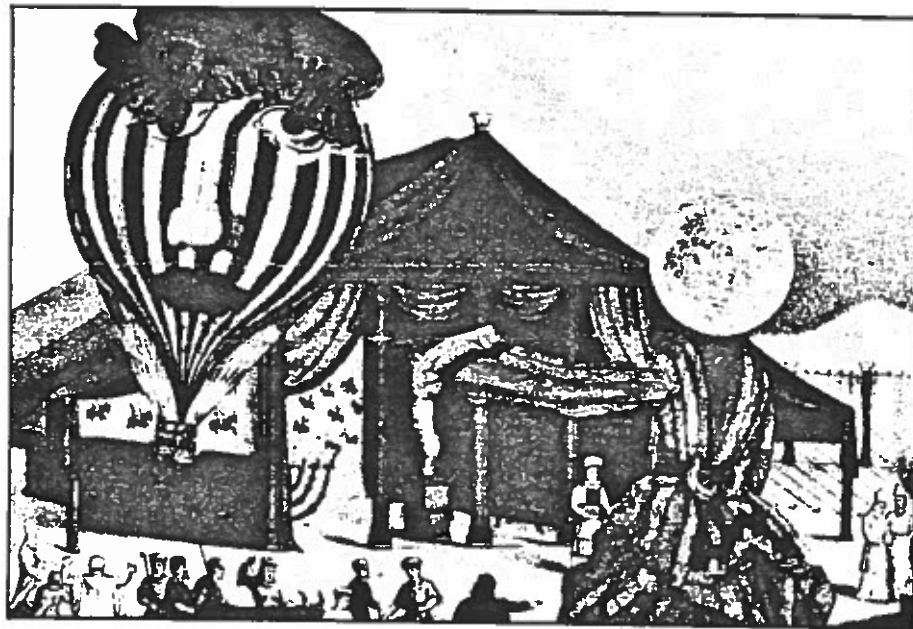# SOPHIE'S PLACE
LARRY JORDAN IN-PERSON

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1987

FREE

SOPHIE'S PLACE by Larry Jordan

Larry Jordan has long been known as a pioneering independent animator whose recreations of 19th Century imagery combine a rare visual wit and nuance with bizarre surreal juxtapositions. SOPHIE'S PLACE is the culmination of many years' work and his most ambitious effort to date: "From the first 'pun' of the film of 'place' thru to the return to the 'garden' at the end of the film, Sophie's as nearly perfect as 'epic' can BE, as dailiness-so perceived (i.e. the transformations, the alchemy, yes) always is." -- Stan Brakhage (from the SF Cinematheque, Spring '87)

A culmination of five years' work. Full hand-painted cut-out animation. Totally unplanned, unrehearsed development of scenes under the camera, yet with more "continuity" than any of my previous animations, while meditating on some phase of my life. I call it an "alchemical autobiography". The film begins in a paradisal garden. It then proceeds to the interior of the Mosque of St. Sophia. More and more of the film develops into episodes centering around one form or another of Sophia, an early Greek and Gnostic embodiment of spiritual wisdom. She is seen emanating light waves and symbolic objects. (But I must emphasize that I do not know the exact significance of any of the symbols in the film any more than I know the meaning of the symbols in my dreams.) Nor do I know the meaning of the episodes. I hope that they -- the symbols and the episodes -- set off poetic associations in the viewer. I mean them to be entirely open to the viewer's own interpretation.

(from the 1987 Canyon Cinema Catalog)

LARRY JORDAN has been an animator since 1960. He is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships and has shown internationally, including Museum of Modern Art, New York, Zagreb and Annency. He teaches film and animation at San Francisco Art Institute, and film history at Sonoma State University.

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