

The Museum of Modern Art

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THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES MAKES GRANT TO THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

THE FIRST "NEH LEARNING MUSEUM" PROGRAM

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a grant of \$347,763 to The Museum of Modern Art to initiate a three-year "NEH Learning Museum" program devoted to film studies. The announcement was made today by Ted Perry, Director of the Museum's Department of Film and by Ronald S. Berman, Chairman of the National Endowment.

In announcing the program, to be called "Looking at Film," Mr. Berman pointed out that the grant was made to the Museum under the National Endowment for the Humanities new Cultural Institutions Program. "It is an innovative national program designed to help cultural institutions such as museums and libraries provide sustained and systematic humanities education in their communities." The grant to The Museum of Modern Art, he said, is the first to be made to a museum.

In his acknowledgment of the grant Ted Perry commented, "Over the next three years, the Department of Film will offer to the general public a number of courses in which the motion picture is treated as an object worthy of serious study. 'Looking at Film,' will explore the visual and conceptual aspects of the motion picture medium. Well-informed teachers will provide the general public with the means to think about the motion picture, not only as entertainment but also as a personal medium in which a number of artists have worked diligently to express their own vision."

Mr. Perry named Scott Nygren, formerly of the State University of New York at Buffalo, as Coordinator of the "Looking at Film" program.

The four courses to be offered in 1976-77 are: "The Narrative Film: Changes in Form and Style" with Frank Daniel as instructor; "The Essence of

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Cinema," to be taught by Peter Kubelka; "Antonioni: The Artist As Thinker," conducted by William Arrowsmith; and "The Documentary Impulse," a course under James Blue's direction. The first course, "The Narrative Film," will be held on eight weekend evenings in November. Frank Daniel, former head of the Prague Film School, former Dean of the American Film Institute's Center for Advanced Film Study and now Henry Luce Professor of Creative Arts at Carleton College in Minnesota, will present an extensive analysis of four films by Hawks, Hitchcock, Bergman and Fellini in order to reveal basic methods of dramatic film construction. Traditional uses of film narrative will be contrasted with changes in style and form that developed before and after 1960.

Designed to enlarge the Museum's film study activities, the new program will consist of regular courses open to the general public for a \$10.00 fee. Admission is open on a first come first served basis and a prior film education is not required.

According to statistics from the American Film Institute, over 30,000 students are currently enrolled nationwide in 800 college courses on film, but such courses have, for the most part, only become available in the last decade. "Looking at Film," offering in its first year, courses on narrative, documentary and independent film, has been planned to compensate for this earlier lack of in-depth historical and theoretical film study. It will draw on the Museum's unique resources: an extensive archival collection of approximately 8,000 films and the physical facilities to enable extensive film viewing and study. The Museum has had a forty-year experience in preserving and presenting the motion picture as an art form. It was responsible for establishing one of the world's first film archives, and today it has a Film Study Center and a research library available to historians, authors, scholars and teachers.

Additional information available from Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator or Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019. Tel. 956-7296; 7295.