

THE LABRADOR INSTITUTE OF MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
& THE COLLEGE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC

present

LABRADOR/ANS ON FILM

2015-16 SEASON

SCREENING #4: EDUCATION I

What is immediately apparent in the two items that make up this month's program is how much the manner in which we discuss education has changed. The reason for this change is not entirely certain. Taking the cynical view, we could attribute this shift in language to the professionalization of the discipline. The drive towards standardization and the development of best practices have thrust a gaggle of half-understood words and concepts into the mouths of a public who have come to rely upon them for thought and communication about education. This, I hope, is only half correct. The more optimistic view is that we have a clearer picture of the role and function of education in our society. Increasingly public discussion on the roles of culture, language, gender and ability – to name a few things – have got us thinking and speaking more precisely about education as a process of exchange rather than a directed flow of information from teacher to student. Whatever the case, the pieces in this program both seem to come before a time before our present language. This is not to dismiss them. Rather, they are important precisely because of the ideas about education they embody.

I Well Minds the Time: Alice Perrault (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 22 mins, 1983) Prod. Rob Hanson.

In one sense, this piece seems far too short. Perrault's motivations for entering the field of education and for teaching at the locations she did are decidedly under-explored. She is widely recognized as the first teacher in Happy Valley, but has remarkably little to say on the subject here. Rather than read it for its content, this piece should be read for its silences. Perrault's lack of commentary on subjects such as teaching on the North Coast suggests both her motivations for becoming a teacher and experiences in the classroom are far more complex than we would initially believe.

Labradorimiut: Them Days with Beatrice Watts (OKâlaKatiget Society, 27 mins, 2001) Prod. Sarah Abel.

Here, Sarah Abel's familiarity with her subject pays dividends. In contrast to *I Well Minds the Time*, this episode of *Labradorimiut* provides ample background for its subject, Dr. Watts, and gives us a clear idea as to her motivations for following a career in education. Those silences that exist here are in the realm of experience. For instance, as a student of both the Nain and North West River boarding schools, Dr. Watts speaks of some

difficult experiences in the latter but her final assessment of both seems amicable. Why? What effects could they have had upon her subsequent experiences as both a student in St. John's and a teacher again in Labrador?

Coordinated by Morgon Mills

Curation and program notes by Mark Turner

With sincerest thanks to the organizations and individuals that made these items available.

