

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Museum of Modern Art Film Library announces its new daily programs of film showings from July 5, 1948 to January 1, 1950, a series entitled "The Film till Now." The series is organized as basic material for a sober and detailed study of the evolution and development of the motion picture. The Film Library has as one of its aims the broad purpose of making available an ever-increasing number of films from its collection of over 19 million feet for the use of colleges, museums and similar institutions throughout the country.

The coming programs include 199 films and start with a series on "Beginnings" containing a number of "first films," such as early Edison and Lumiere shorts, never before shown in the Museum auditorium. Early color films, dating as far back as 1905, are shown largely in excerpts illustrating the different processes of color reproduction. Early sound films include The Blue Angel with Marlene Dietrich and a sequence from Rio Rita.

Next in the series is a group devoted to "Screen Personalities" such as Pickford, Garbo, Fairbanks, Bergman and Bogart.

Other groups, "Film and the Theatre," "Film and Dance" and "Film and Literature," offer interesting and instructive comparisons with these other media. They headline such films as Male and Female from The Admirable Crichton by James M. Barrie, Anna Christie by Eugene O'Neill, Cavalcade by Noel Coward, Greed by Frank Norris, Captains Courageous by Rudyard Kipling. A group of documentaries illustrates the uses to which film can be put in education, in social comment, in art and music and the use to which it was put during the war. The series concludes with three months of comedy films ranging from Charlie Chaplin to the "screwball" Nothing Sacred.

Iris Barry, Director of the Film Library who organized the series, comments on the programs as follows: "The new groupings under which the films appear here indicate innumerable avenues of study beyond those of the mere birth and development of the medium. Comparisons between film and literature or film and the drama can be illuminating in the extreme; while the program emphasizing music provides a new opportunity to consider the functions of composition. The film's ability to reflect fact is demonstrated in... 'History and Biography' and 'Documentary': both aspects have value to educators and to historians alike...."

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