

The Museum of Modern Art

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ONE MONTH RETROSPECTIVE OF OTTO PREMINGER AT MUSEUM

Independent producer - director Otto Preminger, known for his controversial subjects and unconventional choice of actors, has in his filmography 35 films, of which 27 will comprise a one-month retrospective showing at The Museum of Modern Art. The retrospective will begin Friday, November 26, preceding the American premiere in New York of "Such Good Friends," his latest film.

The best known works by Preminger, recently extolled by Cahiers du Cinema as one of its rediscovered auteurs, are: "Margin for Error," "Laura," "Carmen Jones," "The Man With the Golden Arm," "Anatomy of a Murder," "Porgy and Bess," "Exodus" and "The Cardinal." Formerly a director for Max Reinhardt, Preminger was also an actor. He acted in and directed Broadway plays before emigrating to Hollywood.

One of many Preminger cinema cause celebres was his selection of an unknown girl from the midwest, Jean Seberg, to play Joan of Arc. Another was his use of racy dialogue in "The Moon is Blue," which was played on Broadway and released nationally despite the refusal of the Motion Picture Association to grant it a seal. The case went to the Supreme Court.

Other unprecented coups in his career include the formation, as early as 1951, of his own company, establishing himself as an independent producer - director; the use of such thematic material as drug addiction ("The Man With the Golden Arm") and homosexuality ("Advise and Consent"); and non-conformist casting, such as then unknowns Clifton Webb and Dana Andrews in "Laura," the all-black cast of "Carmen Jones" (Dorothy Dandridge, Harry Belafonte and Pearl Bailey), and Academy Award nominees Maggie MacNamara ("The Moon Is Blue"), Frank Sinatra ("The Man With the Golden Arm"), James Stewart ("Anatomy of a Murder") and Sal Mineo ("Exodus"). His most unique and effective casting was prominent attorney Joseph N. Welch, known for his brilliant prosecution of Senator Joseph McCarthy, as a lawyer in "Anatomy of a Murder." The latest Preminger project is a two-hour television film "Open Question," written by attorney Louis Nizer and produced, directed and starring Preminger.

Otto Preminger was born in Vienna in 1906. The son of a lawyer, he pursued a dual career

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in his early years -- the law and the theatre, acting in and staging plays and even forming his own company while completing his law studies at the University of Vienna. At 22, he was hired by Max Reinhardt to be a producer-director of the Theater in der Josefstadt, where he staged a variety of plays and directed such actresses as Hedy Lamarr and Luise Rainer.

Preminger came to the United States in 1935 and staged the play "Libel" for Gilbert Miller on Broadway. He then went to Hollywood where he directed two films and returned to Broadway, where he worked until 1941, at which time he signed a long-term contract with 20th Century-Fox. His first major film milestone was "Laura," the 1944 mystery drama starring Gene Tierney. The film earned the praise of critics and an Academy Award nomination for Preminger as Best Director.

Preminger has remained a controversial filmmaker, about whom there is a variety of critical opinion. In an article in Film Comment, Andrew Sarris noted: "As Dwight MacDonald might put it, what's art to Preminger or Preminger to art? Preminger's champions on Movie and Cahiers du Cinema would retort that Preminger's art is of the highest order."

The schedule of the Otto Preminger retrospective follows; all films are directed by Preminger.
Friday, November 26 (2:00, 5:30): MARGIN FOR ERROR. 1943. With Milton Berle, Joan Bennett, Otto Preminger. 74 min.

Saturday, November 27 (3:00, 5:30): FALLEN ANGEL. 1945. With Alice Faye, Dana Andrews, Linda Darnell. 97 min.

Sunday, November 28 (2:00, 5:30): DAISY KENYON. 1947. With Joan Crawford, Dana Andrews, Henry Fonda. Gift of Otto Preminger. 99 min.

Monday, November 29 (1:00): FALLEN ANGEL (see Saturday, November 27).

Tuesday, November 30 (5:30): CENTENNIAL SUMMER. 1946. Music by Jerome Kern. With Linda Darnell, Jeanne Crain, Cornel Wilde. 103 min.

Wednesday, December 1 (2:00): THE MOON IS BLUE (German version). 1953. With Hardy Kruger. No subtitles. 99 min.

Wednesday, December 1 (5:30): THE MOON IS BLUE. 1953. With Maggie MacNamara, William Holden, David Niven. 99 min.

Thursday, December 2 (2:00, 8:00): WHIRLPOOL. 1949. With Gene Tierney, Jose Ferrer. 97 min.

Thursday, December 2 (5:30): THE THIRTEENTH LETTER. 1950. With Linda Darnell, Charles Boyer, Michael Rennie. 85 min.

Friday, December 3 (2:00, 5:30): WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS. 1950. With Dana Andrews, Gene Tierney. 95 min.

Saturday, December 4 (3:00, 5:30): ANGEL FACE. 1952. With Robert Mitchum, Jean Simmons. 90

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Sunday, December 5 (2:00, 5:30): LAURA. 1944. With Gene Tierney, Dana Andrews, Clifton Webb. 88 min.

Monday, December 6 (1:00): LAURA (see Sunday, December 5).

Wednesday, December 8 (2:00, 5:30): RIVER OF NO RETURN. 1953 - 54. With Robert Mitchum, Marilyn Monroe. 91 min.

Thursday, December 9

- (2:00) THE COURT - MARTIAL OF BILLY MITCHELL. 1955. With Gary Cooper, Rod Steiger.
- (5:30) CARMEN JONES. 1954. With Dorothy Dandridge, Harry Belafonte, Pearl Baily. 107 min.
- (8:00) TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME, JUNIE MOON. 1970. With Liza Minelli, Ken Howard, Robert Moore, James Coco. 112 min.

Friday, December 10

- (2:00) SAINT JOAN. 1957. With Jean Seberg, Richard Todd, Richard Widmark. 110 min.
- (5:30) ANATOMY OF A MURDER. 1959. With James Stewart, Lee Remick, Ben Gazzara. 160 min.

Saturday, December 11 (3:00, 5:30): BONJOUR TRISTESSE. 1957. With Jean Seberg, Deborah Kerr, David Niven. 93 min.

Sunday, December 12 (2:00, 5:30): THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN ARM. 1955. With Frank Sinatra, Kim Novak, Eleanor Parker. 119 min.

Monday, December 13 (1:00): BUNNY LAKE IS MISSING. 1965. With Carol Lynley, Keir Dullea, Laurence Olivier, Noël Coward. 107 min.

Tuesday, December 14 (5:30): FOREVER AMBER. 1947. With Linda Darnell, Cornell Wilde. 140 min.

Wednesday, December 15 (2:00, 5:30): ADVISE AND CONSENT. 1962. With Henry Fonda, Charles Laughton, Don Murray, Franchot Tone. 140 min.

Thursday, December 16

- (2:00) THE CARDINAL. 1963. With Tom Tryon, Carol Lynley, Dorothy Gish. 176 min.
- (5:30) SAINT JOAN (see Friday, December 10).
- (8:00) ANATOMY OF A MURDER (see Friday, December 10).

Friday, December 17

- (2:00) CARMEN JONES (see Thursday, December 9).
- (5:30) IN HARM'S WAY. 1964. With John Wayne, Kirk Douglas, Patricia Neal. 165 min.

Saturday, December 18 (3:00): EXODUS. 1960. With Paul Newman, Eva Marie Saint. 212 min.

Sunday, December 19

- (2:00) PORGY AND BESS. 1958. With Sidney Poitier, Sammy Davis, Jr., Pearl Bailey. 136 min.
- (5:30) SKIDOO. 1968. With Jackie Gleason, Carol Channing, Groucho Marx. 97 min.

Monday, December 20(1:00): SKIDOO (see Sunday, December 19).

Wednesday, December 22

- (2:00) HURRY SUNDOWN. 1967. With Michael Caine, Jane Fonda. 142 min.
- (5:30) BUNNY LAKE IS MISSING (see Monday, December 13).

Thursday, December 23

- (2:00, 5:30) TELL ME THAT YOU LOVE ME, JUNIE MOON (see Thursday, December 9).
- (8:00) CENTENNIAL SUMMER (see Tuesday, November 30).

 Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, and Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Tel: (212) 956 - 7296.