

THE FILMS OF STANLEY KUBRICK AT MUSEUM

The films of Stanley Kubrick, starting with one of his earliest directorial efforts, "Killer's Kiss" (1955), will be shown in a ten-day retrospective, covering 13 years in the career of the maverick film director, whose latest work is "A Clockwork Orange." The Museum series, beginning December 24, includes seven films, among them "Paths of Glory," Kubrick's first major film, and his recent picture, the most discussed in years, "2001: A Space Odyssey."

Stanley Kubrick's reputation as an independent, controversial and talented filmmaker reached its culmination with the space epic "2001," on which he worked for five years. "2001" proceeds from the origins of man to speculations on his destiny; from the beginnings of knowledge to its ultimate consequences; and ranges from the physical and scientific to the metaphysical and mystical.

The two Kubrick films preceding "2001" -- "Lolita" and "Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" -- were also ambitious and controversial. "Lolita" (1961) brought to the screen Vladimir Nabokov's well-known novel of a middle-aged man's desire for a young girl. While Nabokov did the screenplay, certain changes were made in the transition from novel to film, although it was considered as provocative a film as it was a novel.

"Dr. Strangelove," a strongly satirical attack on the follies of nuclear armament and the military mentality, was called by Bosley Crowther, erstwhile New York Times film critic, "the most shattering sick joke I've ever come across." Lauded for its humor and boldness, the film seemed nevertheless to go too far for at least one critic in its satire on the defense establishment and, for another critic, to be slightly outdated by world events. Subsequent developments, however, suggest that perhaps these criticisms were premature.

Stanley Kubrick, now 43 years old, entered films in his early 20s, after a short but successful career as a still photographer for Look Magazine. His first film effort was a short documentary on boxing which he followed, at the age of 25, with an independently-made feature, "Fear and Desire." Two years later, in 1955, he made "Killer's Kiss," the earliest work in the Museum program. This low-key, off-beat melodrama was directed, written, photographed, edited and

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co-produced by Kubrick, and total production cost for the film was only \$40,000.

Kubrick made two more feature films before he turned 30 -- an uncommon feat even in this day of the young director. "The Killing" (1956) was an imaginative crime story for which the director also wrote the screenplay, from Lionel White's novel "Clean Break." This was followed by "Paths of Glory" (1957), co-authored and directed by Kubrick. The latter is a savage anti-war film based on an actual incident from World War I -- the court-martial and execution of three French soldiers for cowardice.

Also to be shown at the Museum is "Spartacus" (1960), a three-hour spectacle based on Howard Fast's novel and written for the screen by Dalton Trumbo. In this film, Kubrick depicted the great slave rebellion in pre-Christian Rome. The director has covered two millenia in slightly over a decade, but as Penelope Gilliatt, critic of The New Yorker, wrote of "2001," it was "made by a man who truly possesses the drives of both science and fiction." Miss Gilliatt called "2001" not only "hideously funny" but also "uniquely poetic."

The schedule of The Films of Stanley Kubrick follows:

- Friday, December 24 (2:00): KILLER'S KISS. 1955. With Frank Silvera, Jamie Smith. 64 min.
- Sunday, December 26 (2:00): THE KILLING. 1956. With Sterling Hayden, Jay C. Flippen. 83 min.
- Sunday, December 26 (5:30): KILLER'S KISS (see Friday, December 24).
- Monday, December 27 (1:00): THE KILLING (see Sunday, December 26).
- Tuesday, December 28 (5:30): PATHS OF GLORY. 1957. With Kirk Douglas, Ralph Meeker, Adolphe Menjou. 80 min.
- Wednesday, December 29 (2:00): PATHS OF GLORY (see Tuesday, December 28).
- Wednesday, December 29 (5:30): SPARTACUS. 1960. With Kirk Douglas, Laurence Olivier, Jean Simmons, Charles Laughton, Peter Ustinov. 196 min.
- Thursday, December 30 (2:00): SPARTACUS (see Wednesday, December 29).
- Thursday, December 30 (7:00): LOLITA. 1961. With James Mason, Sue Lyon, Shelley Winters, Peter Sellers. 153 min.
- Friday, December 31 (2:00): LOLITA (see Thursday, December 30).
- Saturday, January 1 (3:00, 5:30): DR. STRANGELOVE OR HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE BOMB. 1964. With Peter Sellers. 94 min.
- Sunday, January 2 (2:00, 5:30): 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY. 1968. With Keir Dullea, Gary Lockwood. 141 min.
- Monday, January 3 (1:00): PATHS OF GLORY (see Tuesday, December 28).
- Tuesday, January 4 (5:30): THE KILLING (see Sunday, December 26).

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.