

CHURCHILL FILMS  
662 N. Robertson Blvd.  
Los Angeles, California 90069



# SHEEP SHEEP SHEEP

A DIMENSION FILM

Moods, rhythms and images of sheep...

DIMENSION FILMS producer ■

**BEFORE SHOWING THE FILM:**

Imagine that you are taking a walk through the woods. What things will you see? Listen closely. In the distance, you can hear some faint sounds. As you move toward them, you see some things that look like large grey rocks. But they are moving! Now you can see that the grey shapes are really a flock of sheep. How would it feel to be one of these sheep, rubbing against all the others, smelling the wool, melting into a sea of other sheep?

**SYNOPSIS:**

Moods, rhythms and images of sheep.  
Natural sounds without commentary.

The slowly grazing sheep shuffle, gather, and begin flowing through the valley, a soft, blurry river of wool. They stop, clump together, collect their feet and lie down quietly to chew their cuds. Sleep.

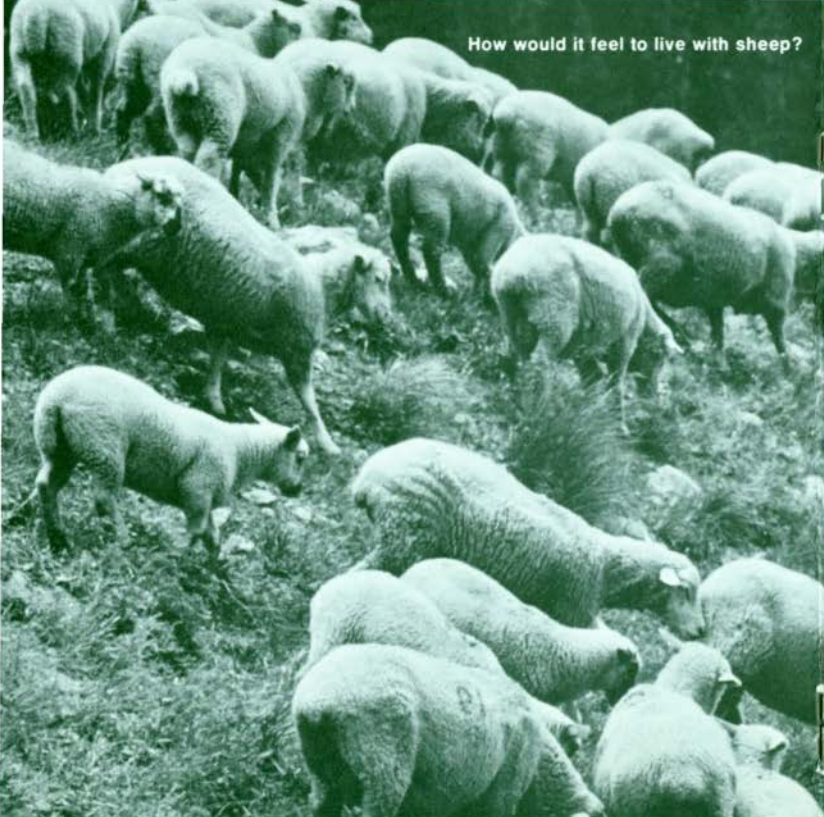
Awake! Pressing together along the road; moving to the highlands, hooves thundering; voices yowling.

Fresh grass. Ewes call their lambs. Bouncing over nothing, bleating, the lambs search out their mothers. Milk.

Heads banging, the lambs play, pushing, jostling, and scurrying together into the darkness.

A film by Michael Murphy

PRIMARY—ELEMENTARY/11 minutes/Color



How would it feel to live with sheep?

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#### AFTER SHOWING THE FILM

##### Oral Language

How do you feel...

- When the lambs are lost, crying for their mothers?
- When all the sheep crush together, jostling up the road?
- When the lambs bounce and run; when they play-fight?
- When you walk through the woods; when you see a mountain stream?

Sometimes a group of people is called "a bunch of sheep"—

What do you think that means?

Describe a sheep for someone who has never seen one.

##### Written Language

Imagine you are a lamb and write about what happens to you in a day—where do you go, how do you play, what happens if you get lost?

Would you like to be a shepherd, and live with sheep?

Write a class poem about sheep.

Read poems about sheep, such as *THE SHEEP* by Leonard Feeny, *THE SHEEP* by Ann Taylor, *THE HAPPY SHEEP* by Wilfred Thorley, *SPRAYING SHEEP* by Norman MacCraig, *SHEEP* by W. H. Davies, and, of course, *MARY'S LAMB* by Sarah Josepha Hale. For upper elementary—a fine book about life with sheep—*THE LONER*, Ester Weir.

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##### Art

- What are the shapes, colors and textures of sheep?
- How would you express the texture or "feel" of a woolly sheep?
- Listen to parts of the film with the picture turned off.
- How do the sounds make you feel? How would you express the moods of the film with colors, shapes and lines of your own?

##### Rhythms

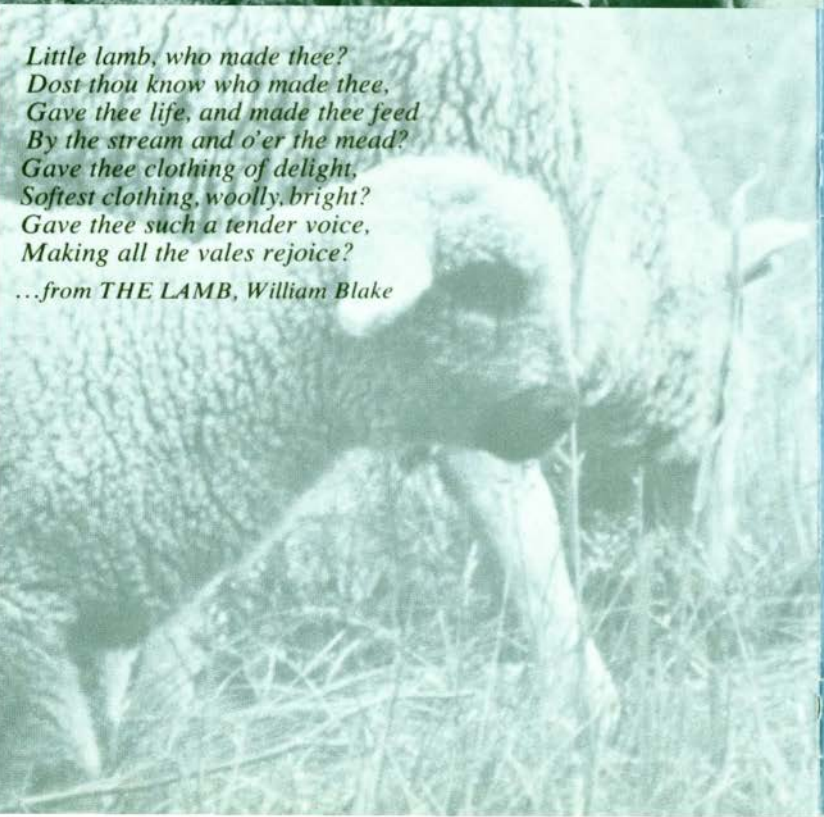
Express some rhythms of sheep—slow grazing, running and bouncing, lying down, chewing, head butting, the lost lamb and its mother searching for each other.

##### Science (including a few quick facts)

- What is the special way sheep eat?
- How does a sheep's body serve its needs? Feet—muzzle—wool? (There is a small opening above the hoof that lets out a strong smelling fluid. This scents the ground, so a sheep which wanders can find its way back. It helps keep the flock together.)
- What are some basic physical needs? (Salt,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz/day; Water  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gal/day; Water within 3 miles of pasture; Shade in hot weather)
- Why do the lambs play on the steep sides of the hollow? (Some think it's an inherited trait, going back to their ancestors who lived in craggy heights.)

##### Social Studies

- Could this film have been made near our community?
- What kind of land do sheep need?
- Most shepherds in this country are from certain groups (Basques or Navajo Indians). Why...



*Little lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee,  
Gave thee life, and made thee feed  
By the stream and o'er the mead?  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing, woolly, bright?  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice?*

...from *THE LAMB*, William Blake