

American MovieMakers

For Immediate Release
November 1989

FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION "American MovieMakers: Directed by Vincente Minnelli"

DATES December 15, 1989 - January 28, 1990

ORGANIZATION Stephen Harvey, Associate Curator, Department of Film,
The Museum of Modern Art

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CONTENT During the course of his singular directorial career, Vincente Minnelli (1903-86) reconciled his strong allegiance to the Hollywood studio tradition with his own idiosyncratic vision. He was under contract to MGM for twenty-six years, mastering the genres of the musical, the melodrama, and the sophisticated comedy. This major retrospective, presenting the thirty-four feature films Minnelli made between 1943 and 1976, is part of the two-part "American MovieMakers" series, which includes "The Dawn of Sound."

Minnelli came to Hollywood in 1940 from a career on Broadway as a set designer and director of musicals. His signature film style developed out of his inventive use of the Technicolor palette, lushly stylized sets, and fluid camera movement. Although widely known as a master of musicals, including Meet Me in St. Louis (1944), An American in Paris (1951), The Band Wagon (1953), and Gigi (1958), for which he received a best director Oscar, his versatility with other genres has often been ignored. Minnelli also directed a series of successful comedies, including Father of the Bride (1950) and Designing Woman (1957); and melodramas, such as Madame Bovary (1949), The Bad and The Beautiful (1953), and Lust for Life (1956).

As part of this program, the Museum, in collaboration with George Eastman House and Turner Entertainment Co., has completed the preservation of Meet Me in St. Louis from the original Technicolor materials. Turner has additionally cooperated with every aspect of the retrospective.

GALLERY EXHIBITION A gallery exhibition of film-still enlargements, posters, and memorabilia has been organized by Mary Corliss, assistant curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art.

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The Museum of Modern Art

- PUBLICATION Directed by Vincente Minnelli, by Stephen Harvey, is the first comprehensive examination of the director's career and includes critical essays on each of his feature films. Foreword by Liza Minnelli. 320 pages and over 150 black-and-white and 50 color illustrations. Published by The Museum of Modern Art and Harper & Row. Clothbound, \$29.95.
- SYMPOSIUM A symposium titled "Minnelli and the Musical" takes place at the Museum on January 28. Speakers and time to be announced.
- TRAVEL After its New York showing, the exhibition travels to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (summer 1990).

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