

# The Museum of Modern Art

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## CRITIC'S CHOICE: Bosley Crowther

New York Times Critic Emeritus Bosley Crowther's choice of the fifty greatest motion pictures in film history will be shown at The Museum of Modern Art from April 1 through June 2. His selection, originally presented in his recent book The Great Films: 50 Golden Years of Motion Pictures, ranges from THE BIRTH OF A NATION, made in 1915 by D. W. Griffith, through A NOUS LA LIBERTE (René Clair, 1932), CITIZEN KANE (Orson Welles, 1941) and RASHO-MON (Akira Kurosawa, 1950), to BLOW-UP made by Michelangelo Antonioni in 1966. The program includes such classics as Sergei Eisenstein's POTEMKIN (1926), Josef von Sternberg's THE BLUE ANGEL (1929), Ernst Lubitsch's NINOTCHKA (1939), Laurence Olivier's HENRY V (1944), Satyajit Ray's PATHER PANCHALI (1956), and Federico Fellini's 8 1/2 (1963).

Mr. Crowther says, "You will note on this program a few departures from the selections in my book .... In a couple of instances, the Film Department requested that I substitute other choices for films that were totally unobtainable or for a few that had been recently shown in other series at the Museum."

In justifying his choices, Mr. Crowther points to his preface: "My first rule has been to scrutinize those pictures that have been the breakthroughs, that have opened new ground, not just in techniques of expression but in the discoveries and revelations they have made. I have sought those films in which content has been of such originality and significance and has been so aptly combined with cinema technique -- or style -- if you wish, that it has resulted in those films being forceful and usually precedental works."

Mr. Crowther is aware that his choices have been and will be challenged, "but that is inevitable and healthy. It is but evidence of what I have said: There are so many fine films to pick from. This could -- and should -- go on and on."

(more)

Bosley Crowther, one of the most influential American public commentators on films of the last two decades, had a long and distinguished career as film critic of The New York Times from 1940 until January, 1968, when he retired to become Critic Emeritus. He has been a champion for freedom of the screen and the elimination of statutory censorship of motion pictures, while calling for greater or more mature moral responsibility in their making. He is also the author of The Lion's Share and Hollywood Raja, as well as of numerous magazine articles.

On Thursday, April 4, at 8:00 p.m., Bosley Crowther will discuss his selection of films for the Museum program in the Museum Auditorium. The film scheduled for that evening, THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI, will follow his talk. Admission to the Museum includes the lecture and film showing.

A complete printed program for Critic's Choice: Bosley Crowther is enclosed.

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Stills and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, and Linda Gordon, Associate, Public Services, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.