

THE BLACK OUD is my latest personal/poetic documentary film -- a form of portraiture I have evolved and which I teach as an extension of the documentary as practiced by Robert Flaherty.

My intentions here were multiple: to make a palimpsest* of modern Mediterranean culture with ancient Greek culture -- to make a palimpsest of Hilda Doolittle and Joanna McClure -- to make use of modern and ancient Greek music -- to capture the light of Greece and Rome -- and to make a portrait of Joanna that would radiate out beyond her.

Archaeologists, musicologists and musicians have collaborated to produce their collective best guess as to what ancient Greek music sounded like. Often the ancient singers evoked religious mysteries. I have used some of this music in the film. Panos Panagos translated the texts of the songs, which appear as subtitles on the screen.

H.D. is an Imagist Poet who died in 1961. The poetry you hear Joanna speaking was written the year before she died.

This film was shot in 16mm b&w on a spring wind camera. It was printed on color stock with a sepia filter. It runs 45 minutes.

Larry Jordan

*Roman school boys used wax tablet and styl~~u~~s instead of slate and chalk on which to do their lessons. In wiping off one text and writing another over it, the first could often be discerned underneath, thus creating a 'palimpsest'.