

The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

THE FILMS OF CARL DREYER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From September 27 through October 28, The Museum of Modern Art will present 17 films, dating from 1918 to 1955, by the Danish-born director, Carl Theodor Dreyer. This series makes possible a new assessment of Dreyer's reputation, since only three of his 13 feature films are familiar to Americans: JEANNE D'ARC (1928), DAY OF WRATH (1943) and ORDET (1955). All of Dreyer's fiction films and documentaries have been preserved by the Danish Film Museum in Copenhagen, which has loaned them to the Museum.

As Eileen Bowser, director of the exhibition, states in the accompanying catalog, "Dreyer has been admired for his seriousness and his single-mindedness. Yet we see now that his career has embraced many different kinds of film....The present exhibition, by restoring the early films to the screen, shows us a richer, more versatile, and perhaps a happier Carl Dreyer."

In Dreyer's early films are found elements of the themes he was to develop: suffering, evil, horror and compassion; and, through all, an element of comic. Mrs. Bowser points out that these early films "show that he has not always insisted on the slow deliberate pace, the long drawn-out shots and smooth pans and trucking shots of the films made from 1928 to the present. On the contrary, Dreyer has used rapid cutting where he deems it appropriate.

"His determination to control all elements of design, setting, costume and make-up, leaving little room for the accidental, is in the tradition of German studio-made films." But Dreyer achieved the same effect outside the studio, by finding locations that in an uncanny way reflect the desired atmosphere; not because he sought naturalism on location, but because of his unique ability to find settings which reflect a psychological truth about his characters.

This retrospective includes all the fiction films Dreyer has directed, with the exception of TWO PEOPLE (TVA MANNISKOR) (1945), which still exists, but which Dreyer feels was a failure and prefers not to show at this time. ONCE UPON A TIME (1922), long lost, was recently discovered by the Danish Film Museum, although it is

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fragmentary and appears with only flash titles.

The silent films have no English titles and will be accompanied by music arranged and played by Arthur Kleiner. Screenings in the Museum auditorium will be daily at 3 and 5:30 p.m., with an additional 8 p.m. showing on Thursdays, except where noted.

The eight-page self-cover catalog, "The Films of Carl Dreyer," with text by Eileen Bowser, contains synopses of Dreyer's films. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, it is available at the Museum Bookstore or by mail for 25 cents.

SCHEDULE:

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| Sept. 27-28 | *THE PRESIDENT (1918-20). No English titles. |
| 29-30 | *LEAVES FROM SATAN'S BOOK (1920-21). One showing at 3:00 only. |
| Oct. 1-3 | *THE PARSON'S WIDOW (1920). No English titles. |
| 4 | *LOVE ONE ANOTHER (1921-22). No English titles. |
| 5 | *ONCE UPON A TIME (1922; fragment only). No English titles.
Documentaries: GOOD MOTHERS (1942)
THORVALDSEN (1942)
DANISH VILLAGE CHURCH (1947) |
| 6-7 | *MIKAEL (1924). No English titles. |
| 8-10 | *MASTER OF THE HOUSE (1925). |
| 11-14 | *THE BRIDE OF GLOMDALE (1925-26). No English titles. |
| 15-17 | *JEANNE d'ARC (1928). Oct. 15: 8:00 p.m. showing only. |
| 18-21 | THEY CAUGHT THE FERRY (1948).
VAMPYR (1932). No English titles. |
| 22-24 | STORSTROM BRIDGE (1949).
DAY OF WRATH (1943). |
| 25-28 | ORDET (1955). One showing at 3:00 only. |

* INDICATES SILENT FILM

Stillls and additional information available from Linda Goldsmith, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 10019, New York. Circle 5-8900.