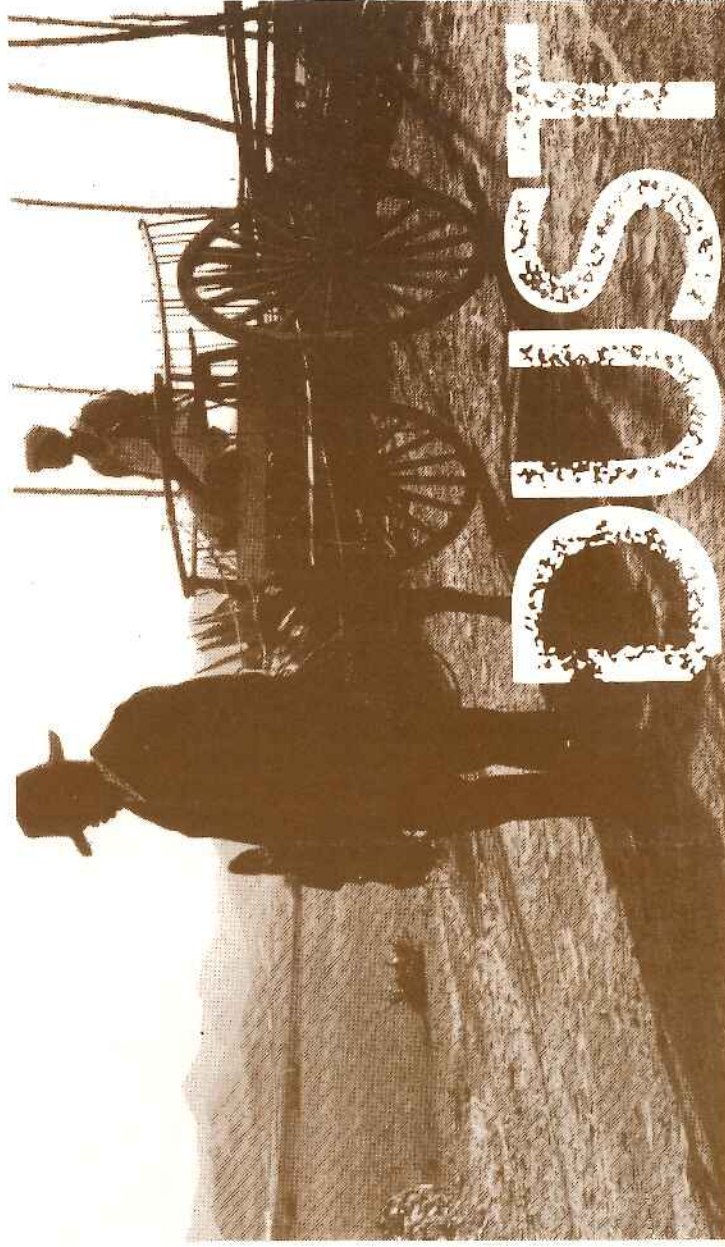
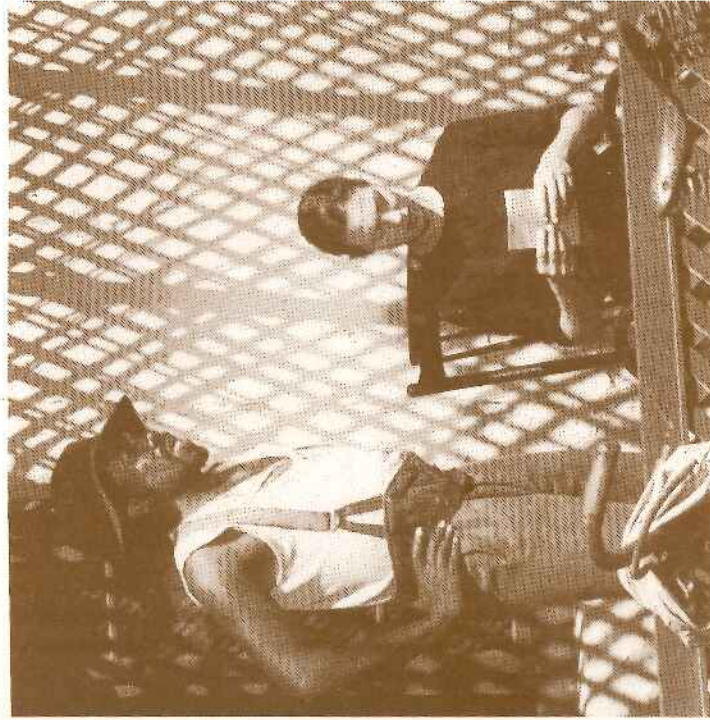


A film directed by  
**MARION HÄNSEL**  
based on  
**JOHN COETZEE's**  
celebrated novel  
**"IN THE HEART  
OF THE COUNTRY"**



## **SOUVENIR PROGRAM**

A South African premiere presented  
by the Film Education Unit, UCT

Pinelands Cinema, Cape Town, 23.9.85 at 7.30 pm



*The Film Education Unit of U.C.T. has great pleasure in presenting the film premiere of DUST, based on John Coetzee's prize-winning novel IN THE HEART OF THE COUNTRY. The director, Marion Hänsel of Brussels, was our guest at the 7th Cape Town International Film Festival in 1983, and will personally introduce her film.*

*The film was completed earlier this year, unspooled at the Cannes Festival, and has just won the Silver Lion Award at the prestigious Venice Festival before coming to Cape Town.*

*We are glad you are sharing the event with us.*

*James A. Polley  
Director*



#### FILMOGRAPHY

- 1977 EQUILIBRES (short film)
- 1979 SANNU BATURE (documentary)
- 1979 GONGOLA (documentary)
- 1979 HYDRAULIP II (Super 8mm/16mm documentary)
- 1979 BAKTI (documentary video)
- 1982 LE LIT (feature), 1984 DUST (feature)



*John Coetzee is Professor of General Literature at U.C.T. He has won many awards for his writing, including Britain's top literary award, the Booker-McConnell Prize in 1983 for his fourth novel "Life & Times of Michael K".*





## DUST

BELGIUM/FRANCE 1984

DIRECTOR: Marion Hänsel

SCREENPLAY: Marion Hänsel

PHOTOGRAPHY: Walther van den Ende

SOUND CONCEPTION: Henri Morelle

MUSIC: Martin St. Pierre, EDITOR: Susanna Rossberg

CAST: Jane Birkin (Magda), Trevor Howard (Father), John Matshikiza (Hendrik), Nadine Uwampa (Klein Anna)

FESTIVALS: Venice (Sept. '85) – Silver Lion Award

RUNNING TIME: 87 mins/colour/English dialogue

The events of the film happen mainly in the deranged mind of the central character, though some, perhaps all, happen outside it too. Magda, the only daughter of a widowed sheep farmer in an isolated and desolate Karoo landscape, observes the events of her barren life with increasing despair. The process culminates in a pivotal event when her father seduces (with gifts) the young wife of his black overseer, Hendrik. The act not only violates racial codes, but incites such jealousy and madness in the deeply frustrated Magda that she eventually kills her father.

Reality is at all times relative and it is from the outpost of Magda's mind that we view these and the ensuing events: her introduction of a new social order on the farm with racial barriers down, the blackmail and rape by Hendrik, her dependence on him and her final isolation ... It is, as C.J. Driver said in his review of the novel, "an extraordinary achievement" due to "its unflinching sense of loss and its claustrophobic acknowledgement of the unwilling interdependence of master and slave ... (Guardian 30.6.77)"

### PROGRAMME

7.30 pm – Introduction – the Vice-Chancellor of U.C.T.

Dr. S.J. Saunders

7.40 pm – Ms Marion Hänsel

7.45 pm – Screening



John Coetzee's 'In the Heart of the Country' is one of the most highly regarded novels to have appeared from contemporary South Africa. Winner of the 1977 CNA Literary Award, 'In the Heart of the Country' is a novel structured in 266 numbered sections with a discernible narrative, but no chronological sequence, charting the experiences of its central character Magda.

Part science fiction, part psycho-linguistic thesis and part political tract, Coetzee's novel is a challenge of immense proportion for any filmmaker. Marion Hänsel rose to the challenge. As the Variety critic put it: "Hänsel, a former actress who directed her first feature in 1983, is admirably in control of a difficult subject, artfully creating a hallucinatory zone of ambiguity and eroticism around the thoughts and actions of the main characters (Variety 17.4.85)."

Essentially a prophetic set of metaphors, 'Dust' works on many levels. In one way it is a study of a disordered consciousness, a classic case of D.H. Lawrence's "sex in the head" syndrome. In another light it is an incisive parable of South Africa lurching into the future. The coloniser and the daughter of the coloniser; he the overbearing wielder of power, both over his family and the extended family of his servants; she the desert, living in the desert — agonised by her emptiness and anxious to be filled. And the servants, colonised, silently obeying the ignomy of social and sexual subservience. When brought out into a liberal Eden of "lets all be equal" they leave that Eden to work out their own salvation elsewhere, leaving the coloniser dead and the daughter of the coloniser "to die here in the petrified garden". Whither South Africa 1985?

THE FILM EDUCATION UNIT, U.C.T.  
IS DEEPLY INDEBTED TO

**SABENA**  
BELGIAN WORLD AIRLINES

FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE  
IN MAKING THIS PREMIERE  
OF THE FILM

**DUST**

POSSIBLE

**For SABENA Business Class**

**The Savoir-Faire in the Air**

**Phone SABENA**

**Cape Town:**

**21 7873**

Foreshore Printing