

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

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ITALIAN STRAW HAT AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Italian Straw Hat (1927) will be shown June 23 - 26 at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, in the summer series, "Sixty Years of French Film."

The film - considered the most celebrated European silent comedy - is based on a light farce by Eugène Labiche and Marc Michel which first appeared in 1851. The original "Un Chapeau de Paille d'Italie" has been the delight of both critics and public. The philosopher Henri Bergson used it to illustrate his theory of the comic in situations. Revived continuously by both amateur and professional groups, it was notably staged as recently as 1936 by Orson Welles for the Federal Theater Project as "Horse Eats Hat".

René Clair, writer and director of the film version, moved the period up to the turn of the century. Costumed and set in the fashions of that time, which appear so delightfully ridiculous today, the acting is based on exaggerations of typical French gestures and mannerisms.

In expressing his conviction that "the function of the cinema is to teach us to look," what Clair shows us is human nature at its funniest and most endearing.

There will be two showings each afternoon, at 3 and 5:30.

For further information please contact Herbert Bronstein, Assistant Publicity Director, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York City. Circle 5-8900.