

The Museum of Modern Art

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JEAN RENOIR MUSEUM HONORS RENOIR ON 80th BIRTHDAY

As a tribute to the veteran film director and Papa of French films Jean Renoir, The Museum of Modern Art will celebrate the 80th birthday of the revered and acclaimed motion picture director.

On Tuesday, September 17, at 2:00 p.m., the Museum will present La Chienne, a 1931 Renoir, with Michel Simon; a later film, made in 1953, The Golden Coach, starring the Italian actress Anna Magnani, will be shown at 5:30 p.m. the same day. The following day at noon, A Day in the Country, from the Guy de Maupassant short story, is scheduled. A Day in the Country, which comes from Contemporary/McGraw-Hill Films, will have English subtitles. The Golden Coach will be shown in its English version, while La Chienne will be seen in an untitled version drawn from the Museum's Collection.

Writing about Renoir in The New Yorker, Penelope Gilliatt observes: "Renoir tells us the truth, with sagacity and piercing insight. His people expose their spirits to us. Just as his great father loved women for baring their bodies, Jean Renoir loves his characters for the immodesty of baring their souls."

The director has been a friend of The Museum of Modern Art for many years, notes Margareta Ackermarck, Acting Director of the Department of Film. "Renoir, whenever he was in New York, would stop in to visit us. He encouraged us in our program of film preservation, which of course includes some of his own masterpieces. Our collection is all the richer for our Renoir films."

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