARK
Tina on stilts. Hannelore's stilt party.
Ray Johnson, Paul Krasner, the park

Viennese Music
9 min. PETER'S WEDDING
Newport, Peter, Minnie, Cushings
arial shots of Newport & Cushing's place
in the church
Wedding feast, in the tent
departure of Peter & Minnie by helicopter
at the neighbor's house, next morning

leaves in wind
22min. SOON AFTER THAT CAME AUTUMN
leaves, autumn trees & park at the University of Delaware, branches in wind, University grounds, wind
23min. a brook in autumn woods

Chopin
MEL'S CHILDREN
children on a swing board, Roxbury
JOEY
Joey and children in the autumn street, playing with tires, leaves all around; Mel looks from behind the window; Jessie picks roses

25min. A TRIP TO NEW JERSEY
Willard Van Dyke, Adolfas, Gideon Bachmann, Hella Hammid go to New Jersey *hunting*

author's voice
26min. Al makes friends with the dog;
at the cafeteria; Al is having a conference outside, with Willard; more coffee
driving again; stopping at the *hunting* grounds; the *hunter* in red jacket; Al in a tree; Al *directs* a film
29min. *(HTH)* for Gideon's TV crew; Al cleaning his shoes, fooling around in a dug-out; the German crew moves in...

Chopin
30min. Hella, Willard; the autumn ground

30 1/2min. *END OF REEL FIVE*

6

Group Image, rearranged
WENDY'S WEDDING
Wendy's wedding images, by the church
wedding party, 80 Wooster Street
AND MUSIC PLAYED AND PLAYED
wedding party cont.

7 min. COMING BACK TO NEW YORK FROM BUFFALO
sunrise over Manhattan, over Harlem

Author's voice & camera clicks
8 min. Shirley Clarke, Jud Yalkut, Gideon, on 12th Street, Sunday breakfast
Shirley eating bagels

9 min. fooling around in Central Park
skating rink

12min. shots from Chelsea Hotel; the window; the street
newspaper man on 23rd St. & 7th Avenue corner

13min. WINTER SCENE
New York streets in winter
Walden text, from the book
winter streets in heavy snow

subway noise
14min. Louis and Shirley in a downtown street
Amy, putting make-up
Walden text, from the book
at the Coop, Ernie Gehr
Sitneys, in the street

15min. MARIE MENKEN & SISTER
Marie Menken, sunset, from Brooklyn Heights
DEEP OF WINTER
winter streets

16min. SNOW FIGHT ON BLEECKER STREET
boys fighting, throwing snow at the Author

Author on Becks
THE VILLAGE VOICE
Voice offices; Fancher; Stoller
17min. A FLASHBACK: SEVEN YEARS AGO
Becks & friends, at UN, picketing in snow and cold, heavy with rucksacks and things
Walden text, from the book

Buxtehude subway noise
windy streets, people hurrying, with their coats flying
18min. SUNDAY MORNING
SNOWSTORM ON EIGHTH AVENUE
a heavy snow falling on Eighth Avenue

19min. MARTHA WHOM I HADN'T SEEN FOR SOME TIME
Martha Menujin; the Author, rolling in the street & snow, with camera running
NEXT DAY
Central Park scenes, after the storm

21min. WOOSTER STREET
Wooster Street, workers keeping fires

subway noise
ANTHOLOGY CINEMA MEETS
Kubelka, Brakhage, Kelman, Broughton, Sitney, Stones, on Broadway, uptown
22min. A GIRL WAITING FOR SPRING, AT RUTGERS
Walden text, from the book
a few shots in Central Park; Michael Snow, Richard Foreman, Joyce Weiland
ONE SPRING DAY IN CENTRAL PARK...
Richard on Wooster Street;
...IN THE VERY HEART OF SOHO...
a poor cat with rat's tail joins him

23min. students at Marlboro College

author's voice
Howard Schulman (Rasputin) on 8th Street
sunset
scenes at Cranbrook Academy; strawberries
clouds

"Give Peace a Chance"
25min. TO YOKO & JOHN, WITH LOVE
clouds
SING TOGETHER
John and Yoko, bed-in in Montreal
(also: Tim Leary, Al Capp, Nat Hentoff)

29min. sunrise
Eighth Avenue, from a bus

30min. BLAKE SITNEY IS BORN
Blake Sitney in a crib; New Yorker Theater seen across the street, *Andalusian Dog* is playing
Sitney with Melville (dog) in Central Park

subway noise
JULIE WITH BLAKE
31min. the Author in bed, reading
I THOUGHT OF HOME
a hand holding a clover blossom; gypsy poster
Walden text, from the book
red flowers; the girl in red sweater

32min. SEPTEMBER
the girl in red, cont. Central Park. She looks at the tree, the leaves are getting brown already

Chopin
she caresses the grass, with her foot;
camera runs thru the grass
Walden text, from the book

subway noise
33min. the girl in red, cont. Now she sits down, and looks at the park, lights a cigarette
she smiles, sort of; in her fingers she has a tiny flower, or just a stem of grass, she studies it
WALDEN

34min. *END OF FIRST DRAFT OF THE DIARIES*

This film may be rented from the New York Film-Makers' Coop and from Light Cone (Paris).
www.film-makerscoop.com / www.lightcone.org

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