

The Museum of Modern Art Department of Film

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#45

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1935-1985: 50 YEARS OF FILM AT MoMA

Four-Part Exhibition Marks 50th Anniversary of Department of Film

In June 1935, The Museum of Modern Art began an unprecedented program for an art museum: It started to collect and exhibit motion pictures. What was an experiment then has long since become an institution; today, the Department of Film maintains an archive of almost 10,000 films, a year-round exhibition program in two theaters, a circulating film library, a film stills archive with some 4 million photographs, a study center for students and scholars, and a video program.

With the arrival of its 50th anniversary this summer, the Department of Film has occasion to look back and celebrate. Starting June 28, the Department will present a special, four-part exhibition, 50 YEARS OF FILM AT MoMA, running in the Museum's Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters through September 29.

The first section of the series, on view through July 15, is a selection of 16 memorable American films released in 1935. According to Stephen Harvey, the organizer of the exhibition, these films "give a sense of the climate in which the Department of Film was inaugurated. Hollywood faced the mid-Thirties in a renewed spirit of confidence. The technical uncertainties of the early sound period had been surmounted, and the worst of the Depression's impact on the film industry had receded. This program pays tribute to the skill and diversity of Hollywood's output of a half century ago."

Opening the exhibition are George Stevens's poignant study of small-town American life, Alice Adams, and the shimmering film version of A Midsummer Night's Dream, the one movie made in this country by the famed German stage director, Max Reinhardt. Among the other highlights of Films From 1935 will be Leo McCarey's Ruggles of Red Gap; Mutiny on the Bounty, one of the most intelligent epics of its era; The Devil Is a Woman, the final and most resplendent collaboration between Josef von Sternberg and Marlene Dietrich; and Naughty Marietta, which initiated MGM's series of Jeanette MacDonald-Nelson Eddy operettas. In keeping with its tradition of presenting rarely seen films along with acknowledged classics, the Department will also show such works as King Vidor's touching The Wedding Night, starring Gary Cooper and Anna Sten, and Archie Mayo's Bordertown, one of Warner Bros.'s characteristically vital social melodramas, featuring a rare teaming of Paul Muni and Bette Davis.

Subsequent sections of 50 YEARS OF FILM AT MoMA will be a reprise of the first programs organized for public screenings by the Department's founding curator, Iris Barry; a tribute to independent American narrative filmmakers of the 1950s and 60s; and an informal and highly eclectic survey of international cinema over the last decade.

1935-1985: 50 YEARS OF FILM AT MoMA has been organized by Stephen Harvey, assistant curator in the Department of Film, with special assistance by Adrienne Mancia, curator. Jon Gartenberg, assistant curator in the Film Archive, has programmed the salute to American independent film, and Laurence Kardish, curator, has assisted with the survey of international film 1974-1984. The Department of Film would like to thank MCA-Universal, MGM/UA, RKO Pictures, a GenCorp Co., The Samuel Goldwyn Company, 20th Century-Fox, UCLA Film Archives, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for their assistance and co-operation in organizing Films From 1935.

For further information, the public may call (212) 708-9500. For a recorded announcement of the day's screenings: (212) 708-9490.

June 1985

PLEASE NOTE: A complete schedule for Films From 1935 is attached. Schedule is subject to change without notice. Schedules for the other programs in 50 YEARS OF FILM AT MoMA will be issued throughout the summer.

For further PRESS information, please contact the Department of Public Information,
The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019 (212) 708-9750.

SCHEDULE

1935-1985: 50 YEARS OF FILM AT MoMA

- Fri. 6/28 3:00 Alice Adams. 1935. George Stevens. With Katharine Hepburn, Fred MacMurray, Fred Stone. 100 min.
- 6:30 A Midsummer Night's Dream. 1935. Max Reinhardt and William Dieterle. With James Cagney, Dick Powell, Olivia de Havilland, Joe E. Brown, Anita Louise, Mickey Rooney. 132 min.
- Sat. 6/29 2:30 A Midsummer Night's Dream.
- 5:30 David Copperfield. 1935. George Cukor. With W.C. Fields, Freddie Bartholomew, Lionel Barrymore, Maureen O'Sullivan. 133 min.
- Sun. 6/30 2:30 Ruggles of Red Gap. 1935. Leo McCarey. With Charles Laughton, Roland Young, Mary Boland, Charlie Ruggles. 90 min.
- 5:30 Mutiny on the Bounty. 1935. Frank Lloyd. With Clark Gable, Charles Laughton, Franchot Tone, Movita. 131 min.
- Mon. 7/1 3:00 David Copperfield.
- 6:30 The Devil Is a Woman. 1935. Josef von Sternberg. With Marlene Dietrich, Lionel Atwill, Cesar Romero. 76 min.
- Tue. 7/2 3:00 The Devil Is a Woman.
- 6:30 Mutiny on the Bounty.
- Thu. 7/4 3:00 Ruggles of Red Gap.
- 6:30 Private Worlds. 1935. Gregory LaCava. With Claudette Colbert, Charles Boyer, Joel McCrea, Joan Bennett. 80 min.
- Fri. 7/5 3:00 Private Worlds.
- 6:30 Alice Adams.
- Sat. 7/6 2:30 Captain Blood. 1935. Michael Curtiz. With Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Basil Rathbone. 119 min.
- 5:30 The Wedding Night. 1935. King Vidor. With Gary Cooper, Anna Sten, Helen Vinson. 81 min.
- Sun. 7/7 2:30 Naughty Marietta. 1935. W.S. Van Dyke. With Jeanette MacDonald, Nelson Eddy. 105 min.
- 5:30 Bordertown. 1935. Archie Mayo. With Paul Muni, Bette Davis, Margaret Lindsay. 89 min.

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SCHEDULE

- Mon. 7/8 3:00 Captain Blood.
 6:30 The Good Fairy. 1935. William Wyler. With Margaret Sullavan,
 Herbert Marshall, Frank Morgan. 98 min.
- Tue. 7/9 3:00 The Good Fairy.
 6:30 The Wedding Night.
- Thu. 7/11 3:00 Naughty Marietta.
 6:30 Hands Across the Table. 1935. Mitchell Leisen. With Carole
 Lombard, Fred MacMurray, Ralph Bellamy, Marie Prevost. 81 min.
- Fri. 7/12 3:00 Hands Across the Table.
 6:30 Bordertown.
- Sat. 7/13 2:30 The Bride of Frankenstein. 1935. James Whale. With Colin
 Clive, Boris Karloff, Elsa Lanchester, Valerie Hobson. 73 min.
 5:30 Steamboat 'Round the Bend. 1935. John Ford. With Will Rogers,
 Anne Shirley, Stepin Fetchit. 90 min.
- Sun. 7/14 2:30 The Little Colonel. 1935. David Butler. With Shirley Temple,
 Lionel Barrymore, Bill Robinson. 80 min.
 5:30 Steamboat 'Round the Bend.
- Mon. 7/15 3:00 The Bride of Frankenstein.
 6:30 The Little Colonel.

Schedule is subject to change without notice. For best information, please phone (212) 708-9490 on the day of the screening.

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