

11
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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film 301
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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART SHOWS OLYMPIA, FILM OF 1936 OLYMPIC GAMES

Olympia, Leni Riefenstahl's two-part film of the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin, will be presented at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. Part I will be shown December 19 - 21, Part II December 22 - 24; daily at 3 and 5:30, except for a 3 p.m. showing only on December 24. The Museum will be closed Christmas day.

As "Film Expert to the National Socialist Party," Miss Riefenstahl was given every conceivable facility for her record of the eleventh Olympic games. More than one hundred cameramen worked from pits dug between the running tracks, from suspended cranes, strapped to the sides of automobiles, and underwater. The director took a year and a half to edit the 1,300,000 feet of film shot into a final version of 21,000 feet. Issued in 1938 in four languages and several versions, Olympia is regarded as not only the finest film of sport ever created, but one of the truly great works in the medium.

Richard Griffith, Curator of the Film Library, regards Miss Riefenstahl as "a talent which we must, however reluctantly, recognize as one of the most brilliant ever to be concerned with films....Let it suffice to say that this woman's knowledge of the power of editing images was profound, nearly as profound as Pabst's or Eisenstein's. The scene she surveyed so powerfully was obliterated with the destruction of the swastika atop the stadium at Nuremberg by American artillery. But the ideological artillery of America has yet to demonstrate that it can destroy, by matching, the psychic world which she created out of nothing with camera and shears. Nazi Germany is no more, but the challenge stands."

Olympia is the current program in the series "Past and Present: a Selection of German Films, 1896 - 1957."

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