

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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WEEK OF NEW GERMAN FILMS AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A satire on militarism, the East-West conflict, a Thomas Mann story and frustrated ambition are the themes of the four new German films selected so far by the Museum of Modern Art to be shown in the Museum Auditorium the week beginning October 23. Seven films in all will be chosen from the large number flown to this country through the cooperation of the Export-Union of the German Film Industry. All are expected to be released commercially in the near future.

The week of new films, the first concerted presentation of production of the now-emerging German film industry, will be inaugurated by a gala opening on October 23 at which The Captain from Koepenick will be shown to an invited audience. The German Ambassador, H. L. Krekeler, will be guest of honor. The topical Sky without Stars will be shown on October 24, Confessions of Felix Krull based on Mann's novel on October 25, and Reaching for the Stars, a juggler's tragic attempt to achieve unattainable perfection, on October 26. Other selections to be shown during the rest of that week will be announced shortly.

Following the unprecedented showing of such a large number of unreleased films prior to theater release, the Museum will present the most complete retrospective German film cycle ever held in this country. The films are being shown in connection with the major fall exhibition at the Museum, "German Art of the 20th Century."

The Captain from Koepenick (Der Hauptmann von Köpenick) (1956), called by Mr. Griffith "the most ambitious of post-war German films," was originally a stage classic by Carl Zuckmayer based on a true story of Imperial Germany. "This satiric comedy," says Mr. Griffith, "was both a silent and a sound film before. This greatly altered third version by Zuckmayer and Helmut Käutner departs radically. Although the old play was a spoof on German militarism, it contained nothing like this full-scale attack, at once savage and compassionate, on the regimentation of the old German society and its placing of rank above every human quality." In Eastmancolor, this Real Production features Heinz Rühmann, Hannelore Schroth, Martin Held and Erich Schellow.

Confessions of Felix Krull (Bekenntnisse des Hochstaplers Felix Krull), a second highlight of the German film week, is based on Thomas Mann's novel elaborated from his fragment of the early part of the century (1911) and published in its entirety shortly before his death. "It comes to the screen," says Mr. Griffith, "as a witty picaresque tale elaborating one of Mann's favorite themes, that the criminal

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and the artist are brothers under the skin. In this sparkling evocation of continental society on the eve of World War I, the young hero, brilliantly played by Horst Buchholz, owes his rise to success to his ability to pander to vice in the most impeccably respectable way." Produced by Filmaufbau, GmbH., Felix Krull stars Lisa Pulver, now under contract with Universal, Ingrid Andree, Susi Nicoletti and Paul Dahlke.

A theme of current immediacy, the shattering effect on human beings of a divided Germany, is treated in Sky Without Stars (Himmel ohne Sterne), written and directed by Helmut Käutner and produced by NDF. Eva Kotthaus, as a young worker in the East Zone, plays opposite Erik Schuman, a West Zone border policeman.

Schuman, again, in Reaching for the Stars (Griff nach den Sternen), another NDF production, appears as Turell, the world's greatest juggler, doomed by his pursuit of unattainable perfection. Carl-Heinz Schroth directed a cast including Lisa Pulver, Oliver Grimm, Ilse Werner and Sybil Werden.

All new films are provided by the Export-Union of the German Film Industry through its New York representative, Mr. Munio Podhorzer. Cooperation was extended by the Federal Republic of Germany, German Federal Railroads, and by Lufthansa German airlines.

A complete listing of the entire program "PAST AND PRESENT: A Selection of German Films, 1896 - 1957" will be available shortly.

For stills and additional information please contact Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. CI 5-8900