

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
June 1988

FIAF 50 YEARS
June 20 - 30, 1988

Opening June 20 at The Museum of Modern Art, FIAF 50 YEARS commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF). The series of newly restored films demonstrates the commitment of archives around the world to safeguarding and restoring the cultural heritage of the moving image.

Among the films to be presented are a recently discovered silent version of Alfred Hitchcock's Blackmail (1929), restored by the National Film Archive, London; a hand-colored print of La Vie de Jesu (1904), produced Pathé Frère and restored by Oesterreichisches Filmarchiv, Vienna; Mysteries of a Barber's Salon (1922), codirected by Bertolt Brecht and restored by the Staaliches Filmarchiv der DDR, Berlin; Humoresque (1920), directed by Frank Borzage and restored by the UCLA Film and Television Archive, Los Angeles; and Ernst Lubitsch's Lady Windermere's Fan (1925), restored by the Film Department of The Museum of Modern Art.

Eileen Bowser, curator, The Museum of Modern Art's Department of Film and FIAF representative, states "We want to call attention to fifty years of international cooperation in film preservation with the showing of some remarkable films that probably would not have survived without the efforts of FIAF's member archives. In addition, we are very proud that the founders of The Museum's Film Department were also founders of FIAF."

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The International Federation of Film Archives was formed in 1938 with four charter members: The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the National Film Archive, London; the Cinémathèque Française; and the Reichsfilmarchiv, Berlin (no longer in operation). FIAF's membership has grown to fifty-three full members and twenty observing members, representing every continent in the world. The aims of its membership are to conserve and collect films for aesthetic and historic reasons, to facilitate the international exchange of film, and to provide documentation relating to cinemagraphic history and preservation.

Following The Museum's inaugural showing, FIAF 50 YEARS travels to member archives in North and South America. A second part of the series, currently traveling throughout Europe, will be seen in the United States at a later date. FIAF 50 YEARS has been organized by Eileen Bowser, curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

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No. 61

For further information and film stills contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.