

160

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

39-1185 87
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, announces that beginning Monday, November 27, it will present a new series of film programs entitled Non-Fiction Films. These have been arranged by the Museum's Film Library in collaboration with the Association of Documentary Film Producers. The twelve programs which comprise the series will run on successive days from November 27, 1939 through January 6, 1940 and will be given in the auditorium of the Museum at four o'clock daily and at two o'clock and four o'clock on Sunday afternoons. As is usual for Museum film showings, there will be no charge. The admission fee to the Museum admits visitors to the film showings.

The series will include such classics among travel films as Nanook of the North, Chang, The Wedding of Palo and ~~Dark Rapture~~ and, in addition, a wide selection from recent documentary films such as The River, Spanish Earth and The Song of Ceylon. One entire program is devoted to films on housing - they include the recently made American The City, the English Housing Problems and the Belgian Maisons de la Misère.

Another program, under the general title of "History in The Making," groups together the March of Time's film on the League of Nations, China Strikes Back (a document on the Chinese Eighth Route Army), Crisis (covering events in Czechoslovakia prior to the German occupation) and a sensational new English documentary The Warning, designed to prepare and instruct the English public in air-raid precautions, but doing so in vivid fashion with enacted scenes showing an air-raid and its effects. Yet another program is given over wholly to fine examples of instructional films, such as Professor Julian Huxley's beautiful, nature-study picture The Private Life of the Gannets.

The programs have been arranged at this time to give professors, publicists and others most particularly interested an opportunity of viewing them during the vacation period. Both in dealing with fact, in representing causes and opinions, in emphasizing public services performed by government or industry the films being shown cover an extremely wide range of material which includes the controversial and the tragic as well as much of rare beauty and excitement.

Many of these films have generously been loaned for these special showings though many are drawn from the Museum of Modern Art Film Library's archives and circulating programs. The forty odd films included have been culled from many lands and provide a generous survey of the documentary film, its ancestors and allies, in which today there is keen interest. The programs conclude with Warner Brothers' Confessions of a Nazi Spy, an entertainment film in which dramatic material based on contemporary events is presented in documentary technique.

In the foreword to the program note Richard Griffith writes: "The effort of the documentary movement all over the world today is chiefly that of enlisting the interest of the citizen in public affairs. By dramatizing public issues in terms of human need, the documentary film endeavors to show each individual how the great impersonal forces of the modern world affect his life, and thereby persuade him to accept the responsibilities of citizenship. That this dramatic method of bridging the gap between the citizen and the community now meets a widespread need is shown by the rapid growth of interest in the documentary movement. In America the production of documentary films has doubled and trebled in recent years, and an increasing number of subjects has been treated."

The programs from November 27 through December 4 will be as follows:

- Nov. 27 "Nanook of the North"
"Kino-Pravda" (excerpt only)
"Potemkin" (excerpt only)
- Nov. 28 "The Covered Wagon" (excerpt only)
"Rien que les Heures"
"Berlin, the Symphony of a Great City"
(excerpt only)
"The Bridge"
- Nov. 29 "The Plow that Broke the Plains"
"Night Mail"
"The Spanish Earth"

- Nov. 30 "In Seville"
"90° South" (excerpt only)
"Chang"
- Dec. 1 "The Private Life of the Gannets"
"The Sea Horse"
"Underground Farmers"
"Röntgenstrahlen"
"The Transfer of Power"
"Getting Your Money's Worth: Used Cars"
- Dec. 2 Two short newsreels on New York Housing
Projects
"Housing Problems"
"Les Maisons de la Misère"
"The City"
- Dec. 3 "Sharecroppers"
"The Wave"
"People of the Cumberland"
- Dec. 4 "Father of all Turks"
"Enough to Eat?"
"The Case of Charlie Gordon"
"The River"