

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MoMA TO HOST THE 41ST CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF FILM ARCHIVES, APRIL 29 THROUGH MAY 3

Delegates from forty different film archives in thirty nations will come to The Museum of Modern Art to attend the 41st annual congress of FIAF, the Fédération Internationale des Archives du Film. This year's congress will begin on April 29 with an opening address by Frank Hodson, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, who will discuss the Endowment's support of film archives and film preservation over the NEA's 20-year history.

The 1985 congress is being held at the Museum in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Department of Film, which was one of FIAF's four founding members, with the British Film Institute, the Cinémathèque Française, and the Reichsfilmarchiv in Berlin. Organized in 1938, FIAF has as its mission the preservation of the international cultural heritage of the moving image. Events at the 41st congress will include a General Assembly of delegates, a symposium on the preservation of Technicolor, a seminar on film cataloguing and the use of computers in film archive work, and a symposium on silent American slapstick comedy, including screenings of rediscoveries in the genre. In recognition of this year's chosen area of film scholarship, the logo for the 41st annual FIAF congress is a man slipping on a banana peel.

During the General Assembly, delegates will co-ordinate their work in film preservation, exchange information, and plan the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images, adopted by UNESCO in Belgrade in 1980. In particular, the delegates will discuss plans for statistical analysis of film preservation work and lists of members' holdings of unstable nitrate film stock; other topics on the agenda are members' publications on film and video preservation, film cataloguing, and film documentation, a review of the work of FIAF's specialized commissions in these areas, discussions of regional seminars and summer schools for the training of archivists, and plans for future symposiums on archival technology.

The seminar on Cataloguing and the Computer will include an overview of the principles of film cataloguing, incorporate discussion of the latest publications of FIAF's Cataloguing Commission, and feature demonstrations of MoMA's personal

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computer system for cataloguing its extensive collection of motion pictures. The Technicolor Symposium should result in the publication of recommendations for procedures for the preservation of films made in the Technicolor process.

The finale of the congress, the Slapstick Symposium, will take place on May 2 and May 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2. There will also be screenings of slapstick in the theater from 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. on May 1 and May 2. Although the congress is closed to the public, a limited number of tickets will be available to the press for the Slapstick Symposium and the screenings. In addition, there will be a press conference at the Museum at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3, for the newly elected officers of FIAF's Executive Committee.

The Department of Film is serving as host for the 41st annual FIAF congress through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Department would also like to acknowledge the generosity of the New York State Council on the Arts, the United States Information Agency, the Preservation Commission of FIAF, Pine-wood Foundation, and the International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

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For further press information, including reservations for the press conference and Slapstick Symposium, please contact Stuart Klawans, Film Press Representative, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019 (212) 708-9752.
