

TIGHT BINDING

THE NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL

LINCOLN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, INC.
WALKERS TRUST BUILDING BROADWAY AT 66TH STREET NEW YORK 23, N.Y. TRAFALGAR 7-2900

CABLE: LINCENARTS

Association with
The British Film Institute
The Museum of Modern Art

Cooperation with
Independent Film Importers and
Distributors of America, Inc.

Under the Patronage of
The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
The Honorable Robert F. Wagner

FOR RELEASE:

Monday, July 1, 1963

The initial selection of films to be shown at the first New York Film Festival was announced yesterday (Sunday, June 30, 1963) by William Schuman, president of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and René d'Harnoncourt, director of the Museum of Modern Art. The Festival will be held concurrently at Lincoln Center and the Museum from September 10 through 19.

"I Fidanzati" (The Fiancés), an Italian film directed by Ermanno Olmi and an award winner at the 1963 Cannes Film Festival, has been selected for the program to be held in Philharmonic Hall.

Luchino Visconti's classic "La Terra Trema" (1947), which has been hailed by critics in the international "Sight and Sound" magazine poll as one of the "ten best films of all time", will be shown at the Museum of Modern Art.

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For Lincoln Center: Bob Hale -- (home MO 2-8753)

Museum of Modern Art: Herbert Bronstein -- (home MU 5-8938)

In Philharmonic Hall, Lincoln Center will present twenty new feature-length films, as well as the year's best short subjects. These films are being selected by Richard Roud, Festival Organizer. Each film will receive a single showing, with two different programs scheduled each evening at 6:30 and 9:15.

The Museum of Modern Art, in its auditorium, will present ten programs from among distinguished films of the recent past which have never before been shown in New York. Each film will be shown twice daily during the afternoon. Richard Griffith, curator of the Museum's Film Library, is selecting the films representing this segment of the New York Film Festival.

"The Fiancés" was widely acclaimed at this year's Cannes Film Festival, where it won the Catholic Film Office Award. At the 1961 London Film Festival Mr. Olmi was awarded the Sutherland Trophy for his first major film, "Il Posto". The Trophy is awarded annually to "the maker of the most original and imaginative film introduced at the National Film Theater during the year."

"The Fiancés" is an example of contemporary cinema. The story concerns a long-engaged, working-class couple who are forced to separate for two years. The man is offered a job in Sicily with higher pay and a rise in status. The girl is at first reluctant to let him go, but the effect of their separation is to bring them closer together.

The conception of the film, however, is far from simple. Avoiding the traditional forms of narration, Mr. Olmi juggles with space and time; the film seems to be set in an eternal present, alternating between the man's exile in Sicily and the girl's long wait in the North.

Festival Coordinator Amos Vogel said, "The names of Olmi, Griffi, Pasolini and Petri, although well-known in Europe as representatives of the 'new Italian cinema', are relatively unknown in America. By presenting Olmi's 'The Fiancés', the New York Film Festival introduces -- and provides recognition for -- a significant new trend in contemporary cinema".

"La Terra Trema" represents an earlier example of the Italian cinema. Begun as a documentary, and developing into a nearly three-hour study of character and social background, Mr. Visconti's film tells the story of the ruin of a family of Sicilian fishermen in the "neo-realistic" approach epitomizing the school of Italian filmmaking which startled the world after World War II.

Richard Griffith, Curator of the Museum's Film Library, said, "As stated above, the Museum's part of the New York Film Festival will be devoted primarily to distinguished films of the recent past which have never been shown here. This limitation, however, will be elastic; so many important films from virtually every film-producing company have by now backed up behind the dam that it seems imperative to use the occasion of the Festival to introduce at least some of these, whatever their age, to a public which has read and

heard about them but has been deprived of an opportunity to see them.

"'La Terra Trema' heads the list of such films. This world-famous picture has exerted searching and long-lived influence not only upon Visconti's fellow Italian film-makers, but upon film artists wherever it has been shown. It is by now also a major yardstick in the critical histories of the film. It is with pride that we at long last lift the veil."

New York's first international film festival will be presented by Lincoln Center and the Museum of Modern Art, in association with the British Film Institute, and with the cooperation of the Independent Film Importers and Distributors of America, Inc.