

WITH THIS ISSUE: NETCONNECT

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## Hot Afternoons Have Been in Montana.

color & b/w. 15 min. Ken Kimmelman, Imagery  
Film Ltd., dist. by National Film Network,  
4501 Forbes Blvd., Lanham, MD 20706; 800-  
431-4586; [www.nationalfilmnetwork.com](http://www.nationalfilmnetwork.com).  
2005; 2007 release. DVD \$21.95; public  
performance \$109.95. POETRY

This award-winning 1925 poem—praised by William Carlos Williams and aptly called “magisterial” by historian Howard Zinn—was recorded in 1969 in the voice of its author, Eli Siegel, with whom the filmmaker studied. Kimmelman's belief that the poem is “so visual, I felt it had to be made into a film” has resulted in a striking one. *Hot Afternoons* ruminates on a time and a place, connecting them poetically with the entire world of people, events, and ideas and creating in effect an eternal moment of the spirit. Kimmelman has armed the poem's reading with a diverse array of both historical and contemporary images, which unfold to reveal Siegel's thoughts. What might not at first come to mind is that the film helps make poetry more accessible to today's young viewer. As you “read” the film's images, the words of the poetry seem to become more palpable to the ear, beyond the distinction lent them by Siegel's voice. A lovely short film for audiences from young adult and up.—Jeff Clark, James Madison Univ. Libs., Harrisonburg, VA